



SUZAN J. SUTHERLAND

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PRACTICE AREAS

- ✔ Employment Litigation
- ✔ General Civil Litigation
 - Auto/Truck Litigation
 - Business Litigation
 - Commercial Litigation
 - Construction Litigation
 - Premises Liability
 - Product Liability
- ✔ Labor & Employment
- ✔ Real Estate

ADMISSIONS

- Admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Illinois
- Admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

License Date: 11/13/1975

BIOGRAPHY

I am an experienced trial attorney who strategically manages and supervises litigation from first notice of a claim through trial and potential appeal. I have been the lead attorney in over fifty jury trials in state and federal courts and I have successfully defended clients in bench trials and evidentiary hearings before administrative agencies. I have significant experience handling appeals before the United States Court of Appeals, the Seventh Circuit, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Illinois Fourth District Court of Appeals.

With almost 45 years of legal experience, I deftly manage a variety of complex matters for a diverse group of clients before state and federal courts in litigation involving business disputes, construction defects, premises and product liability claims and real estate transactions. I have also represented a number of clients defending employment-related claims. I skillfully negotiate matters through alternative dispute resolution forums such as binding arbitrations, court-sponsored settlement conferences and private mediations. I am adept at drafting pleadings and motions, completing written discovery, and conducting fact and expert witness depositions.

Prior to joining MWH Law Group LLP, I represented several insurance companies in lawsuits involving commercial property and title loss claims. I also defended companies and individuals as well as defended numerous corporations and individuals who had been sued in conjunction with their insurance policies. While holding a position within a large insurance company, I managed diverse general, construction, product liability, auto, property, and commercial liability cases including over fifty construction cases.

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University, J.D.
- University of Indiana, B.A., Political Science

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Obtained numerous jury defense verdicts defending personal injury, commercial, contract, property, and civil rights cases throughout Illinois.
- Represented Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) in a jury trial of a death case in an elevator at the Robert Taylor Homes. The trial ended successfully without payment of any money by the CHA.
- Oversight of product liability program for a punch press manufacturer. Duties included selection and supervision of local counsel and management of settlement discussions, arbitrations or trials of each case.
- At trial in admitted liability case in federal court with a \$500,000.00 demand, succeeded in paying only \$115.00 through innovative defense strategies including offer of judgment.
- Skillfully devised a contractual agreement to split the judgment between co-defendants in an admitted liability case which resulted at trial in a verdict below the settlement offer. This was the first such agreement reported according to the Cook County Jury Verdict Reporter.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **MWH Law Group LLP**, *Special Counsel*, August 2019 – Present
- **Law Office of Suzan Sutherland**, *Solo Practitioner*, 2013 – 2019
- **Fidelity National Law Group**, *Assistant Attorney General*, 2012 – 2013
- **Farmers Insurance Group**, *Illinois Attorney General's Office*, 2008 – 2010
- **Norton, Mancini & Weiler**, *Litigation Counsel*, 2006 – 2008
- **One Beacon Insurance Company / Liberty Mutual Insurance Company**, 2000 – 2005

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Illinois State Bar Association