



KATE TRUDELL

Senior Associate, Milwaukee

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PRACTICE GROUPS:

Employment

EDUCATION & TRAINING

UW Parkside, B.A., Political Science,
Pre-Law, May 2010

Marquette University Law School, J.D.,
May 2016

BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted to practice

Wisconsin - all state courts and in the U.S.
District Court for the Eastern District of
Wisconsin

Illinois - U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois
License date: 05/23/2016

AWARDS/ACCOLADES

Charles Dunn Author Award, Wisconsin
State Bar, 2021

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Volunteer, Mediation Clinic in Kenosha
County

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

President, Board of Directors, Lakeside
Curative Services

President, Board of Directors, Kenosha
Community Health Center/Pillar Health

Membership Chair, Board of Directors,
TEMPO Racine

Member, NeighborWorks Badgerland

***"Authenticity and curiosity are key to problem-solving.
If we can't be real and ask tough questions,
we cannot find solutions."***

Kate was two when her mother knew she'd be an attorney and Kate's father asked why she was arguing with a two-year-old over what to wear that day. Her mother responded: "because she's making good points." Conversely, two-year-old Kate thought she'd be a waitress because that was her favorite game, she was great at culinary creations, and she loved serving others. Luckily, as it turns out, she gets to be both, and she gets to choose her own outfits.

As Kate's ambitions matured and she started to ask herself what she really wanted to be when she grew up, the answer was clear: a connector. She focuses on building connections with both employers and employees that instill trust and psychological safety, making solutions more attainable. As a young girl, she was chastised for being "nosey." In adulthood, that's her super-power. In her words, "Authenticity and curiosity are key to problem-solving. If we can't be real and ask tough questions, we cannot find solutions."

Kate worked her way through undergrad as a single mother insistent on pursuing her dream of becoming an attorney. She entered law school in 2010 as a part-time evening student and, over the following six years, proceeded to get married and have two more children while maintaining her status in the top 15% of her graduating class. She frequently heard that she wasn't likely to make it, given her statistical odds of success and, in retrospect, openly admits the drive and audacity she had during those early years seems tiring. However, when asked, Kate will say that nothing motivates her more than someone saying, "You probably can't" or "You probably won't."

That same "Won't I do it" mentality makes Kate a great advocate in tough cases. After graduation, she began working for the business firm DeMark, Kolbe, & Brodek as an employment attorney. Her favorite cases were the ones that seemed like long shots, where the evidence was slim or the narrative was uncertain. In her words "Integrity is key in all employment law work. The trust we build with our clients and their employees follows us out one door and precedes

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(continued)

us as we enter each room. That trust is what allows us to uncover the thread of truth and certainty in every situation. I'm always looking for that thread because it holds the key to success, whatever that may mean in each situation."

When not conducting research, making connections, or drafting legal arguments, Kate likes to spend her time with her husband and three children, not arguing with them about what to wear because, like her, they are worthy advocates. Her interests are varied, but follow a basic balance between fanciful frolic and regulated relaxation. You are just as likely to find Kate running around the waterpark with her kids, enjoying the wave pool or body slides, as you are to find her floating on a lazy river reading a book. Likewise, her individual hobbies include learning to roller-skate backward and hula hoop at the age of (almost) 40, as well as crocheting and listening to an audiobook about medieval Europe.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Worker Classification in Wisconsin: The Gig is Up

January 6th, 2026 - MWH Law Group

Trading Glass Slippers for Glass Ceilings: Someday Our Recompense Will Come

March 8th, 2025 - MWH Law Group

Political Discussions in the Workplace: The Freedom, the Fury and Where is Emily Post When We Need Her?

August 30th, 2024 - MWH Law Group