HEPLERBROOM LLC

LaDonna Boeckman

Partner | Chicago, IL

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(312) 205-7736

Making the complex simple and understandable drives the way LaDonna L. Boeckman works with medical professionals and other clients in the healthcare industry. It's also how she explains complex medical concepts to juries of lay people at trial. Drawing on her keen appreciation for research and leaving no stone unturned, she uses the information uncovered to shape the defense of hospitals, long-term care facilities, and medical providers and to craft a message to the triers of fact and law.

Clients who have worked with her appreciate the time and attention she spends preparing them to testify both at deposition and at trial. She crafts the message and defenses through deposition and eventually trial testimony to enhance the way in which she defends the lawsuit and secures favorable outcomes.

In addition to defending medical professionals and healthcare entities, Ms. Boeckman has experience defending toxic tort matters. She's defended product and equipment manufacturers and workplace owners against exposure claims. In her role as a national coordinating counsel for companies subject to these claims, she helped craft the defense theory and message used in courthouses throughout the United States.

Practices:

- Dental Malpractice
- Healthcare
- Long-Term Care Malpractice
- Medical & Healthcare Malpractice
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices
- Premises Liability
- Products Liability
- Professional Liability

Education:

- Drake University Law School, J.D., with honors, 1998
- Drake University, B.A. in English & History with Cultural Studies Concentration, magna cum laude,1995

Bar Admissions:

- Illinois
- U.S. District Courts for the
  - Northern District of Illinois
  - Central District of Illinois
  - Southern District of Illinois

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Results

- Part of defense team that prevailed in obtaining decision from Illinois Supreme Court and Second District Appellate Court affirming constitutionality and scope of immunity provided by Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-19 for healthcare institutions and practitioners during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Obtained partial summary judgment of negligence claims on behalf of local hospital for claim patient developed wound, applying Executive Order 2020-19 and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.
- Obtained dismissal of negligence counts for wrongful death actions against long-term care facility in multiple matters for residents contracting COVID-19; utilized Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-19.
- Obtained dismissal of willful and wanton counts for wrongful death actions against long-term care facility in multiple matters involving claims of wrongful death due to residents contracting COVID-19.
- Obtained summary judgment for hospital named as defendant for apparent agency in wrongful death action.
- Obtained dismissal of dentist in dental negligence action where patient claimed negligent application of dental veneers.
- Obtained dismissal of emergency medicine physician in medical malpractice action alleging injury following intubation of patient.
- Obtained defense verdict for emergency medicine physician in medical malpractice action alleging developmentally challenged woman was improperly discharged from emergency department, resulting in her sexual assault.
- Obtained defense verdict for premises owner when patron claimed automatic car wash caused damage to vehicle.
- Obtained dismissal of dental clinic defendant in dental negligence action alleging injury to sinus cavity during tooth extraction.

Honors & Awards

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- Best Lawyers' list of "Ones to Watch" (2021-2025)
- Trial Lawyer Excellence Award for Outstanding Defense Verdict in a dental malpractice matter; awarded by *Jury Verdict Reporter* (2012)
- Completed International Association of Defense Counsel Trial College at Stanford University (2007)

Professional Associations

- Illinois Association of Defense Counsel
  - *IDC Quarterly* Columnist for Medical Malpractice/Healthcare Law
  - Monograph Committee for Tort Law
  - Medical Malpractice Committee
    - Social Media Chair
- Defense Research Institute
  - Medical Liability Steering Committee
    - Publications Subcommittee
  - Senior and Long-Term Care Conference Planning Committee
    - Social Media Chair, 2025 Conference (Atlanta)
    - Networking Chair, 2024 Conference (Chicago)
- Chicago Healthcare and Risk Management Society