

# COLIN H. DUNN

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## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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**CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES, P.C.**  
Associate

2006-PRESENT  
Chicago, IL

- Assigned case load of approximately 40 personal injury and wrongful death cases. Primary attorney responsible for handling those cases from pre-suit investigation through trial and appeal, including interviewing witnesses, taking depositions, writing briefs, conducting oral argument, and examining witnesses at trial or hearing. Some of the significant cases that I have performed substantive work on include:
  - Lichaw, et al., v. 69 West Washington, et al.* Litigation stemming from the fire at the Cook County Administration Building (\$100 million settlement);
  - Beemsterboer v. Joseph J. Duffy Co., et al.* Husband and father of three killed in partial collapse of building during construction (\$11 million settlement);
  - Allie v. Frontline.* Married couple was killed while driving on I-57 after their car was struck by a news van that had blown a tire (\$9 million settlement);
  - Naras v. Flextronics, et al.* A husband and father of two was crushed by a punch press at a factory (\$6.1 million dollar partial settlement; trial with the remaining defendant is set for March 2010);
  - Marzano v. Walsh Construction, et al.* Construction accident where worker suffered traumatic brain injury after being struck on head by terra cotta panel that had fallen from ceiling (\$4.5 million - settled during trial);
  - Ortiz v. CTA.* Husband of two is struck and killed by CTA bus at the Midway Airport terminal (\$3.25 million settlement);
  - Bolden v. Bryden Transportation.* Father of three run over by school bus (\$3 million settlement)
  - Strand v. City of Berwyn.* Wife, Mother of three, and partner at local defense law firm killed by locomotive engine (\$2.425 million settlement)
  - Griffin v. Nisso, et al.* Trucking accident where client's vehicle was struck head-on by truck after driver lost control and crossed the centerline (\$1.775 million settlement);
  - In re Air Crash Disaster at Lexington, Kentucky on August 27, 2006.* Litigation stemming from the crash of Comair Flight 4191 in 2006. Represented six families (Confidential settlement);
  - Woods v. Southwest, et al.* Boy killed when Southwest plane crashed through the barrier at Midway Airport and struck the car in which he was a passenger (Confidential settlement).
- Wrote brief and argued before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals:
  - United States v. Fletcher*, 08-3195 (whether the Constitution requires proof that the defendant knew the victims were minors in order to be convicted of production of child pornography under 18 U.S.C. 2251);
  - Collins et al., v. United States of America*, 564 F.3d 833 (7th Cir.2009) (plane crash involving the death of three people, including WGN radio personality Bob Collins, near the Waukegan Regional Airport; finding that the Government was not liable for the negligence of the contractor-air traffic controller and was protected by discretionary function exception to the Federal Tort Claims Act for failing to install radar at the airport).
- Argued before the Illinois Appellate Court:
  - Hernandez v. Alexian Bros. Health Sys., Inc.*, 384 Ill.App.3d 510 (2008) (reversing circuit court and finding that a genuine issue existed as to whether the Good Samaritan Act protected the doctor who provided treatment to decedent but chose not to bill patient's family after her death);

- Wrote and co-wrote the consolidated brief for all Plaintiffs:
  - *Bennett v. Southwest, et al.*, 493 F.3d 762 (7th Cir.2007) (state law claims arising out of crash at Midway airport (see “*Woods v. Southwest, et al.*” case above) were not removable under the implied preemption doctrine);
  - *Yoder v. Ferguson, et al.*, 381 Ill.App.3d 353 (2008) (finding that settled defendants should not be included on the verdict form given to the jury to apportion fault), affirmed by *Ready v. United/Goedecke, Inc.*, 232 Ill.2d 369 (2009).
- Pro Bono Counsel:
  - *United States v. Fletcher*, 08-3195 (pending before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals);
  - *People v. McCowen*, 1-08-2268 (pending before the Illinois Appellate Court);
  - *In re Guardianship of M.S. & I.S.* (represented maternal grandmother who was awarded guardianship of grandchildren; hearing was conducted in DeKalb County);
  - *In re Estate of Bradford* (appointed Guardian ad litem for disabled adult).

**ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF APPELLATE ADVOCACY** 2004-PRESENT  
*Loyola University of Chicago School of Law* Chicago, IL

- Weekly, two-hour lecture course for second-year law students on appellate writing and oral argument presentation. Class consists of two graded appellate briefs and two graded oral arguments. A class description can be found at <http://www.luc.edu/law/academics/register/fall/advocacy.shtml#dunn>.

**LAW CLERK FOR THE HONORABLE JUSTICE PATRICK J. QUINN** 2004-06  
*Illinois Appellate Court, First District* Chicago, IL

- Drafted over 20 published opinions and dozens of unpublished orders. Prepared bench memoranda for Judge Quinn and other judges assigned to Judge Quinn’s panel in advance of oral argument. Initiated Externship Program in chambers for second and third-year law students.

**ASSISTANT STATE’S ATTORNEY** 2002-04  
*Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office* Chicago, IL

- Wrote appellate briefs and argued several cases before the First District Appellate Court of Illinois while assigned to the Criminal Appeals Division, including *People v. Martinez*, 342 Ill.App.3d 849 (2003) (finding that the defendant was properly convicted of felony murder based on the shooting of co-felon by the victim); *People v. Vasquez*, 339 Ill.App.3d 546 (2003) (appellate court had no jurisdiction to consider the defendant’s appeal where his prior appeal had been dismissed under the fugitive dismissal rule).
- Handled an average of 100 cases each day involving defendants charged with various misdemeanor crimes while assigned to the First Municipal/Community Prosecutions Division. Conducted dozens of pre-trial suppression hearings and bench trials.

**EXTERN FOR THE HONORABLE JUDGE ANN WILLIAMS** JAN. 2002-MAY 2002  
*Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals* Chicago, IL

- Drafted several published opinions and unpublished orders on such topics as judicial review of administrative agency decisions, interpretation of United States sentencing guidelines, and labor law. Wrote bench memoranda and conducted research to aid Justice Williams’ preparation for oral argument.

**EXTERN FOR THE HONORABLE JUDGE RONALD GUZMAN** MAY 2001-AUG. 2001  
*United States District Court* Chicago, IL

- Drafted judicial opinions and memoranda in areas such as civil rights claims, copyright infringement, and insurance law.

## EDUCATION

**LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** 1999-02  
*J.D. Magna Cum Laude* Chicago, IL  
**Rank:** 8/169 **GPA:** 3.75

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY**

*B.A. in Political Science and Classical Humanities*

Habitat for Humanity Member 1996-99; led trips to South Carolina and Florida

1995-99

*Oxford, OH*

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Monthly columnist for the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*. Entitled "Torts," the column critically discusses recent cases that significantly impact state and federal tort litigation. It also addresses issues in state and federal tort law that are unresolved or decisions that are inconsistent with legal principles. Written over 20 articles including "*Feres Doctrine Commands Liability For Military*," January 24, 2007; "Split Over Who Should Be On The Verdict Form," March 26, 2008; "In Illinois, It's Still Cheaper To Kill Than To Hurt," June 24, 2009; and "When A State Regulation Is Not A Statute," September 2, 2009.
- Co-wrote "Use of Expert Witnesses in Aviation Cases" **Litigating the Aviation Case: From Pre-Trial to Closing Argument**, Chapter 20, Third Edition.
- "Ask And Ye Shall Receive: A Party's Obligation To Disclose Impeachment Material In Federal Civil Cases," **Aviation Litigation Quarterly**, Spring 2008.
- "State Courts Can Hear Commercial Aviation Cases: *Bennett v. Southwest* and *In re Air Crash Disaster at Lexington, Kentucky on August 27, 2006*," **The Federal Lawyer**, January 2008, Vol. 55, Number One.
- Speaker for "Update in Aviation Law" Panel at the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section on Aviation and Space Law Litigation in Washington D.C.

## BAR MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

- **Chicago Bar Association** (2002 to present). Member of the Judicial Evaluation Committee which investigates applicants for the Circuit Court of Cook County and the Illinois Appellate Court as well as sitting judges on both courts. Presently the Chair of the Aviation Litigation Committee.
- **Arlyn Miner Moot Court Competition** (2006 to present) at Northwestern University School of Law. Volunteer judge for Northwestern legal writing competition.
- Super Lawyers *Rising Star* 2009, 2010, 2011
- Law Bulletin's *40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty To Watch* 2010