



## **KERRIE M. MURPHY**

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### **ADMISSIONS**

- Admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Iowa
- Admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- Admitted to practice in all state courts in Wisconsin

**License Date:** 6/14/1991

### **PRACTICE AREAS**

- ✓ Employment Litigation
- ✓ General Civil Litigation
  - Auto/Truck Litigation
  - Business Litigation
  - Commercial Litigation
  - Financial Services
  - Premises Liability
  - Product Liability

## **BIOGRAPHY**

I am a member of the firm's litigation and employment practice groups. I specialize in defending corporate clients on a wide range of complex matters.

I take a proactive approach to litigation. I am persistent and tenacious. I think outside the box and don't stop until I find solutions for my clients. I understand the importance of actively working my cases from the onset of assignment. This practice allows me to make recommendations to clients early in a case ensuring the right litigation strategy is developed to provide the best outcome possible.

Over the past 29 years, I have represented corporate clients in state and federal courts as well as before various administrative agencies. I routinely bring matters to successful completion through summary judgment. I have successfully tried numerous cases before juries as well as the bench. I have defended appeals to the Iowa Supreme Court, the Iowa Court of Appeals, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

I also have significant experience handling matters through alternative dispute resolution, including binding arbitrations, court sponsored settlement conferences, and private mediations. I frequently advise companies on ways to avoid litigation and mitigate risk. One of the traits that clients most appreciate about me is my willingness and ability to quickly gather all relevant information and provide an early and accurate assessment of the matter under review. I focus on identifying and executing effective legal strategies aimed at achieving the results that best support each client's goals.

## **EDUCATION**

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

## **HONORS**

- Great Plains Super Lawyers® for Litigation
- Martindale-Hubbell® – Distinguished Peer Review rating

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- **Commercial Litigation:** My commercial litigation practice is focused on representing companies in disputes involving breach of contract, defamation, interference with business relationships, interference with prospective business relationships, fraud, and other business-related claims.
- **Consumer Financial Services Litigation:** My consumer litigation practice is focused on representing financial institutions in foreclosure litigation and related counter claims involving consumer lending and servicing violations, real property title and boundary disputes, property conveyance zoning, permitting and easement issues, sales tax, and evictions.
- **Employment Litigation:** My employment litigation practice includes defending employers against claims of discrimination, harassment and retaliation in violation of the Iowa Civil Rights Act and/or Title VII, Aged Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as well as claims of wrongful termination in violation of public policy. I represent employers in relation to complaints filed with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission as well as litigation filed in state and federal court.
- **Insurance Defense – Automobile/Truck Accident Litigation:** My personal injury defense practice is focused on defending parties sued for negligence and wrongful death related to auto and truck accidents. This aspect of my work involves working with accident reconstructionists, mechanics, traffic engineers and myriad other experts. Due to the nature of claimants' purported injuries, I have also developed significant relationships with qualified medical professionals including, but not limited to, orthopedists, surgeons, nurses, and physical therapists.
- **Premises Liability Litigation:** My premises liability practice has been focused on defending premise owners/operators sued by patrons who allegedly suffered injuries while on my clients' properties. This aspect of my work involves working with accident reconstruction, human factors, economic damage, and other experts. The parties' injuries have ranged from soft tissue injuries, fractures, spine injuries, complex pain syndromes, and death.
- **Product Liability Litigation:** My product liability practice is focused on defending companies sued by customers who claim to have suffered bodily injury or property damage caused by a product. My practice frequently includes handling tender of defense and indemnification issues on behalf of my clients, generally involving a tender to the distributor or manufacturer.
- **Workers Compensation Litigation:** My workers compensation practice is focused on representing companies and workers compensation carriers sued by employees for injuries they allege arose out of and in the course of their employment. Alleged injuries have included soft tissue injuries, fractures, spinal injuries, complex pain syndromes, and even death.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **MWH Law Group LLP**, *Managing Partner*, March 2016 – Present
- **Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP**, *Equity Partner*, September 1998 – February 2016
- **City Attorney's Office**, City of Des Moines, 1995 – 1998
- **City Attorney's Office**, City of Sioux City, 1991 – 1995

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Iowa State Bar Association
- Iowa Defense Counsel Association
- Wisconsin State Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance
- National Association of Minority & Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF)