MUNICIPAL LIABILITY

The trial lawyers in Johnson & Bell's Municipal Liability group have successfully defended police officers, local villages, townships, cities, school districts, county governments 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

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CLIENT RESULTS

Breitweiser-Hurst Secures Summary Judgment for Clients in False Arrest, Defamation Dispute

Gainer, Burkoth Secure Defense Verdict in Officer Involved Shooting Case. Plaintiff Sought $4M in Damages.

Branum Secures Summary Judgment in Dental Care Dispute Involving County Jail

Seventh Circuit Affirms Dismissal of Potential Class Action Against Municipality, Sheriff and County Jail

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

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

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Burrell v. Village of Sauk Village, 2017 IL App (1st) 163392

Defense Verdict for Chicago Police Officer in $15M Wrongful Death Case

Gainer Gets 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

David Warnick Co-Authors IDC Quarterly Monograph on the State of Proximate Cause in Illinois

Case Law Overview: In Biegert, Seventh Circuit Ruling Sustains Use of Lethal Force When Officers Face Immediate Threats of Serious Harm

Case Law Overview: Probable Cause Existed and Plaintiff's Retaliatory Arrest Claim Against Two Officers Gets Tossed.

Case Law Overview: 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

Case Law Overview: 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 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

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