

TORT AND INSURANCE LAW

The MWH Law Group Tort and Insurance Team attorneys have extensive experience defending individuals, businesses, and governmental entities faced with potential exposure in a broad range of circumstances, including automobile/trucking accidents, products liability and premises liability for dangerous conditions or the tortious acts of third parties. Our Tort and Insurance Team attorneys also have experience advising insureds and insurers on assessment of liability, damages exposure and settlement valuation.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Obtained dismissals with prejudice of driver's and passengers' claims for alleged injuries due to automobile collisions.
- Obtained dismissals with prejudices of customers' claims for alleged injuries incurred while shopping in retail establishments.
- Successfully defended a demolition company at jury trial in an action alleging property damages to a home arising from the Illinois Adjacent Landowner Excavation Protection Act and nuisance, resulting in a defense verdict.
- Dismissal with prejudice of plaintiff's negligence action based on motion alleging failure to timely serve the defendant with the complaint.
- Defended breach of contract, negligence and bailment case in which millions in damages was being sought. Case was resolved at mediation in early stages of litigation.
- Prepared pre-trial filings and second-chaired defense of medical malpractice trial.
- Obtained dismissal with prejudice of plaintiff's cause of action for breach of contract and negligence against an insurance broker arising from claims of a failure to obtain insurance covering a property loss.
- Successfully defended State Farm Fire & Casualty Co., in the jury trial of Hunter v. State Farm Fire & Casualty Company, a breach of contract case relating to a homeowner's insurance policy, in which the jury returned a verdict in favor of State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. in minutes. The case was reported in the "National Jury Verdict Review & Analysis," Volume 24, Issue 5, May 2009.
- Dismissal with prejudice of a wrongful death and negligence suit against a municipality.
- Defended a municipality in a lawsuit filed by a law firm claiming that the municipality improperly redacted information from Illinois Traffic Crash Reports in violation of the Freedom of Information Act. Following argument on a defense motion for summary judgment, the plaintiff voluntarily dismissed its suit with prejudice.

Geographic Reach: Based upon the current roster of lawyers and firm locations, MWH lawyers are capable of handling tort and insurance matters in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Illinois.



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B I O G R A P H Y

Kerrie M. Murphy is an experienced trial attorney. She represents and defends corporate clients on a wide range of complex matters including claims, worker's compensation matters, and financial services litigation.

Over the past 25 years, Ms. Murphy has represented corporate clients in state and federal courts as well as before various administrative agencies. Ms. Murphy practices in all areas of labor and employment including ADA, ADEA, FMLA, FLSA, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination and workers compensation. 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.



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B I O G R A P H Y

Nelson W. Phillips III served as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge. He is experienced in representing commercial and health care clients in a variety of matters, including contract disputes, white collar investigations, intellectual property claims, and defense of nursing care facilities.

For over nine years, Mr. Phillips also served as a federal and state prosecutor in both the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office where he litigated numerous cases before the Wisconsin Federal District and State Circuit Courts and tried a large number of those cases to verdict. As a prosecutor, Mr. Phillips has argued cases before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.



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B I O G R A P H Y

Moyenda Mutharika Knapp represents clients in all phases of employment law and business litigation matters, including the representation of litigants as first chair in jury trials. In addition, she has experience taking examinations under oath and providing coverage related opinions, and representing insurance companies in court in breach of contract, declaratory judgment, and bad faith cases. In her practice, she has handled property damage, wrongful death, and other personal injury matters, including through jury trial.

Her employment law experience includes matters involving the Americans with Disabilities Act; Family Medical Leave Act; racial, reverse racial, gender, age, sexual orientation, and religious discrimination; and termination due to claims of retaliation and First Amendment retaliation.



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B I O G R A P H Y

Julie T. Bittner litigates as lead counsel with respect to employment and civil litigation matters. She has employment experience in the defense of discrimination, harassment, retaliation and wrongful termination claims brought at the administrative level, as well as in state and federal court.

Ms. Bittner routinely counsels employers about their employment practices, including employee handbooks, contracts, policies and procedures. She conducts complex internal investigations and provides training and counsel on a wide spectrum of issues involving state and federal employment laws including specifically workplace diversity and inclusion.



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B I O G R A P H Y

Carlos R. Pastrana practices in all areas of labor and employment law, including matters involving discrimination, retaliation, sexual harassment, FMLA, wrongful termination, labor relations, unfair labor practices, unemployment insurance, workers compensation, workplace safety, and Federal contractor issues.

Mr. Pastrana has litigated before both local and U.S. Courts and agencies. Fully bilingual, Mr. Pastrana has advised and trained local, national, and international private- and public-sector employers with both English- and Spanish-speaking unionized and non-unionized workforces on how to manage employees.



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B I O G R A P H Y

Warren E. Buliox has extensive experience representing and counseling small and large businesses (including Fortune 50, 100, and 500 Corporations). He has provided counsel and representation to companies on civil rights matters as well as developing creative and proactive solutions to eliminating or reducing risks.

He has defended or provided counsel on claims involving allegations of race and color discrimination, sex discrimination, age discrimination, religious discrimination, disability discrimination, arrest and conviction record discrimination, and disparate impact discrimination based on credit history and incarceration rates/stats.