

LAUREL F. MCGIFFERT



Partner

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Laurel F. McGiffert is a senior trial attorney and currently serves as a member of Plunkett Cooney's Board of Directors. She concentrates her practice primarily in the areas of medical liability, labor and employment law, municipal law, civil rights and general litigation.

In addition to her successful trial practice, Ms. McGiffert has extensive experience representing clients involved in Michigan's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system. She also has the distinction of serving as an independent arbitrator and mediator in ADR hearings.

Ms. McGiffert has represented most major hospitals in the Detroit metropolitan area, and she is frequently asked to present seminars to clients and healthcare organizations on such topics as nursing documentation and legal issues associated with emergency nursing care, informed consent and record keeping. Ms. McGiffert has also participated in grand rounds for a major local hospital, participated in educational mock trials and lectured at trial skills seminars sponsored by such organizations as the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

Ms. McGiffert has also made presentations to professionals on the subject of "Psychological Autopsy of an Adolescent" and has spoken to employer-representatives on "Staff Professionalism with Consumers: Setting Boundaries."

For more than 15 years, Ms. McGiffert has been an instructor on numerous topics for the Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), including but not limited to, motion and discovery practice, deposition skills, anatomy of a lawsuit, practical evidence, demonstrative evidence, ultimate trial notebook, and common settlement and trial

Areas of Practice

- Civil Rights
- Labor & Employment Law
- Litigation
- Medical Liability
- Municipal Law
- Nursing Home & Long-term Care Liability
- Private Client Services

Honors & Awards

- Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating-AV Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated. AV Preeminent is a certification mark of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell® certification procedures, standards and policies.
- Top Lawyer in Medical Liability, Labor & Employment, Municipal Law, General Litigation, *dbusiness Magazine*, 2010

Education

- Wayne State University Law School, J.D., 1980
- Vassar College, B.A., 1970

Bar & Court Admissions

- Michigan, 1980

problems.

Representative Client Work

- Successfully represented the personal media consultant of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in a very high profile case claiming the consultant intentionally leaked to the media the name of a confidential police informant, whose testimony ultimately led to a multi-million dollar verdict against the mayor, his chief of staff and the city. Ms. McGiffert's client was dismissed from the case prior to trial.
- Worked closely with the president/chief executive officer and an executive vice president of a large medical insurance provider to successfully litigate and, ultimately, to arbitrate a \$6 million employment claim filed by a former vice president who alleged race and sex discrimination, retaliation and the existence of a hostile work environment. The case was resolved in favor of Ms. McGiffert's clients following a "no cause of action" ruling by the arbitrator.
- Claims against the then Detroit Public Schools superintendent were dismissed from a breach of contract dispute brought by a district consultant following the court's approval of Ms. McGiffert's aggressive defense and request for summary disposition. While the suit was ultimately settled by the district and consultant, the personal and financial interests of Ms. McGiffert's client were protected.
- Extensive trial experience in medical liability, employment, municipal and other litigation matters
- Defends numerous hospitals, doctors and other healthcare professionals in medical malpractice lawsuits
- Extensive medical malpractice expertise in claims involving surgery, psychiatry, pathology, hematology, emergency medicine care, gynecology, etc., encompassing hospitals, clinics, and physicians' offices, as well as emergency medicine (ER), inpatient and outpatient medical care
- Defends both public and private employers in labor and employment matters, including trials and arbitrations
- Successfully tried an employment matter involving claims of alleged sexual harassment and significant damages, obtaining a no cause of action judgment on behalf of a municipal employer
- Successfully tried an alleged wrongful death case brought by the estate of a minor who committed suicide, obtaining a judgment of no cause of action for the defendant, a large private retail company

Professional Affiliations

- State Bar of Michigan (Ethics Committee, 1989-1993)
- Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association
- Wolverine Bar Association
- Association of Defense Trial Counsel
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- D. Augustus Straker Bar Association (Former member)

- American Inns of Court (Former member)
- American Bar Association (Former member)
- American Defense Trial Attorneys Association (Former member)
- Defense Research Institute (Former member)

Community Involvement

- American Heart Association (Volunteer Fund Raiser)
- Wayne County Easter Seal Society (Board of Directors, 1982-1990; President, Board of Directors, 1988-1990)
- CATCH - Caring Athletes Team for Children's and Henry Ford Hospitals (Board of Trustees, past member)

Speaking Engagements

- Medical Liability Seminar - Perfect Game

News

- Three shareholders elected to Plunkett Cooney's Board of Directors