



Getting the right result is as important to Bill McErlean as it is to the clients he represented, and he consistently obtained such results in his nearly four decades of litigation and trial practice. Bill was the Litigation Department Chair Emeritus and served for many years as Litigation Chair and on the firm's Management Committee.

A proven and consistently effective advocate, Bill tried more than 40 commercial litigation cases, including the first civil RICO action in the Northern District of Illinois. In his former practice, he handled a variety of complex, high-stakes commercial cases in courts and before arbitrators throughout the country, defending and prosecuting RICO, securities fraud and common law fraud claims at trial and on appeal.

Bill also tried franchise, contract, professional malpractice, UCC, ERISA, lender liability, partnership and corporate dissolution and freeze-outs, trade regulation, trade secret, and real estate broker disputes. In addition, he defended his client's rights in business torts and construction and real estate disputes.

Bill regularly prosecuted and defended multimillion dollar cases, including bet-the-company cases where the result determined whether or not his client stayed in business.

Honors

The Best Lawyers in America, 2014-2021

Illinois Super Lawyers, 2008, 2011-2020

Leading Lawyers Network, Illinois Leading Lawyer

William M. McErlean

Of Counsel (Retired)

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EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center,
(J.D.), with honors, 1978

University of Notre Dame, (B.A.), magna
cum laude, 1975

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

Illinois (Retired)

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth
Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Wisconsin

U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Illinois

LANGUAGES

English

PRACTICES

Employee Benefits Litigation