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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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“I see myself as a business partner for my clients, helping them to achieve their goals and objectives and manage their risk.”

I have been practicing law for 18 years. For nine of those years, I worked as in-house counsel for multi-national Fortune 500 companies - Newell Rubbermaid and, most recently, FMC Technologies, Inc. I concentrate my practice in the areas of general corporate advice and counseling, transactional work, employment law, complex commercial litigation, products liability, and intellectual property.

## IN-HOUSE INSIGHT

I have divided my years of legal practice evenly between serving as outside and inside counsel. As a result, I have invaluable insight into how to best provide clients with the legal support they need. Having been a client myself, I understand what clients are looking for in outside counsel. I also understand the importance of finding creative ways to help my clients achieve their business objectives. In addition, serving as both inside and outside counsel has given me the unique ability to identify potential problems and advise my clients as to how to improve their practices to avoid litigation, and also to strategize effectively in litigation when it arrives.

## EXPERIENCE THAT MATTERS

Through my in-house work, I gained a great amount of knowledge relating to both the consumer products industry and the manufacturing industry. During my nearly six years at FMC Technologies, I was Assistant General Counsel with responsibility for a \$600 million business unit. I oversaw all aspects of legal support for the business, including working on acquisitions, divestitures and other transactions, drafting and revising complex commercial agreements, managing my business unit's litigation portfolio, and advising my corporate clients on how to best manage their business risk. As Assistant General Counsel for Newell Rubbermaid, I helped my corporate clients mitigate risk arising out of the sale of consumer products, including providing advice on issues such as antitrust and price discrimination, country of origin claims, marketing and advertising claims, import/export issues, labeling issues, and products liability issues. In addition, I assisted in drafting, revising and negotiating commercial agreements, managing my business unit's litigation portfolio, and managing my business unit's relationships with sales representatives and distributors.

I started my legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge James B. Moran, then Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and subsequently worked as a litigation attorney for Jenner & Block and then Grippo & Elden.

My experience includes:

- Acting as lead counsel and drafting and negotiating deal documents for numerous multi-million dollar transactions.
- Overseeing complex commercial litigation, including lawsuits for theft of intellectual property, product liability, and breach of contract.
- Successfully negotiating the favorable settlement of multi-million dollar lawsuits.
- Drafting and revising agreements related to intellectual property, technology, licensing, sales, sourcing and manufacturing.
- Advising my clients on a broad range of employment issues, including drafting employment agreements, severance agreements and releases, termination of employees, investigation of complaints, and overseeing employment-related litigation.
- Advising my clients on compliance with complex regulatory schemes, such as antitrust laws, import and export laws, anti-boycotting regulations, and rules and regulations promulgated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Advising my clients on issues related to the sale of consumer products such as marketing and advertising claims, country of origin claims, and labeling issues.
- Advising my clients with respect to the management of sales representative, distributor and consulting relationships, including hiring and terminating same.
- Advising and training my clients on issues related to risk management, contract negotiation, improved contracting practices and protection of intellectual property.
- Arbitrating and mediating claims before the American Arbitration Association and JAMS.
- Drafting successful substantive motions and briefs for state and federal courts, including the Seventh Circuit.
- Successfully litigating and resolving theft of trade secrets cases on behalf of a Fortune 500 client.

## **SPEECHES**

I have spoken at seminars sponsored by the Manufacturing and Allied Products Institute (MAPI) and the National Institute for Women Corporate Counsel on strategies for time- and cost-effective litigation management. In addition, I have provided my business clients with extensive training on numerous subject matters, including protection of confidential information and intellectual property, best practices for contracting, compliance, and risk management.

## **EDUCATION**

I received my J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. I graduated *cum laude*, and received Book Awards for achieving the highest grade in Property and Civil Procedure II. I also served as a Teaching Assistant for Michigan's legal research and writing course for two years.

I graduated *magna cum laude* from Boston College, with a B.A. in English.