



KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY  
& ASSOCIATES, LLC  
MIDWEST DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

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[WWW.KEEFE-LAW.COM](http://WWW.KEEFE-LAW.COM)

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# ABOUT

## KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, LLC was started by Eugene F. Keefe, John P. Campbell, and Shawn R. Biery with the goal of providing high-quality and cost-effective civil litigation services for the defense of self-insured employers and insurance carriers.

At Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, we have not forgotten that the practice of law is a service profession. We are committed to providing an unsurpassed level of legal representation and personal service to our clients. We believe maintaining close ties and providing open lines of communication with our clients ensures the quickest and most efficient handling of files and the elimination of excessive or duplicative fees.

Our attorneys possess extensive experience in and a commitment to the area of civil litigation defense. The firm services all of its defense clients' litigation needs in general liability, employment claims, construction claims, product liability, and workers' compensation. Our familiarity with practice and court procedures has earned us the respect of judges, administrators and adversaries. Our attorneys practice throughout the States of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, & Iowa.

We attribute our success to our expertise in the area of defense, our commitment to maintaining low overhead and our ability to establish close relationships with our clients. We have developed the unique set of skills required to meet the demands of challenging, sensitive and complex cases presented by our clients.

# DEFENSE TRIAL LAWYERS

**KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates present a clear choice to clients that need defense lawyers. We have a trial practice that encompasses the defense of both judicial and administrative claims before the trial and appellate courts and bodies such as the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, Illinois Department of Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

As defense attorneys, our goal is to provide our clients with a prompt initial review in an effort to demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of the case. We understand that investigation and protracted discovery is costly and time consuming.

We believe that by providing an initial evaluation quickly, we can assure clients can make informed decisions about future handling of the file. Further, the initial evaluation lays the groundwork for aggressively pursuing the defense towards resolution through motion, settlement or trial.

As the case proceeds, our attorneys update the initial review to address changes or new developments that may arise in the course of litigation. At Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, we believe litigation is a dynamic process that requires its lawyers to be alert for changes in the facts and legal theories of the case.



# GENERAL LIABILITY

## KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC

As defense trial lawyers, we handle the broad scope of matters involved in the context of insurance defense work. We have experience in defending matters involving truck and automobile collisions, slip and fall injuries, homeowner's liability, libel/slander, false arrest, civil rights and malicious prosecution claims.

Our firm is also familiar with and involved in all aspects of construction litigation including cases arising from contractual disputes, mechanics' liens, breach of warranty, failure of performance, contractor default and general/subcontractor disputes. We carefully follow the continuing changes in case law, burdens of proof and legislation in this setting to ensure proper advice and counsel in all construction related incidents.

Product liability litigation is another strong concern at Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates. Our firm practice includes defense of manufacturers, distributors, vendors, brokers and all parties in the chain of control. We make every effort to be thoroughly acquainted with the client's role in the process of bringing the product to the ultimate consumer so as to be sensitive to the particular role of the client in the litigation.

As an offshoot of this practice, we are also familiar with the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act and warranty disputes in general to the extent it may involve injury claim defense.

# WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Our attorneys have extensive experience in all matters relating to workers' compensation including disputes with regard to employer/employee, accident, causal connection, wage disputes, medical bills, temporary total disability and nature and extent of the injury. We have additional expertise in the related civil litigation including subrogation recovery of workers' compensation liens, defense of third party actions, OSHA compliance, retaliatory discharge and bad faith claims.

We take pride in handling claims for defense only. This firm does not handle Petitioner claims and does not run into conflicts in creating law or precedent unfavorable to our defense clients, unlike some of our competitors.

Our attorneys have handled matters at all levels of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission and the reviewing courts and we have claims in every hearing location at the arbitration and review levels throughout the State of Illinois. With the advent of riverboat casinos, more work accident litigation is being brought in Federal court under the Jones Act. Our civil attorneys have expertise in all areas of federal trial practice and are well equipped to defend employers in Jones Act litigation and the Federal Longshoremen's Workers' Compensation Act.

We understand the needs and wants of the insured and self-insured Illinois employer in both union and non-union settings. A large part of our practice includes providing advice outside the hearing room to facilitate resolution of possible or pending workers' compensation disputes. We are also strong proponents of pro se (or out of court) settlements and handle these claims in a streamlined fashion to protect the interests of employer and employee.

It is our continuing goal to provide our clients with accurate assessment of the individual claim along with aggressive file handling to match your organization's needs. We are familiar with the majority of Illinois workers' compensation carriers and third party administrators. Our practice is focused on appropriate reporting and coordinating work with such companies.

# EMPLOYMENT LAW

**KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Cognizant of the growing number of employment related claims confronted by many businesses, Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates has the capacity to defend all employment and labor related issues.

Our attorneys have experience in cases alleging race, sex, age and disability discrimination brought in both federal and state jurisdictions. We have handled such claims in the state and federal courts and a variety of administrative agencies including the Illinois Department of Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In addition to discrimination cases, we have experience in wrongful termination/retaliatory discharge cases, defamation actions, negligent hiring and retention claims, labor arbitrations, enforcement of restrictive covenants and the defense of unfair labor practice complaints.

We believe in providing initial evaluations promptly in order to enable our labor and employment law clients to make informed decisions regarding liability and financial exposure. Establishing a close working and reporting relationship with our clients enables us to defend cases in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

# MEDIATION/ARBITRATION

**KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Many times a dispute that can be costly or cause adverse publicity can be resolved privately and at less expense with the help of a mediator or arbitrator. At Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, we have attorneys who are trained mediators and arbitrators, as well as attorneys trained in representing clients for mediation/arbitration.

Each alternative dispute method has advantages and disadvantages for particular parties and cases. At Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, we can advise clients as to which type of alternative dispute resolution may be appropriate for particular concerns.

In addition, parties to a dispute looking for independent mediators and arbitrators can choose a trained mediator or arbitrator at Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates for a reasonable fee. The resolution forum can be scheduled at a time and place convenient to the parties involved.

A mediation/arbitration agreement is provided to the parties/lawyers in advance to clarify the resolution method and issues to be addressed during the resolution process.



# MEDICARE ISSUES CONSULTATION

**KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

In recent years, future medical concerns have created an entire new arena of issues to consider when resolving claims. At Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, we have attorneys who have reviewed and maintain a strong command of Medicare Set-Aside issues as they continually follow changes and legislation in that regard.

Shawn R. Biery is a Medicare Set-Aside Consultant Certified and he confirms  
**YOU MUST ALWAYS CONSIDER MEDICARE'S INTEREST.**

We can assist by confirming the steps necessary and confirm whether your case meets the threshold for potential review.

**DO NOT MISTAKE SETTLEMENT VALUE FALLING UNDER REVIEW THRESHOLDS AS WAIVER OF POTENTIAL LIABILITY FOR MSA.**

We can also provide consulting assistance with questions regarding:

- Section 111 Mandatory Reporting Requirements
- Conditional Payments
- Medicare Set-asides
  - Including determining \$0 MSA approvals in appropriate cases

We can answer your questions or conduct a free seminar on the applicable Medicare & future medical issues at your request.

# **COUNSEL**

**KEEFE, CAMPBELL, BIERY & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

**MEET OUR ATTORNEYS**



# EUGENE F. KEEFE

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 1980

## HIGHLIGHTS/MEMBER OF

- Admitted to U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 1980
- Federal Trial Bar; Admitted to U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 1988
- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association
- Workers' Compensation Claims Association
- Arbitrator, Cook County Mandatory Court Annexed Arbitration

**CONTACT: 312-756-3700**

## Education:

The John Marshall Law School, J.D., 1980  
Loyola University of Chicago B.A., 1977

**Editor:** Workers' Compensation Law Update, July 1992-present.

**Author:** The Road to Understanding Workers' Compensation, Journal of Workers' Compensation, Vol. 4, No. 2, Winter, 1995, Standard Press, Boston, MA; Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates Monday Law Update, published to about 6,000 readers on a weekly basis since July, 1992; Illinois Workers' Compensation Law 101 and 102, October 2010.

**Adjunct Professor:** Workers' Compensation Law: The John Marshall Law School, 2007 to present.

## Lecturer and Presenter:

Gene lectures and/or presents at numerous national and regional conferences on a regular basis including but not limited to:

- LRP Publications Annual National Workers' Compensation and Disability Conference
- Mechanical Contractors Association Annual Meeting
- Annual Chicagoland Construction Safety Conference 1994 to Present
- North Dakota Workers' Compensation Bureau Annual Seminar
- National Erectors Association Joint Labor-Safety Forum
- Downstate Illinois Occupational Safety & Health Day
- Southwest Suburban Chicago Illinois Association of Occupational Nurses
- East Central Illinois Safety Management Association
- ASSE Northeastern IL Chapter meeting
- Lorman Educational Services Seminars
- Council on Education in Management
- Greater Effingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Rehabilitation Insurance Nurses Group
- Residential Construction Employers Council
- National Council of Self-Insurers Annual Meeting

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# JOHN P. CAMPBELL, JR.

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 1999

## MEMBER OF/HIGHLIGHTS

- Member of Chicago Bar Association
- Member of Illinois State Bar Association

Strong trial and appellate experience at all levels of both the Workers' Compensation Commission and Circuit Courts in both workers' compensation and general liability matters including Medicare Set-Aside related claims.

**CONTACT: 312-756-3704**

## Education:

Chicago-Kent College of Law (J.D., 1999)  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (B.A., 1995)

## Lecturer and Presenter:

- Council, Workers' Compensation Update, April 2004-2008
- Professional Education Systems Institute (P.E.S.I.), Workers' Compensation Law in Illinois, August 2005
- Council on Education in Management, Workers' Compensation Update, October 2005
- Lorman, Overview and update on Basic Workers' Compensation, June, 2006
- Illinois State Chamber of Commerce Workers' Compensation Conference, October 2010
- Regular contributor and author of articles for the Workers' Compensation Newsletter 2005-present
- Author and Presenter; 2011 Amendments to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act.
- Adjunct Professor of Workers' Compensation Law; John Marshall Law School 2013-present.
- Author and Presenter; Navigating the Affordable Care Act; What Employers Need to Know; 2015
- Author and Presenter; Defense Strategy and Case-Law Updates for Claim Handlers; 2016-2019.
- Legislative Changes to Standard of Proof: Occupational Disease Act; 2020
- Author and Presenter for Illinois State Chamber of Commerce: Workers' Compensation and Covid-19 Presumption 2020.





# SHAWN R. BIERY

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2001

## HIGHLIGHTS/MEMBER OF

- Admitted to US District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 2011
- Admitted to the Federal Bar
- Medicare Set-aside Certified Consultant (MSCC)
- Member of Illinois State Bar Association
- Member of Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association

**CONTACT: 312-756-3701**

## Education:

Thomas Jefferson School of Law J.D., 2001  
Montana State University, B.S., 1997

## Additional Experience:

- Adjunct Professor, John Marshall Law School 2012-Present
- Adjunct Professor, Elmhurst College 2015-Present
- Honorable Discharge, United States Marine Corps 1989-1993
  - Conducted Desert Warfare training exercises for over 40,000 troops annually
- Strong trial and appellate experience at all levels of the Workers' Compensation Commission, Circuit and Appellate Courts throughout Illinois in both workers' compensation and general liability matters as well as detailed knowledge and credentials for settlement related Medicare issues
- Certification from Lane & Calkins Mediation & Arbitration Training Course
- Certification from Medicare Set-Aside UF Pre-certification program

## Presenter and Lecturer/Moderator/Participant:

- Professional Education Systems Institute (P.E.S.I.), Workers' Compensation Law in Illinois, 2005-2008
- Council on Education in Management, Workers' Compensation Update, October 2005
- PAHR, Workers' Compensation Update, March 2006
- Council on Education in Management, Workers' Compensation Update, October 2006
- Construction Safety Council, Seminar, 2007-present
- Lorman, Workers' Compensation topics, May 2007- present
- Contributor to various Workers' Compensation legal update providers 2003-Current
- Member of ABA Advisory Board 2005-Current
- National RIMS Annual Conference
- Workers' Compensation 101 & 102, 2010-present
- National Council of Self-Insurers
- National RIMS Annual Conference
- DePaul University College of Law-Guest Professor
- Arkansas Trucking Conference
- Northern Illinois University College of Law-Guest Professor

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# JAMES F. EGAN

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 1988

ADMITTED TO WISCONSIN BAR, 2008

## MEMBER OF/HIGHLIGHTS

- Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association

Thirty year practitioner with extensive civil practice throughout the State of Illinois. Formerly managing partner of James F. Egan and Associates, Ltd. was recruited to merge his practice with Keefe & Associates as of January 1, 2004.

**CONTACT: 312-756-3710**

## Education:

John Marshall Law School, J.D., 1988  
University of Illinois, Chicago, B.A., 1979

## Presenter and Lecturer/Participant:

- Has lectured frequently on the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act, as well as on avoiding wrongful discharge liability, including the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Workers' Compensation Seminar, May 16, 2006.
- Professional Education Systems Institute (P.E.S.I.), Workers' Compensation Law in Illinois, August 2005.
- Kishwaukee Community Hospital Workers' Compensation Update 2006 & 2007.
- SIMPA Conference on March 30, 2007.
- 2012-2018—frequent presenter for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce on Workers' Compensation Practice, Self-Insured, Business Ethics.
- 2017-2019—Panelist at Southern Illinois Workers' Compensation Symposium.
- 2020—Contributing lecturer for Rosecrance Legal Considerations of Marijuana in the Workplace presentations and podcast.



# DANIEL J. BODDICKER

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 1996

ADMITTED TO TEXAS BAR, 1989

ADMITTED TO IOWA BAR, 2014

## MEMBER OF

- Federal Trial Bar Northern District of Illinois
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Texas State Bar Association
- Iowa State Bar Association

CONTACT: 312-756-3721

## EDUCATION

Drake University Law School (J.D., 1989)

University of Iowa (B.B.A., 1984)

## Additional Information:

Dan played football for the University of Iowa including participation in a Gator Bowl and Peach Bowl. He has developed his skills in negotiation and in the courtroom as a blend of the experiences and legal study throughout his career. He has a wide variety of courtroom experience in both state and federal civil arenas with multi-jurisdictional and federal court experience. He has significant trial and appellate experience at all levels of the Workers' Compensation Commission, State Courts and Federal Courts in both workers' compensation and general liability matters.





# MATTHEW IGNOFFO

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2009

ADMITTED TO WISCONSIN BAR, 2011

## MEMBER OF/HIGHLIGHTS

- Admitted to the Federal Bar for the Northern District of Illinois, 2010
- Medicare Set-Aside Certified Consultant, 2012
- Workers Compensation Lawyers Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- Justinian Society of Lawyers

CONTACT: 312-756-3729

## Education:

The John Marshall Law School, J.D., Cum laude, 2009  
Lake Forest College, B.A., 2002

## Experience:

Matthew is an income partner focusing on defending and mitigating exposure in workers' compensation claims. He represents clients in an extensive range of industries including manufacturing, health care, construction, transportation, and staffing. Matthew also has acquired detailed knowledge and understanding regarding settlement related Medicare issues.

## Presenter and Lecturer/Participant:

- Regular contributor and author of articles for the Workers' Compensation Newsletter, 2010-Present
- Workers' Compensation 101 & 102, 2010-Present
- Ethics for Adjusters/Insurance Professionals, 2014-Present
- National Council of Self-Insurers, Annual Meeting May 2011 Program, "Main Issues for U.S. Employers in Management of Workers' Compensation Risks and Losses."
- Regional Risk Management Conference and Exhibition (REBEX) October 2013; Program, "Illinois and Wisconsin Workers' Compensation Fraud."





# JOSEPH F. D'AMATO

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2002

**MEMBER OF:**

- American Bar Association

**CONTACT: 312-756-3708**

**Education:**

Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois J.D., May 2002  
University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio B.A., May 1998

**About:**

Strong trial and appellate experience at all levels of both the Workers' Compensation Commission and Circuit Courts in both workers' compensation and general liability matters. Additionally, Joe has experience trying criminal law and domestic relations matters.

**Awards/Activities:**

- CALI Award, Spring Semester, 2001 (highest score in Products Liability)
- Research Assistant to Professor Jane Locke, Fall Semester, 2002 (Products Liability)
- Loyola University of Chicago, Public Interest Law Reporter, 2002 (Staff Writer)



# NATHAN S. BERNARD

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2011

**CONTACT: 312-756-3726**

## **Education:**

The John Marshall Law School, J.D., 2011  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale, B.A., 2008

## **Experience:**

Trial and appellate experience at all levels of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, Illinois Circuit Courts, and Illinois Appellate Court throughout the state relating to the exclusive defense of employers/insurance companies regarding litigation of employment, workers' compensation, subrogation, and general liability matters.

Office of the Illinois Attorney General – Consumer Fraud Bureau, Violent Crime Victim Assistance (VCVA) Bureau; and Charitable Trust Bureau; Law Clerk to Founding Partner Shawn R. Biery.

Author/Speaker before the Illinois business community focused on refining workers' compensation defense and litigation practices as well as providing proactive, practical, and cost-effective legal representation.

Current contributor to the KCBA Workers' Compensation Law Update in Illinois since 2009 and updates on amendments to the 2011 Illinois Workers' Compensation Act as well as evolving case law precedent.



# ELLEN M. KEEFE-GARNER

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR

ADMITTED TO MICHIGAN BAR

## HIGHLIGHTS

- U.S. District Courts of Eastern Michigan
- U.S. District Courts of Northern Illinois

**CONTACT: 734-604-8969**

## Education:

John Marshall School of Law, J.D.  
DePaul University, B.S Nursing  
St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing

## Additional Information:

Ellen Keefe-Garner focuses her practice on Workers' Compensation Defense, General Liability Defense and Medical Malpractice Defense, including eighteen years as a medical malpractice defense litigator in Michigan. A member of the firm since 2012, Ms. Keefe-Garner has experience handling a wide variety of cases, including jury trials. She brings additional experience to her practice from her more than eight years of experience working as a Labor & Delivery Nurse, Maternal Transport Nurse, and Child Birth Educator. She maintains active nursing licenses in both Illinois and Michigan.

· She is AV Peer Review Rated by LexisNexis/Martindale-Hubbell. The AV Peer Review rating is the highest rating allowed. It attests to a lawyer's legal ability and professional ethics, and reflect the confidential opinions of the Bar and the Judiciary.

· She has numerous publications and has given numerous presentations, including: "Gatekeepers in Michigan Courts: Daubert Requires the Trial Judges to Close the Door on Junk Science," 16 Mich. B.J. 17 (2009).



# TIMOTHY J. O'GORMAN

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2012

## MEMBER OF/HIGHLIGHTS

- Illinois State Bar Association Member 2015-Present
- Illinois Workers' Compensation Section Council Member 2016-Present
- Illinois Workers' Compensation Law Association Member 2012-Present
- Illinois Physical Therapy Disciplinary and Licensing Board Public Member 2017-Present
- Marist High School Alumni Law Association Member 2016-Present

**CONTACT: 312-756-3724**

## Education:

The John Marshall Law School (J.D. 2012)

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (B.A. Communications 2009)

## Experience:

Law Clerk to Founding Partner Eugene Keefe prior to becoming attorney receiving that combination of formal legal education and litigation experience. Strong trial experience at all levels of the Workers' Compensation Commission and Appellate Courts throughout Illinois in workers' compensation defense, and general civil litigation and liability defense matters.

Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, Chicago, IL

Sept. 2012 - Present

- Defend workers compensation claims at trial before the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission.
- Argue appeals of workers compensation decisions to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission and Circuit Court.
- Depose witnesses and develop litigation strategies with the aim of closing claims rapidly.
- Negotiate settlements on a litigated and pro se basis.

## Author:

- Co-Author: Understanding Illinois Workers' Compensation System
- Co-Editor and Contributor to ISBA Workers' Compensation Section Council Newsletter
- Contributor to Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates Law Update

## Lecturer/Presenter/Moderator/Participant/Author:

- John Marshall Law School Guest Professor
- Workers' Compensation 101 & 102 2014-Present
- Ethics for HR Specialists, Risk Managers & Claims Adjusters 2014-Present
- Anatomy of an IME 2014-Present
- Accident Investigation: Seven Simple Steps 2014-Present
- Return to Work Webinar 2014-Present
- Illinois Workers' Compensation Fraud Presentation 2014-Present
- Section 5(b) Liens and Subrogation Presentation 2018-Present

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# KEVIN M. BOYLE

ADMITTED TO INDIANA BAR

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR

## MEMBER OF/HIGHLIGHTS

- Admitted to practice in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- Admitted to practice in the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana
- Admitted the United States Bankruptcy Courts in Indiana Northern District of Illinois
- Member of the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana

## Education:

Valparaiso University School of Law, J.D., 1991  
Indiana University, Bloomington, B.A., 1987

CONTACT: 312-662-9899 | 812-369-7182

## Additional Information:

Over twenty-five year practitioner with extensive civil practice throughout the State of Indiana in a variety of matters including workers' compensation and insurance matters as well as business disputes.

**Mr. Boyle is our Indiana Defense Team Leader, his specific Indiana contact information is below:**

Indiana Office: 812-369-7182

Cell: 312-662-9899

Faxes: 812-331-9950 (IN); 312-756-1901 (IL)

885 South College Mall Road #222  
Bloomington, IN 47401



# BRADLEY J. SMITH

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR

ADMITTED TO MICHIGAN BAR

ADMITTED TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT  
OF ILLINOIS, GENERAL BAR & TRIAL BAR

ADMITTED TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT  
OF ILLINOIS

ADMITTED TO THE 7TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

**MEMBER OF:**

- The Defense Research Institute
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel
- Prior Chair, Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel Employment Law Committee

## Education

Valparaiso University School of Law  
Indiana University-Bloomington, B.A. Criminal Justice

## Experience:

Mr. Smith began his legal career practicing as a bankruptcy attorney for both individuals and businesses throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. Subsequently, Mr. Smith managed staff and attorneys in default and contested commercial litigation cases. Mr. Smith was also entrusted with handling complex commercial matters at all stages of litigation. More recently, Mr. Smith regularly participated in all levels of employment, commercial, and personal injury litigation in various Illinois counties and the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Smith also contributed to all facets of multi-plaintiff and multi-defendant state and federal lawsuits. Mr. Smith routinely handled charges of discrimination in both the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Mr. Smith's practice at Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, LLC involves a similar range of practice areas, with a particular focus on general liability, insurance coverage, first-party insurance, malpractice, construction, third-party defense, tort accidents, employment law, product liability, and contract disputes. While Mr. Smith understands the importance of closing files for his clients, he also has trial experience allowing him to fully assess and carry through any necessary case to and including a trial or hearing. Mr. Smith has been recently selected as a Rising Star Superlawyer by SuperLawyers.com.

## Professional Lectures & Presentations:

Mr. Smith presented to fellow legal professionals at an IICLE continuing legal education event entitled, Untying the Knot: Bankruptcy, Short Sales, and Foreclosures in Family Law Cases (Aug. 2011).



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# LINDSAY R. VANDERFORD

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Highly motivated and aggressive trial attorney experienced in general liability and workers' compensation defense conducting twelve trials in the last three years. Knowledgeable in civil rights and employment law with experience prosecuting police action cases while working with the DePaul Civil Rights Clinic and defending Title VII claims for the Federal Aviation Administration.

**CONTACT: 312-756-3745**

## Education:

DePaul University, College of Law, J.D.,  
Certificate in International and Comparative Law  
University of Illinois at Chicago, B.A.

## Professional Experience:

Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates  
Chicago, Illinois June, 2012 – Present

- Represent employers and municipalities in workers' compensation and civil litigation complying with all Rules of Practice at the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission (IWCC) and Rules of Civil Procedure in several divisions of Illinois Circuit Court
- Prepare claims for hearing or resolution by conducting depositions and all matters pertaining to trial preparation
- Conduct trials at the IWCC and in Circuit Court
- Published extensively in the KCBA Weekly Law Update regarding workers' compensation, employment law, and employment lien issues

Federal Aviation Administration, Office of General Counsel  
Great Lakes Regional Office, Des Plaines, Illinois 2013

- Drafted referral letters forwarding matters of violation to the Department of Defense and Foreign Disciplinary Bodies
- Aided in Trial Preparation through collecting, organizing, and summarizing voluminous case data
- Prepared briefs, especially in conjunction with privilege and work product in a Title VII action
- Authored several Statements of Fact not in Dispute to be included in Motions for Summary Judgment
- Drafted Complete Motions for Summary Judgment in a Title VII action

## Volunteer Experiences

- DePaul Civil Rights Clinic, DePaul University, College of Law, Chicago, Illinois, 2013-2014
- Domestic Violence Courthouse Project, Domestic Violence Division, Circuit Court of Cook County, 2012
- Beijing Foreign Studies (Bei Wai) University Legal Clinic, Beijing, China, 2012





# JOHN A. KARIS

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2014

**CONTACT: 312-756-3717**

## Education

The John Marshall Law School, J.D., May 2014  
University Of Illinois, Champaign, B.S. Communications, May 2010

## Experience:

McCarthy Duffy LLP, Chicago, Illinois

Law Clerk, October 2013- November 2014

- Research and write memoranda on topics including commercial landlord/tenant lease disputes, legal malpractice liability issues, general contracts, business tort claims, municipal law and condominium cooperative housing association liability issues.
- Prepare various court forms, deeds, corporate forms and real estate closing documents.
- Draft legal correspondence and settlement letters.
- Assist with property tax appeals, property tax exemptions and real estate closings.

HP Ventures Group LLC, Chicago, Illinois

Law Clerk, May 2012- August 2013

- Assisted general counsel in all phases of the transaction process, including the negotiation and drafting of the purchase contract, conducting legal due diligence and preparing all ancillary documentation; deals have ranged in size from 2 million dollars to 10 million dollars.
- Served as the point of contact for the acquisition of a 15-unit condominium property.
- Drafted contracts, assignments, addendums, resolutions and deeds.
- Reviewed leases, condo declarations, private offering memoranda and subscription agreements. · Conducted legal research on various issues of real estate, corporate and securities law, and gave verbal and written reports on research findings.
- Maintained corporate records and memorialized closing documents.



# GINA M. SMITH

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR

ADMITTED TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT  
OF ILLINOIS GENERAL BAR

MEMBER OF:

• Illinois State Bar Association

## Education

Valparaiso University School of Law  
Purdue University-West Lafayette, B.A. Political Science

## About:

Ms. Smith began her legal career practicing as an employment litigation attorney for both individuals and businesses throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. She also represented personal injury victims in various tort matters. Ms. Smith has handled charges of discrimination and other employment disputes with various administrative agencies on the federal and state level. Ms. Smith also has litigated personal injury and commercial litigation matters at all stages. Ms. Smith has experience litigating multi-plaintiff and multi-defendant lawsuits in various Illinois counties and the Northern District of Illinois. More recently, Ms. Smith oversaw the Human Resources department and served as an in-house counsel for a national corporation. At Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, LLC, Ms. Smith's practice involves a similar range of practice areas, with a particular focus on employment law, general liability litigation, insurance coverage, first-party insurance, malpractice, construction, third-party defense, tort accidents, production liability, construction litigation, and contract disputes. While Ms. Smith understands the importance of closing files for her clients, she also has trial experience allowing her to fully assess and carry through any necessary case to a hearing or trial.



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# MICHAEL J. PALMER

ADMITTED TO ILLINOIS BAR, 2021

## MEMBER OF

- Member of the Chicago Bar Association, 2021

**CONTACT: 312-756-3733**

## Education:

Valparaiso University School of Law (J.D. 2019)  
University of Missouri (B.A. Journalism 2016)

## Experience:

Law Clerk for Evans & Dixon, LLC (2019-2021)

- Drafted legal documents, performed legal research, and assisted attorneys on a variety of other needs regarding their caseload.

Judicial Extern for Judge Mary Harper (2018)

- Drafted orders and various other legal documents in preparation for court.

Valparaiso University Law School Sports Clinic (2018-2019)

- Managed a case load as a student attorney under Indiana Rule 2.1. Prepared and filed briefs with the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, memoranda, and notices of appeal.

Law Clerk for TorHoerman Law, LLC (2016)

- Updated the firm's blog about ongoing civil litigation handling.

## Editor:

Valparaiso University School of Law

- Associate Editor, Valparaiso University Law Review, Volume 53

## Fun Fact:

Michael was an on air radio personality from 2013 to 2016, co-hosting a weekly sports specialty show for KCOU 88.1 FM (Columbia, MO).