

KATIE E. GORRIE

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Nancy Tomala

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SERVICE AREAS

General Negligence

Complex / Catastrophic

INDUSTRY SECTORS

Construction

Retail



Katie E. Gorrie's practice centers on general negligence, premises liability, and construction negligence. For more than two decades, Ms. Gorrie has defended clients in general negligence and premises liability matters. In various capacities she has represented business owners and retailers, property developers, construction managers, and general contractors. Her experience includes successfully defending clients in matters involving personal injury, property damage, and construction defects.

Ms. Gorrie has handled general negligence, premises liability and construction-related litigation in state and federal courts, as well as before the Illinois Court of Claims. She also represents clients in municipal matters involving permit and citation issues. In addition, she has served as both first and second chair for jury trials that went to verdict in Illinois including in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Her trial experience includes the representation of a fitness facility in numerous claims including negligent placement of exercise equipment that was alleged to have caused a traumatic brain injury. She has defended construction entities in numerous matters involving alleged dangerous conditions on projects, including successfully defending against claims brought by Plaintiffs alleging career-ending injuries after seemingly minor trip and fall incidents. In one such case, she obtained summary judgment for the possessor of a building where a worker alleged that unsecured debris led to drywall falling on the worker and ending his career as a union tradesman.

Risk-management education is central to Ms. Gorrie's practice, as she teaches clients techniques to avoid litigation and writes extensively on the subject. She presents regularly to industry and insurance professionals regarding litigation trends, incident preparedness, and proper investigative and risk management procedures for litigation.

Ms. Gorrie is involved in both the Construction and Women's Initiative practice groups in ALFA International and has been involved in presentations and seminars focused on issues affecting attorneys. Ms. Gorrie has also been involved in diversity strategies for the legal market, including being engaged in diversity and minority focused job fairs in Chicago. She is a member of numerous organizations, including the Chicago chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, and her J.D. from Michigan State University–Detroit College of Law.

ADMISSIONS & EDUCATION

ADMISSIONS

Illinois Supreme Court

EDUCATION

Michigan State University–Detroit College of Law, J.D., 2003

Michigan State University, M.S., 2000

Michigan State University, B.S., 1998

AFFILIATIONS

Illinois State Bar Association

Mentor/panelist for Chicago minority job fairs

ALFA International, Women's Initiative and Construction

HONORS

Emerging Lawyer, Leading Lawyers 2015

Leading Lawyer 2017-2022

CLIENT RESULTS

[General Contractor Avoids OSHA Violations for Electrocution Fatality on Project](#)

[Appellate Court Affirms Summary Judgment for General Contractor in Construction Worker Accident Case](#)

[Katie E. Gorrie Secures Summary Judgment in Significant Defense Win for General Contractor](#)

[Appellate Court Ruling Grants General Contractors and Construction Managers New Protection in Section 414 Actions](#)

[Gorrie Achieves Not Guilty Verdict in Contribution Action](#)

[Katie E. Gorrie Obtains Favorable Result in Personal Injury Case Seeking \\$1.1M](#)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

PRESENTATIONS

Moderator - "You Owe Me! Enforcing Indemnity Agreements: A National Perspective," ALFA International Construction Seminar, July 2018.

Moderator - "A Woman's Place: Getting into the First Chair," at ALFA International Women's Initiative Program. Oct. 27, 2016.

A host of "Legal Ease - Voice of the Young Lawyer", a regular webcast series sponsored by West LegalWorks

PUBLICATIONS

"OSHA Guidance on Returning to Work in the Construction Industry." Client Advisory, August 6, 2020

"Seventh Circuit Appellate Ruling Sheds Additional Light on Facts Deemed Relevant in Construction Negligence Disputes." Client Advisory, July 10, 2020

Chicago Unions Confronting Opioid Crisis. 2019

New Procedure for Setting Trial Dates in Cook County Circuit Court Law Division Cases, Including Construction Injury Cases. 2016

Illinois Supreme Court Restricts Construction Negligence and Premises Liability Theories of Recovery in Illinois. 2016

OSHA Issues New Rules for Electronic Reporting. Johnson & Bell Construction Newsletter, Summer 2016

Hold Onto Your Hardhats: 2011 Brings Major Changes to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act Johnson & Bell Construction Newsletter, Spring 2012

It Occurred, So There is an "Occurrence". Right? Johnson & Bell Construction Newsletter, Fall 2011