

SAMMI L. RENKEN

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SERVICE AREAS

[Class Action](#)

[Complex / Catastrophic](#)

INDUSTRY SECTORS

[Health Care / Medical Malpractice Defense](#)

[Construction](#)



Sammi L. Renken is a vice president of Johnson & Bell, Ltd. She joined the firm in 2001, and serves on the Board of Directors.

Ms. Renken is an experienced trial lawyer with litigation, advocacy, and counseling skills that cross practice areas. Based on a broad jury trial background, Ms. Renken provides solutions and results for her client's most challenging cases. Her practice has included representation and trials involving class action disputes, data breach and cyber liability litigation, malpractice and medical actions, commercial and business disputes, construction litigation, nursing home litigation, drug and medical device lawsuits, Medicare and Medicaid audits, fraud claims, and attorney malpractice litigation. She has also represented various professionals in licensure matters before the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR).

In 2024, Ms. Renken was honored to be installed as Vice-President of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) for the Illinois Chapter, and named as an ABOTA National Board Member. ABOTA is a national organization of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution. In 2017, she was also welcomed into the fellowship of the Trial Lawyer Honorary Society of the Litigation Counsel of America. In 2018, Ms. Renken was honored to be selected as a member of The Society of Trial Lawyers, and in 2025 she was elected as a Board Member. All three organizations are by invitation only to litigators with proven results as lead trial counsel. She was also recognized as a [2020 Women in Law Inaugural Honoree](#) by the *Chicago Lawyer* and *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* publications.

Ms. Renken is co-chair of the Healthcare group and co-chair of the firm's Women's Initiative. She is licensed to practice in Illinois and North Carolina. She earned her undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin, and her J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law.

ADMISSIONS & EDUCATION

ADMISSIONS

Illinois Supreme Court
North Carolina Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Middle District of North Carolina
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana
U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals

EDUCATION

The University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 1999
The University of Texas at Austin, B.A., 1995

AFFILIATIONS

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA): Vice President of the Illinois Chapter 2024-2026; National Board Representative 2024-Present; Executive Committee Member 2021-Present; Membership Chair 2021-2024; Associate Member and Foundation Fellow 2016-Present

LA Bar Association, (Loyola Academy alumni and parents) 2024-present

The Society of Trial Lawyers, 2018 - Present

Advocate Health Care Wound Prevention and Management Committee, Member 2016-2020

Fellow, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, Litigation Counsel of America, 2017- Present

Illinois Society of Healthcare Risk Management (ISHRM): President 2022-2023; President Elect 2019-2021; Secretary 2015-2019; Board Member 2013-2017

Chicagoland Healthcare Risk Management Society (CHRMS): President 2013-2014; President Elect 2011-2012; Secretary 2010-2011; Board Member 2008-2015

American Society for Healthcare Risk Management

Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys (IAHA)

ALFA Women's Initiative Steering Committee 2016-Present

Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law: Board Member 2014-2021

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center Development Council: Charged with Securing Philanthropic Support for the Medical Center, Member 2013-2020

Marillac St. Vincent Family Services, a Catholic Charity that Focuses on Strengthening and Empowering Children and Families. Member of the Board of Trustees 2012-2016

HONORS

Salute! Women in Law Honoree, Chicago Law Bulletin, Chicago Lawyer, 2020

Invited member of The Society of Trial Lawyers, 2018

Selected fellow, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society of the Litigation Counsel of America, 2017

Invited member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, 2016

President's Award, Chicagoland Healthcare Risk Management Society, 2011

"Forty Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch," Law Bulletin Publishing Company, 2010

Leading Lawyer, 2021, 2022

Best Lawyers, 2026

CLIENT RESULTS

[Plaintiff's Attempt to Enlarge "Damages Pie" Gets Nixed by Court](#)

[Renken Secures Defense Verdict in \\$2.75M Wrongful Death Lawsuit Against Hospital](#)

[Renken Secures Hospital's Dismissal with Prejudice and No Payment in Pressure Ulcer Case](#)

[Obtained Compromised Verdict in Directed Liability Case Involving Nursing Home in Cook County](#)

[Renken Secures Defense Verdict for Nursing Home](#)

[Hospital Dismissed in Wrongful Death Case Involving Alleged Failure to Search for Weapon of Emergency Room Patient](#)

[Johnson and Renken Obtain Defense Verdict in Birth Injury Case -- \\$65 Million Sought](#)

[Defense Verdict Favors Emergency Medicine Physician in Alleged Failure to Diagnose Myocardial Infarction Dispute](#)

[Defense Verdict for Hospital. Plaintiff Alleged Improper Treatment of a Patient in Anaphylactic Shock.](#)

[Mistrial Declared after a "Hung Jury." Case Involved Complications of Gastric Bypass Surgery. Plaintiff sought \\$3.8M in damages.](#)

[Appellate Opinions](#)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

PRESENTATIONS

"Wound Litigation: H.A.P.I.," Advocate Wound Care Conference, Oak Lawn, IL, October 4, 2022

"Legal Update: Wound Litigation in the Covid Era," Advocate Wound Care Conference. October 5, 2021

Moderator, "Hereditary Cancers: Current State of Medicine, Evolving Standard of Care, and Impact on Medical Malpractice Litigation," Genetics' Growing Interaction with the Law, May 19, 2021

Moderator, "The Medical Ethics of Genetics," Genetics' Growing Interaction with the Law, May 12, 2021

Advocate Christ Medical Center – "COVID-19 Skin Manifestations," Webinar, January 18, 2021

Esperanza Health Centers - "Liability Issues in Women's Health," Webinar, January 7, 2021

"COVID-19 and Immunity from Litigation in Illinois," Co-Lecturer, Illinois Society of Healthcare Risk Management, Webinar, September 3, 2020

"COVID-19: Lessons Learned," Moderator, Illinois Society of Healthcare Risk Management, Webinar, June 11, 2020

Advocate Aurora Health Quarterly Leadership Meeting - "Privacy Concerns in Era of Social Media in Medicine," Downers Grove, IL, July 29, 2019

Advocate Condell Medical Center – "Pitfalls of Social Media in Medicine," Libertyville, IL, May 8, 2019

Advocate Christ Medical Center - "Pitfalls of Social Media in Medicine," Oak Lawn, IL, January 17, 2019

Advocate Christ Medical Center Annual Wound Conference - "Being Deposed in a Wound Case," Oak Lawn IL, October 2, 2018

Illinois Wound Care Litigation – "Legal Update and Defense Strategies" – Northern Illinois Affiliate of the WOCN 25th Annual Community Education Day, Woodridge, IL, May 1, 2018

"Defense Trial Strategy for Wound Care Wrongful Death Cases," 7th Practical Wound Care Conference: A Multidisciplinary

Approach, Park Ridge, IL, April 14, 2018

"Medicare Considerations in Medical Malpractice Litigation," Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel Conference, Chicago, IL, March 15, 2018

"Managing Pain Management Patients During the Opioid Epidemic," Advocate Medical Group presented via webinar, Chicago, IL, February 28, 2018

"Wound Care Litigation," North Shore University Health System, Evanston Hospital, Evanston, IL, February 26, 2018

Nursing Home Alliance, Chicago, IL, December 21, 2017

"Tipping the Scales of Justice: Keys to a Successful Defense," University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL, December 19, 2017

"Reptile Theory and Medical Malpractice Litigation," Advocate Medical Group, Downers Grove, IL, July 21, 2017

"Liability Issues Involving Pediatric Transfer," Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL, June 14, 2017

"Defending Against the Reptile Theory," Illinois Society of Healthcare Risk Management Annual Meeting, Peoria, IL, June 2, 2017

"Lessons Learned from High Cost Lawsuits in Acute Care," 13th International Conference on Medical Emergency Teams and Rapid Response Systems, Chicago, IL, May 12, 2017

"Litigation Update: Is the Pressure Getting to You?," Pressure Injury Fair, Advocate Condell Medical Center, Libertyville, IL, November 17, 2016

"Effective Opening Statements with Panelists Honorable Lynn Egan," Sammi L. Renken and Adria Mossing, Women's Bar Association of Illinois Civil Litigation Dinner, Chicago, IL, November 9, 2016

"Wound Care Litigation: Deposition and Trial," Advocate Christ Medical Center Multi-Site Conference entitled Back to Basics: Principles of Wound Care, APMC Conference Center, Oak Lawn, IL, October 4, 2016

"Medical Malpractice Claims in the area of WOC Care," Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL, July 27, 2016

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"Wound Litigation: H.A.P.I.," Advocate Wound Care Conference, Oak Lawn, IL, October 4, 2022

"Legal Update: Wound Litigation in the Covid Era," Advocate Wound Care Conference. October 5, 2021

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"Medicare Considerations in Medical Malpractice Litigation," Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel Conference, Chicago, IL,

March 15, 2018

"Managing Pain Management Patients During the Opioid Epidemic," Advocate Medical Group presented via webinar, Chicago, IL, February 28, 2018

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