

MARY PATRICIA BENZ

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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

2010-Present, Law Office of Mary Patricia Benz

- Service as arbitrator or mediator in numerous commercial and consumer disputes.
- Represented insured in complex dispute involving insurance coverage for legal malpractice action.
- Represented parties in several suits alleging breach of fiduciary duty by corporate managers and business partners.
- Representation of attorneys in malpractice and disciplinary matters.
- Representation of non-legal professionals in licensing matters.
- Providing professional responsibility advice to legal organizations.

1999-2009, Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP

- Represented clients in appeals involving breach of contract, charitable trusts, business torts, and celebrity publicity rights.
- Participated as second chair in two federal jury trials involving fraud and breach of contract in sale of a multi-million dollar business; and represented client in successful Seventh Circuit appeal of verdict.
- Prepared Illinois Supreme Court Brief for all plaintiffs in appeal involving dispute over ownership of the Auditorium Theatre.
- Prepared briefs resulting in denial of motion to certify nationwide class of persons whose publicity rights were allegedly violated by website owner.

1996-1999, Partner, Quinlan & Crisham, Ltd.

- Acted as principal trial counsel for one of two plaintiffs at lengthy bench trial in Circuit Court of Cook County involving ownership of Auditorium Theatre; represented both clients in the appeals.

- Involved in all aspects of trial and settlement of lawsuit involving dissolution of family-owned real estate partnership.
- Briefed and argued many appeals in the Illinois Appellate Court and Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

1986-1996, Partner, Phelan, Cahill, & Quinlan, Ltd.

1978-1986, Associate, Phelan, Pope & John, Ltd.

- Involved in all aspects of discovery, trial, and settlement of complex insurance dispute involving coverage for business torts.
- Represented insurance companies in ERISA and other claims litigation in Illinois and federal courts.
- Involved in all aspects of discovery, jury trials, and appeals for corporate clients in many products liability and other personal injury cases.
- Prepared Illinois Supreme Court Brief in landmark insurance coverage case involving asbestos-related bodily injury.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois, Chicago (B.A. with Distinction in Psychology, 1973).

Northwestern University School of Law (J.D., Magna Cum Laude, 1978), Order of the Coif, Legal Assistance Clinic, Legal Writing Instructor, Dean's List (all eligible semesters).

Certificate, DePaul University School of Law, 40-hour Mediation Course, July 2008.

PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGES

Admitted to the Illinois Bar in November 1978.

Admitted in the United States District Court (Northern and Central Districts of Illinois), United States Court of Appeals (Fifth and Seventh Circuits) and United States Supreme Court.

Member, Federal Trial Bar.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association, Commercial Roster, 2010 to present.

Mediator, American Arbitration Association, Commercial Roster, 2013.

Court-certified arbitrator, Circuit Court of Cook County, 2008-present.

Court-certified mediator, Circuit Court of Cook County, 2009-present.

Hearing Panel Chair, Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, 2002 to 2010.

Member, Inquiry and Hearing Board, Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, 1999 to 2002.

Membership Chair, Appellate Lawyers Association of Illinois, 2008-2010.

Executive Committee Member, Chicago Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee, 2002-2008.

Appeals Board member, Chicago Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee, 2009-2011, 2013.

Recipient, Chicago Bar Association William J. White Award, 2004 (award for service to Judicial Evaluation Committee for “multi-year contribution of time and expertise and for the vigor and integrity with which you managed a particularly challenging year as Chair of the Investigation Division”).

Member: Chicago Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, Appellate Lawyers Association, Association for Conflict Resolution (Chicago Chapter), Association of Attorney-Mediators (Illinois Chapter).

RECENT ARTICLES AND SPEAKING

Articles

“Overview of the Briefing Process in the Seventh Circuit and Illinois Appellate Court” (with co-author Hon. Raymond W. Mitchell), CBA Record, Vol. 24, No. 4, May 2010.

“The Mediation Option for Attorney Discipline Cases,” Illinois Bar Journal, Vol. 98, No. 5, May 2010.

“Motions After Judgment in Illinois and Federal Jury Trial Practice” (with co-author Hon. Raymond W. Mitchell), CBA Record, Vol. 23, No. 7, October 2009.

“ISBA Reviews Liens and Recoverable Costs in Personal Injury Cases,” Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, January 28, 2013 (with co-author Bridget A. Mitchell).

Speaking and Teaching

Adjunct Professor of Law (trial advocacy courses), Loyola University Chicago School of Law; Northwestern University School of Law (multiple courses, 1989 to 2013).

“Mediation Ethics for Mediators and Advocates,” Chicago Bar Association, March 8, 2013.

“Ethics in Trial Practice,” Webinar, Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal education, June 25, 2013.

“ARDC,” Video, Mentor CLE, 2012.

“What’s New In Ethics For Illinois Lawyers In Solo Or Small Firm Practice?” Webinar, 2011.

“Thoughts About Ethics for Attorney-Mediators,” Association of Attorney-Mediators (IL), December 13, 2011.

“Sources of Ethical Guidance for Mediators,” DePaul Center for Dispute Resolution Mediation course, (2011-2013).

“Ethics in Solo Practice: Trust Accounts and Retainers,” Kane County Bar Association, January 27, 2011.

“Representing Clients in Mediation--Ethical Challenges and More,” Winston & Strawn LLP, 2010 and other law firms.

“Ethical Dilemmas for Mediators,” Association for Conflict Resolution, Chicago Chapter, November 17, 2010.

“Taking Depositions,” Winston & Strawn LLP Training Programs, 2010-2012

“Trial Practice,” Winston & Strawn LLP Training Programs, 2011-2013

“Ethics in Large Firm Practice,” ARDC Board Seminar, October 21, 2010.

“Ethics for Mediators,” De Paul University School of Law, June 29, 2010.

“Keeping it Confidential: Duties to your Client and the Court,” Law Bulletin Seminar, June 23, 2010.

“Mediation as Part of Attorney Discipline,” ARDC Hearing Board Meeting, May 2009.

“Differences in Briefing Process in State and Federal Appeals,” Kane County Bar Association, December 2008.

“Post-trial Motions,” Winston & Strawn Associate Training for Litigation, Spring 2007, 2008, 2009;
“Summary Judgments,” 2004, 2006.

Instructor, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Midwest Deposition Program (1989 to 2003).

REPRESENTATIVE PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Service as a volunteer mediator for Center for Conflict Resolution in Cook County Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program and in Will County Small Claims Court (2011 to present).

Representation of juvenile sex offender in Petition for Writ of Certiorari in case involving constitutionality of Illinois sex offender registration law.

Served as Guardian Ad Litem for guardianship and represented client in adoption through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Appointed by Circuit Court of Cook County to represent guardian of minor children in abuse case in Child Protection Division of Juvenile Court; conducted trial of all phases of proceeding and appeal.

Winston & Strawn Pro Bono Award, 2002.

Service as mentor to new lawyers through John Marshall Law School Mentor Program.