



## Hon. William E. Gomolinski, (Ret.)

Judge Gomolinski, (Ret.) has over 37 years of combined legal experience and an impressive track record of resolving complex cases.

Judge Gomolinski boasts a distinguished career marked by settlements exceeding \$1.4 billion, a testament to his extensive experience and expertise. His reputation for exceptional patience and unwavering attention to detail and legal knowledge has established him as the quintessential neutral, revered for his fair and unbiased approach to dispute resolution.

## Types of Cases Resolved

- Auto Liability
- Aviation
- Bad Faith
- Class Action
- Condominium Board Dispute
- Construction
- Construction Accidents
- Construction Defect Contract
- Defamation
- E-Discovery
- Employment
- Errors & Omissions (E&O)
- Family Business
- Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA)
- Fee Dispute
- Fiduciary Duty
- Finance
- Fraud
- Harassment
- Insurance Coverage
- Landlord-Tenant
- Legal Malpractice
- Mass Torts
- Medical Malpractice
- Non-Compete
- Nursing Home
- Partnership Dispute
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Professional Malpractice
- Property Damage
- Real Estate
- Retaliatory Discharge
- Sexual Abuse
- Sexual Harassment
- Subrogation
- Toxic Tort
- Uninsured & Underinsured Motorist (UM & UIM)
- Wrongful Death
- Wrongful Termination

## Experience and Qualifications

- 11-year judicial career serving in the Law Division Motion Section, Circuit Court of Cook County during his last seven years on the bench
- 21-year legal career in private practice focusing on personal injury, class actions and commercial/residential transactions
- 20 years as a licensed real estate broker and stationary engineer with Local 399 of the International Union of Operating Engineers
- Mediation Certificate, Northwestern University

## Representative Cases

**Auto Liability:** plaintiff's leg amputated and sustained multiple injuries requiring surgery

**Auto Liability:** resolved hundreds of multi-vehicle auto accidents, including a \$16 million settlement for a plaintiff who sustained severe injuries and underwent a below-the-knee leg amputation

**Construction Accidents:** settled \$7.75 million case involving a 36-year-old ironworker crushed by a 5,000-pound beam during assembly and construction of bridge; ironworker was survived by pregnant wife and two children; issues included third-party contribution against the employer, waiver of the workers' compensation lien along with complicated insurance and excess insurance coverage

**Construction Accident:** settled for \$7 million; plaintiff required multiple surgeries for hip injuries

**Construction Accident:** plaintiff fell 10 feet onto a scaffolding bar and sustained pelvic floor injuries

**Contract, Insurance Coverage and Legal Malpractice:** commercial franchise case involving contract breaches, disputes regarding insurance liability and legal malpractice; determination of damages was a key issue; case involved complex legal issues

**Employment:** settled a dispute in which plaintiff claimed that his former employer failed to compensate him via commissions, severance and stock awards after his wrongful termination in bad faith

**Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith:** third-party excess claim involving insurance coverage and bad faith; issues included exhaustion of primary coverage before excess could apply and whether the policy contained language to cover the loss

**Legal Malpractice:** involved a claim against an estate for the drafting of a faulty trust agreement; multiple estate and trust issues, the running of the statute of limitations and legal malpractice

**Medical Malpractice:** negotiated \$3.5 million settlement in case involving pediatrician's decision not to move child (who later died) to another hospital with a higher level of pediatric care available

**Medical Malpractice:** provider performed unnecessary experimental surgery and plaintiff suffered various injuries, including having to wear a colonoscopy bag; settled for \$8 million

**Medical Malpractice:** failure to recognize complications of respiratory distress in hospital resulted in severe brain damage and death of plaintiff

**Nursing Home:** settled hundreds of cases involving residents' injuries, including falls, bed sores and wrongful death; other issues included standard of care for doctors, certified medical technicians, nursing practitioners, nursing assistants, assessments on care plans, implementation, evaluations, charting and defenses of unavailability

**Personal Injury:** settled complex case for \$140 million in which one worker died and one worker sustained life-changing injuries

**Personal Injury:** \$16 million settlement for worker pinned in a loading zone with resultant leg amputation

**Personal Injury:** train derailed with 20 people sustaining various injuries with a total settlement of \$8.7 million

**Personal Injury:** motorcycle rider lost both legs; settled for \$15 million

**Personal Injury:** employee drove over plaintiff's leg with a cement truck, resulting in amputation of the left foot at the ankle level; settled for \$10 million

**Premises Liability:** resolved numerous personal injury cases involving property defects, snow removal, open and obvious, deliberate encounter, willful and wanton conduct and lighting issues

**Product Liability:** achieved \$2.3 million settlement in complex case involving a workplace safety product failing and the plaintiff sustaining severe injuries; case complicated by additional premises liability

**Sexual Abuse:** settled case filed against religious organizations and its clergy alleging sexual abuse; helped parties create a global settlement involving repressed memory and special relationships; complicated matter due to one defendant without insurance to cover claims involving willful and wanton conduct, fraudulent concealment and other issues

**Subrogation:** settled complex case involving scope of work claims, subrogation and insurance coverage issues; water supply pipe burst in interior space, causing severe water damage to retail establishment

**Truck Accident:** Speeding truck rear-ended automobile of plaintiff resulting in splenectomy, lacerated colon, fractured ribs, collapsed lung, fractured jaw and surgery

**Wrongful Death:** patient contracted streptococcus group A, leading to sepsis and multi-organ failure

## Professional Activities and Awards

- Civic Service Award, Resolution of the City of Chicago
- Distinguished Service Award, Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel and the Defense Research Institute
- President's Award, Advocate Society
- Honoree, "Dinner With," Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
- Member, Judicial Exchange representing Cook County Judges in Poland Former
- Director, Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois

## Presentations and Publications

Author, "Two Divergent Views of Supreme Court Rule 213," Illinois Defense Counsel Quarterly

Author, "Illinois Supreme Court Rule 216," Illinois Bar Journal

Presenter, "213 Disclosures," Johnson & Bell, Ltd.

Presenter, "Law Division and Motion Practice," Chicago Bar Association (CBA)

Presenter, "Case Management Before Trial," Chicago Daily Law Bulletin Annual Symposium with the Judges

Presenter, "Medical Studies Act and Privileges," Chicagoland Healthcare Risk Management Society

Presenter, "Pre-Trial Conferences," Young Lawyers Section (YLS) of the CBA

Presenter, Judge's Education Conference

Presenter, "Civil Updates and Hot Topics," Advocates Bar Association

Presenter, "Motion Practice," YLS of the CBA

Presenter, "Arbitration in the Law Division," Chinese Delegation

Presenter, "Law Division Motion Practice," Advocates Bar Association

Presenter, "Judge's Roundtable," Solo/Small Firm Committee of the CBA

Presenter, "Persuasiveness in Court," CBA

Presenter, "Perspective from the Bench," Illinois Trial Lawyers Association

Presenter, "2-619 Motions," CBA

Presenter, "Motion Practice in Cook County Illinois," Litigation Section of the CBA

## Disclosure

I was a sitting judge for over 11 years at the Richard J. Daley Center and practicing law since 1986 in Illinois. Many attorneys have tried cases in front of me or appeared before me on the motion call or have pre-tired a case with me.

My son graduated from the John Marshall Law School and is currently an associate attorney working full-time and Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.