

KERRIE M. MURPHY, PARTNER - WEST DES MOINES



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PRACTICE AREAS

- Employment, Labor & ERISA
- Litigation
- Financial Services

BIOGRAPHY

Kerrie M. Murphy is an experienced trial attorney. She represents and defends corporate clients on a wide range of complex matters including labor and employment, products liability, auto accidents, premises liability, worker's compensation and financial services litigation.

Over the past twenty-five years, Ms. Murphy has represented corporate clients in state and federal courts as well as before various administrative agencies. Ms. Murphy has brought numerous matters to successful completion through summary judgment. She has successfully tried numerous cases before juries as well as to the bench. Ms. Murphy has defended appeals to the Iowa Supreme Court, Iowa Court of Appeals, and Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Ms. Murphy also has significant experience handling matters through alternative dispute resolution, including binding arbitrations, court sponsored settlement conferences, and private mediations. She is adept at reviewing medical records, completing written discovery, and conducting fact witness and expert witness depositions. Ms. Murphy has significant experience working with expert witnesses, such as physicians, accident reconstruction engineers, and economists.

Ms. Murphy has litigated cases of all sizes under a variety of employment laws, including Title VII, FLSA, ADA, FMLA, ADEA and their state law equivalents. Her experience includes defense of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims asserting violations based on various protected categories including, but not limited to, sex, race, age, disability, pregnancy, religion, national origin and veteran status. She has also defended litigation involving state law claims of wrongful termination, wage payment violations, assault, defamation, and interference with business relationships. Ms. Murphy is also experienced in representing employers faced with workers' compensation litigation.

Ms. Murphy's employment practice includes conducting internal investigations for clients, as well as preparation of responses to complaints filed at the local, state, and/or federal commission levels. She also conducts training and seminar presentations for clients on various employment related issues.

Ms. Murphy advises clients on a variety of human resource matters to prevent claims, including the review of employee handbooks, advice on policy changes, and management of employee issues that arise on a daily basis. Ms. Murphy frequently advises companies on ways to avoid litigation and mitigate risk. One of the traits that clients most appreciate about Ms. Murphy is her willingness and ability to quickly gather all relevant information and provide an early and accurate assessment of the matter under review. Ms. Murphy focuses on identifying and executing on effective legal strategies aimed at achieving the results that best support the business goals identified by her clients.

ADMISSIONS

- Iowa
- U.S. District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

EDUCATION

- Drake University Law School, J.D.
- University of Iowa, B.A., Psychology

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Iowa State Bar Association
- Polk County Bar Association
- Polk County Women Attorneys Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Iowa Defense Counsel Association

EXPERIENCE

- Commercial Litigation – Handled a wide array of breach of contract, interference with business relationships, and interference with prospective business relationships; fraud and other business relating claims.
- Consumer Financial Services Litigation – Litigated issues concerning consumer lending and servicing violations, contested foreclosures, property conveyance, quiet title and eminent domain.
- Insurance Defense – automobile/truck accident litigation – Defended parties sued for negligence and wrongful death related to auto or truck accidents. These cases required work with accident Reconstructionist and other liability experts. The parties' injuries ranged from soft tissue injuries, fractures, spine injuries, complex pain syndromes and death.
- Premises Liability Litigation – Defended premises owners/operators sued by patrons who suffered injuries while on my client's property. These cases required work with accident Reconstructionist and other liability experts. The parties' injuries have ranged from soft tissue injuries, fractures, spine injuries, complex pain syndromes and death.
- Product Liability Litigation – Defended companies sued by customers who claim to have suffered bodily injury or property damage caused by a client's product.
- Workers Compensation Litigation – Represented companies and workers compensation carriers sued by employees injuries they allege arose out of and in the course of their employment. The employee's alleged injuries have ranged from soft tissue injuries, fractures, spine injuries, complex pain syndromes and death.