

MUNICIPAL LIABILITY

The trial lawyers in Johnson & Bell's Municipal Liability group have successfully defended police officers, local villages, townships, cities, school districts and municipal boards in employment, tort and federal constitutional claims. These claims involve the alleged violations of civil rights and First Amendment rights. Johnson & Bell's Municipal Liability group has also represented police officers on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Litigation experience includes:

- Employment discrimination matters, including gender, race, reverse racial discrimination and retaliation claims
- Civil rights violations, including excessive force, false arrest, unreasonable search and seizure, malicious prosecution and deprivation of property or rights without due process
- Pension and disability disputes
- Political discharge and retaliation claims
- First Amendment issues, including free speech rights and the right to peaceably assemble
- Environmental claims
- Contract disputes
- Contract bidding disputes
- Mechanics' liens
- Zoning and land-use disputes

CONTACT

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CLIENT RESULTS

[Seventh Circuit Affirms Dismissal of Potential Class Action Against Municipality, Sheriff and County Jail](#)

[Conspiracy Charges Dismissed Against Officers, Municipalities in Murder Case](#)

[Burkoth Secures Summary Judgment in Civil Rights Case Seeking \\$3M from Two Police Officers](#)

[Gainer, Burkoth Secure Defense Verdict in Contentious, Officer Involved Shooting Case](#)

[Police Officers Vindicated in Arrest of Suspect](#)

[Johnson & Bell Secures Ruling in Favor of Municipality and its Police Officers in First Degree Murder Case](#)

[Gainer Secures Defense Verdict in Favor of Police Officers](#)

[Burrell v. Village of Sauk Village, 2017 IL App \(1st\) 163392](#)

[Defense Verdict for Chicago Police Officer in \\$15M Wrongful Death Case](#)

[Beatty, Gainer Get Multiple Charges Dismissed Against Chicago Police Officer](#)

[Appellate Court Affirms Summary Judgment Dismissing Case Against Police Officers](#)

[Flint v. City of Belvidere, 791 F.3d 764, 766 \(7th Cir. 2015\)](#)

[Brian P. Gainer Obtains Defense Verdict in Federal Municipal Liability Case](#)

[Brian P. Gainer Secures Defense Verdict for Chicago Police Officers](#)

[Brian P. Gainer Earns Defense Verdict for Chicago Police Officers](#)

[Gainer Secures Not Guilty Verdict in Excessive Force Case](#)

[First District Appellate Court Affirms Summary Judgment in Favor of Forest Preserve District](#)

[Gainer Obtains Defense Verdict in Municipal Liability Case](#)

[Brian P. Gainer Secures Verdict in Favor of Chicago Police Sergeant on False Arrest Charges](#)

[Cash v. City of Rockford, et al., Winnebago County, Illinois.](#)

NOTABLE CASES

[Gainer, Burkoth Secure Defense Verdict in Contentious, Officer Involved Shooting Case](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[In Biegert, Seventh Circuit Ruling Sustains Use of Lethal Force When Officers Face Immediate Threats of Serious Harm Probable Cause Existed and Plaintiff's Retaliatory Arrest Claim Against Two Officers Gets Tossed.](#)

[A Municipality "Moment:" FOIA Request for Police Department Videotapes Denied by Trial Court and Affirmed on Appeal](#)

[SCOTUS Cracks Down on Excessive Seizures by Police Departments, Municipalities](#)

[ARDC Complaint Almost Comes Back to Haunt Village President](#)

[Appellate Court Rules District Court Sidestepped Jury Process in Dispute Over Non ADA-Compliant Courthouses in Illinois](#)

[Vehicle Legroom Accommodation Dispute Ends with Appellate Court Affirming In Favor of Employer](#)

[Risk Management: Avoiding Unnecessary Litigation in the Enforcement of Sign Codes](#)

[Court Finds Municipality Used Arrest Record to Wrongfully Terminate Employment](#)

[Supreme Court Holds Fourth Amendment Requires a Warrant for Blood Testing](#)

[Supreme Court Ruling Expands First Amendment Municipal Liability](#)

[Federal District Judge Upholds Chicago PD Rule Limiting Tattoos](#)

[Probable Cause for Arrest v. Probable Cause to Initiate Criminal Proceedings -- How the Standard Differs Based on the Claim](#)

[Illinois Supreme Court Ruling Brings Tort Immunity Back to Full Strength](#)