

## GRETCHEN L. OLSEN



### Partner

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Gretchen L. Olsen has been a partner at Plunkett Cooney since 1995 in the firm's Petoskey office. She concentrates her practice in the areas of municipal liability and medical and legal malpractice, but also represents a wide range of clients in both state and federal courts in other litigation as well. In the municipal arena she represents clients directly and through insurance carriers in a broad range of claims including employment, civil rights, police liability, highway defect and zoning.

### Representative Client Work

- Trial counsel for the Michigan Municipal Liability and Property Pool
- City Attorney for City of Petoskey
- Defended to jury verdict a closed head injury claim against a municipality involving their operation of a ski hill; no-cause received with a demand in excess of \$1,000,000
- Defended a wrongful death claim in excess of \$2,000,000 in federal court; no cause received after three-week trial
- Defended numerous excessive force/false arrest claims in federal court all of which resulted in no-cause verdicts
- Defended real estate company in a mold case involving four different claimants
- Defended several nursing homes in claims greater than \$1,000,000

### Professional Affiliations

- Emmet-Charlevoix County Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan (Litigation Section)

### Areas of Practice

- Civil Rights
- Insurance Law
- Medical Liability
- Municipal Law
- Professional Liability

### Honors & Awards

- Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating-AV. AV is a registered certification mark of Reed Elsevier Properties, Inc., used in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell certification procedures, standards and policies

### Education

- Detroit College of Law, 1984, J.D., cum laude
- Michigan State University, 1981, B.S.
- Trinity University, 1979, B.A.

### Bar & Court Admissions

- Michigan, 1984
- All Federal Courts

- American Bar Association (Litigation Section)
- Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (Past Board of Directors)
- Michigan State Bar Character and Fitness Committee (Former Member)

## **Community Involvement**

- Northern Michigan Regional Health System, Board of Directors (Past Vice-chair and former member of the executive committee)
- Hospice of Little Traverse Bay, Board of Directors (Past President)
- First National Bank, Former Director
- Petoskey – Bay View Country Club, Board of Directors
- Zonta Club of Petoskey

## **Publications and Lectures**

- Authored various publications in conjunction with numerous lectures and presentations on all aspects of municipal law including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act; Open Meetings Act; Governmental Immunity including highway defect claims, public building claims, police chase issues; private and public nuisance issues including takings, trespass/nuisance issues; as well as various constitutional and civil rights issues. Has also lectured on various aspects of medical malpractice.