



**Steve Susman** is one of the country's most successful trial lawyers. Forty years ago, he founded Susman Godfrey, the country's first commercial litigation boutique, specializing in representing plaintiffs on a contingent fee basis in complex business disputes including antitrust and securities fraud class actions. The firm now has five offices around the country and more than 100 trial lawyers. Because he was a pioneer in creating fee arrangements that compensate trial counsel for results rather than effort, Susman has devoted his career to eliminating unnecessary expense in trying cases. In the mid-90s, as chair of the Texas Supreme Court Discovery Advisory Committee, Susman succeeded in having Texas adopt rules that limited discovery. In 1998, he was a member of the ABA's Task Force that wrote the original Civil Trial Practice Standards. Taking that one step further, Susman has urged lawyers and courts

to encourage the parties to agree upon their own rules to streamline trials and reduce expenses. He has developed and maintained [TrialbyAgreement](#), a website that allows counsel and judges to communicate about innovative discovery and trial protocols. He was a member of the Federal Circuit's Committee on limiting e-discovery and he co-chaired the SDNY's task force to implement a pilot project for expediting civil jury trials. Most recently, he has been on a crusade to save jury trials in civil cases. For the last two years, he has co-chaired the American Board of Trial Advocates "SaveOurJuries" Committee. He has taught as an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of Texas and the University of Houston, and he is now an Adjunct Professor at NYU. He teaches a course entitled " [How to Try a Jury Case Intelligently](#)," where his students put into practice procedures to make jury trials less expensive and more comprehensible.