

## Jean M. Prendergast

SHAREHOLDER

For Jean Prendergast, good lawyering means telling a client's story well and developing legally sound solutions. Perhaps it is the ability to keep things simple that has enabled her to establish a stellar track record as an appellate advocate and trial lawyer. Named an Illinois Super Lawyer for three consecutive years and one of 40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch, Jean is a vigorous advocate for her clients, known for her in-depth analysis and persuasive arguments.

As a law student at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Jean earned numerous honors. She served as a writer and editor for two law school publications. She also represented Loyola both as a member of a moot court team and as a member of the National Trial Team. The art of persuasive presentation fostered at Loyola would set the tone for Jean's career.

Prior to entering private practice, Jean served as a judicial law clerk for Justice Mary Ann McMorrow of the Illinois Supreme Court and Justice Mary Jane Theis of the Illinois Appellate Court. These experiences gave her insight into trial practice as well as the appellate decision-making process.



### CONTACT INFO

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### PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate Practice  
Commercial Litigation  
Professional Liability  
Insurance/Reinsurance Coverage



In 1997, Jean entered private practice and for more than a decade has handled cases in both the trial court and courts of review, including numerous matters before the Illinois Supreme Court. She successfully has tried cases to verdict in commercial litigation matters and has overseen a broad range of litigation involving class action claims, corporate oppression, fraud, breach of contract and business torts. Jean also represents clients in professional malpractice, insurance coverage and personal injury matters. Jean lectures frequently on the subject of appellate practice.

Recent cases of note include a successful two-week jury trial in a commercial case in the Circuit Court of Cook County, *Molenhouse v. Hanjin Shipping, et al.*, Case No. 03 L 5835; and a winning argument before the Illinois Supreme Court in *Buenz v. Frontline Transportation Co.*, 227 Ill.2d 302, 882 N.E.2d 525 (2008).

Author, lecturer and passionate client advocate, Jean is widely recognized as a leader in appellate practice and is an active participant in professional associations. Presently, she is President of the Appellate Lawyers Association, Chairperson of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Character and Fitness in the First District, and co-author of *Illinois Supreme Court Cases Pending*, which is published five times each year by the Appellate Lawyers Association. Her published work, *Making the Most of Your Oral Argument*, 90 No. 4 Ill. B.J. 207 (April 2002), is treated as a must-read for young lawyers.

## EXPERIENCE

Schuyler, Roche & Crisham, P.C.  
Chicago, IL

*Shareholder*  
2009 to Present

Crisham & Kubes, Ltd.  
Chicago, IL

*Partner*  
2004-2009

*Senior Associate*  
2001-2003

Quinlan & Crisham, Ltd.  
Chicago, IL

*Associate*  
1997-2001

Illinois Supreme Court, Chambers of Justice  
Mary Ann McMorrow

Law Clerk  
1996-1997

Illinois Appellate Court, Chambers of Justice  
Mary Jane Theis

Law Clerk  
1994-1996

## PUBLICATIONS

*Power at the Podium*, TRIAL: Journal of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, at 49 (July 2002)

*Making the Most of Your Oral Argument*, 90 No. 4 Ill. B.J. 207 (April 2002)

*Foreign Legal Consultation Rules: Effective or Expendable?*  
63 The Bar Examiner No. 1 (Feb. 1994)

*Health Care Contracts May Not Unfairly Limit Uninsured Motorist Compensation*, 5 Loy. Consumer L. Rep. 130-131 (1993)

*Attorneys Must Disclose Potential Conflict of Interest in Multi-Party Representation*, 5 Loy. Consumer L. Rep. 58060 (1993)

**EDUCATION AND DISTINCTIONS**

J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL 1994  
The Bar Examiner, Senior Student Editor and Project Contributor,  
1993-94  
Loyola Consumer Law Reporter, Case Editor, 1993-94; Recent Cases  
Writer, 1992-93  
Loyola National Trial Team, NITA Competition, 1993-94  
Chicago Bar Association Moot Court Team, 1993  
B.A. in Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago, January 1993  
Magna Cum Laude with Curriculum Honors  
40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch, Class of 2007  
Illinois Super Lawyer, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010  
American Jurisprudence Award for Trial Practice/Advocacy, 1994  
Clark Boardman Callaghan Award for Trial Advocacy, 1994  
Loyola School of Law Leadership and Service Award, 1994  
Designated as a Super Lawyer in the 2009 Corporate Counsel Edition  
of Super Lawyers for Appellate Practice

**LECTURES**

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National Association of Women Lawyers –  
Appellate Advocacy in Illinois: Best Practices  
for Written and Oral Argument  
Speaker, July 19, 2007  
Illinois State Bar Association – Tort Law Update  
Speaker, June 29, 2007  
Appellate Lawyers Association – Appellate Law  
Nuts & Bolts Speaker, May 9, 2007  
Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel  
– IDC Spring Defense Tactics: Insurance Law  
Update Speaker, March 9, 2007  
Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel  
– Basic Skills Seminar: Preservation of the  
Appellate Record and Appellate Practice  
Speaker, December 2, 2006 and October 27,  
2007

**BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

.....  
Illinois, 1994  
U.S. District Court for the Northern District  
of Illinois, 1994  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit,  
2000  
U.S. Supreme Court, 2001  
Federal Trial Bar, 2005

**CIVIC AFFILIATIONS**

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National Center for Immigrant Justice,  
Pro bono work

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Character & Fitness

Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a Commissioner in the First Judicial District, 2004 to Present;

Vice-Chair of the Committee in the First District, 2008–2009;

Chairperson of the Committee in the First District, 2010 to Present

Appointed as Vice Chair of the Committee in the First District, 2008

Circuit Court of Cook County,  
Chancery Mediation Rules Committee Member, 2005

American Bar Association

Appellate Practice Institute in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 2000

Appellate Lawyers Association

President, 2010 to Present

Vice President, 2009–2010

Secretary, 2008–2009

Treasurer, 2007–2008

Board of Directors, 2000–2002

Co-Chair of the Committee on Illinois Supreme Court Cases Pending,  
2001 to Present (Co-Author of the Civil Section of Cases Pending)

Chicago Bar Association

Co-Chair of the Young Lawyers Section,

Appellate Law Committee, 1997–1998

CBA Trial Skills Training Workshop, February 2000

Illinois Society of Trial Lawyers

Member, 2006 to Present

Illinois State Bar Association

Special Committee on Appellate Practice and

Co-Chair of the Articles Subcommittee, 2001–2002

National Association of Women Judges,

Midwestern Leadership Conference

Friends Committee, August 27–28, 2008

Women's Bar Foundation

Board of Directors, 2001 to Present

Fundraising Committee, Member

Co-Chair of the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, 2001–2003

Women's Bar Association of Illinois

Board of Directors, 2002–2003

Co-Chair of the Balancing Act Committee, 2001–2006

Annual Dinner Committee, Member, 2006

Co-Chair of the Joint Professional Dinner, 2005

Nominating Committee, 2005 (Member), 2006 (Member), 2007 (Chair)

WBAI 90th Anniversary Host Committee, 2004

Seventh Circuit Bar Association