HEPLERBROOM LLC

ANNE M. OLDENBURG

Partner | Chicago, IL

anne.oldenburg@heplerbroom.com
(312) 205-7751

Anne M. Oldenburg is a highly successful malpractice defense lawyer with extensive trial experience. The depth and breadth of her success at trial (mostly in Cook County, Illinois) is what her clients want and need. Her involvement in the defense of malpractice in and outside the courtroom has also solidified her role as a leader in her field, and she's earned the respect of clients, the courts, her colleagues, and her opponents.

Trial and Appellate Work

Although to many, the courtroom is an unfamiliar and foreboding space, the courtroom is where Ms. Oldenburg thrives. Clients recognize and rely on her skill, comfort, and expertise in that space, and her steady hand guides professionals through the often-tumultuous pace and uncertainties of trial.

She understands that medical malpractice defense trial work is fraught with risk for her clients, but she welcomes these challenges as she readily takes on each case with a quiet resolve.

This frequently leads to successful verdicts or favorable outcomes. In addition, judges appreciate her professionalism and depth of experience in trial.

Not only does Ms. Oldenburg possess the tenacity of a winning trial lawyer, she also remains integrally involved when her cases are appealed. Her past clerkships in both the Illinois Appellate Court (Hon. John T. McCullough, 4th Dist.) and Illinois Supreme Court (Hon. Benjamin K. Miller) prepared her well for oversight of cases on appeal. When clients need a second set of eyes to help them assess other pending matters—locally or nationally—they often seek the help of her special skill set. She enjoys reviewing these matters and offering her assistance by bringing fresh and innovative assessments, strategies, and defenses.

Defending Professional Licenses

Ms. Oldenburg's clients also value her expertise with state licensing and disciplinary matters. The controversial nature of these cases fits perfectly with her adversarial malpractice experience in the courtroom. Her clients know she understands how to work with agencies that oversee licensure, the pending risks to their reputations and ability to practice, and the possible impact on their careers further down the road. During her years of experience in disciplinary and licensing matters, she's formed a deep, mutual respect in her relationships with agencies such as the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Doctors, dentists, and other caregivers exhibit an incredible loyalty and appreciation for her sensitivity to their concerns and her successful results in this arena.

Being A Leader in Her Field

Ms. Oldenburg's dedication to her profession and to her clients is further exemplified by her work as a frequent presenter on topics related to risk and malpractice, both locally and nationally. These presentations provide her with a unique insight into topics and issues important to the medical, dental, healthcare, and insurance communities.

Her clients know she understands the importance of continuing education, and she strives to keep professionals abreast of important topics in their respective communities. Her quest to further herself as a professional also extends to her colleagues and peers in the legal community. She engages in activities to further and foster the defense trial bar, locally and nationally. This commitment has earned her the respect of her peers, starting when she joined the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IDC), the Illinois chapter of the Defense Research Institute (DRI). Ms. Oldenburg quickly rose through the ranks to IDC, becoming its President and acting as the face of this well-respected organization throughout Illinois.

Practices:

- Dental Malpractice
- Long-Term Care Malpractice
- Medical & Healthcare Malpractice
- Professional Liability

Education:

- University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, J.D., with Distinction,1986
- Ripon College (Ripon WI), B.A. in Criminal Justice, cum laude, 1983

Bar Admissions:

- Illinois
- Illinois Supreme Court
- U.S. District Courts for the
  - Federal Trial Bar
  - Northern, Central, and Southern Districts of Illinois

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Results

- Representative Trial and Arbitration Experience
- Medical malpractice against emergency room physicians and hospital involving alleged failure to diagnose cervical fracture resulting in quadriparesis. Plaintiff asked jury for in excess of $50 million, and jury was hung 9-2 in favor of defense. (Cook County IL, 2024)
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery malpractice involving extraction of third molars resulting in fracture of the mandible and permanent nerve injury. Defense verdict. (Madison County IL, 2024)
- Medical malpractice against emergency room physician and hospital for alleged failure to diagnose popliteal artery injury in 16-year-old resulting in amputation above the knee. Matter resolved on day 14 of trial in amount far less than original demand. (Cook County IL, 2023)
- Medical malpractice against physician-plastic surgeon for complications arising from laser hair removal procedure. Verdict for Plaintiff for $140,000 reduced by 25% for patient contributory negligence. (Cook County IL, September 2019)
- Medical malpractice against hospital and numerous physicians for complications arising subsequent to coronary bypass surgery. Verdict for all Defendants. (Cook County IL, April 2019)
- Dental malpractice case involving full mouth reconstruction with implants. Verdict in favor of Plaintiff, but only awarded her dental expenses and found her 50% contributorily negligent. Total verdict was $35,436.20. (Cook County IL, August 2015)
- Dental malpractice case involving dental implants for maxillary reconstruction. Verdict for Defendant. (Cook County IL, June 2015)
- Medical malpractice case against hospital for wrongful death of patient who developed pressure ulcers and became septic. Verdict in favor of Plaintiff for $215,000. (Cook County IL, February 24-March 6, 2015)
- Medical malpractice case against clinic for family practice physician’s alleged failure to diagnose ear infection resulting in hearing loss. Verdict for Defendant. (Cook County IL, June 2014)
- Dental malpractice case claiming negligent tooth extraction resulting in jaw fracture and sinus perforation. Verdict in favor of Plaintiff for $95,160.75. (Cook County IL, May 2013)
- Dental malpractice case against oral and maxillofacial surgeon for failure to diagnose tongue cancer; alleged failure to diagnose oral cancer. Verdict for Defendant. (Cook County IL, April 24-

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May 9, 2012)

- Dental malpractice case involving complications from endodontic treatment. Verdict for Defendant. (Cook County IL, September 21-24, 2009)
- Medical malpractice case involving allegations of failure to timely diagnose cauda equina syndrome. Defendant physician voluntarily dismissed from case on day three of trial. (Co-defendants paid $3.2 million in settlement). (Cook County IL, September 19-21, 2007)
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery malpractice case involving complications from tooth extraction, including fracture and osteomyelitis. Verdict for Plaintiff. (Cook County IL, July 12-27, 2007)
- Medical malpractice obstetrical case involving allegations of failure to induce delivery, resulting in severe birth injury. Settlement on day four of trial. (Cook County IL, September 2006)
- Medical malpractice case involving allegations of failure to diagnose breast cancer. Verdict for Plaintiff. (Cook County IL, August 2–11, 2004)
- Dental malpractice case involving prosthodontic restorations. Verdict for Defendant. (Cook County IL, September 2002)
- Medical malpractice/general surgery case involving complications from laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure. Verdict for Defendants. (McHenry County IL, April 2001)
- Oral surgery malpractice case involving complications from tooth extraction. Verdict for Defendant. (Lake County IN, April 2000)
- Dental malpractice case involving implants. Verdict for Plaintiff. (Cook County IL, Municipal Division, August 1997)
- Dental malpractice case. Verdict for Defendant (rejected by Plaintiff). (Cook County IL, Law Division, transferred to Mandatory Arbitration Division, December 1995)
- Orthodontic malpractice case involving allegations of failure to diagnose and treat temporomandibular joint dysfunction. Verdict for Defendant. (DuPage County IL, Law Division, October 1995)
- Medical malpractice case involving allegations of patient fall. Verdict for Plaintiff. (Cook County IL, Law Division, transferred to Mandatory Arbitration Division, September 1992)
- General liability case involving allegations of food poisoning. Verdict for the Defendant. (Cook County IL, Law Division, transferred to Mandatory Arbitration Division, July 1992)
- Dental malpractice claim involving orthodontic treatment. Verdict for the Defendant. (Lake County IN, Law Division, February 1992)

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- Medical malpractice case involving death of patient from infection. Verdict for Defendant. (Cook County IL, Law Division, September 1991)
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- Representative Appeals
- Appeal of defense verdict involving allegations of oral surgeon's failure to diagnose oral cancer. (Appellate Court of Illinois – First District, No. 1-12-3771)
- Amicus Brief filed on behalf of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. (Supreme Court of Illinois, No. 97946)
- Amicus Brief filed on behalf of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. (Appellate Court of Illinois – Third District, No. 3-02-0810)
- Appellate Court of Illinois – First District, No. 1-98-0622.
- Amicus Brief filed on behalf of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. Supreme Court of Illinois. (Docket No. 84117 (1998).
- Amicus Brief filed on behalf of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. (Supreme Court of Illinois. 167 Ill.2d 449, 657 N.E.2d 997, 212 Ill. Dec. 652 (1995)

Honors & Awards

- AV Preeminent® Attorney by Martindale-Hubbell
- Best Lawyers in America (2020-2021, 2023-2027)
- Chicago Women in Law
  - Chicago Lawyer (2002)
- Fortress Insurance Company
  - Distinguished Defender of the Specialty Award (2025)
  - Outstanding Service Award (2007)
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
  - Distinguished Member Award (2016)
  - President's Commendation for Co-Chair, IDC 50th Anniversary Gala (2014)

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- President’s Commendation for Fall Seminar (2001)

- Illinois Leading Lawyers (2013-2025)
  - 40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch (2001)
- Illinois State Bar Association
  - Participant, Allerton Conference on Jury Reform (2006)
- Illinois Super Lawyers (2005-2026)
  - Top 50 Female Lawyers in Illinois (2006-2008)
- Jury Verdict Reporter
  - Trial Lawyer Excellence Award for Outstanding Defense Verdict – Dental Malpractice (2012)
- Medical Professional Liability Association
  - Industry Defender Award (2023)
- OMSNIC (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons National Insurance Company)
  - Distinguished Defender of the Specialty Award (2025)
  - Nominated for Defense Counsel of the Year (2022)
  - Continuing Excellence Award (2012)
  - Defense Star Award (2002-2003)

Professional Associations

- American Society of Healthcare Risk Managers
- Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
- Chicagoland Healthcare Risk Management Society
- Defense Research Institute
- Illinois State Representative (2012-2013)
- Medical Liability Committee

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- Long-Term Care Committee
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Council
- Professional Liability Committee/Healthcare Section (Vice-Chair)
- Professional Woman’s Forum (Vice-Chair)
- Nomination Committee
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
- Board of Directors
- Diversity in Participation Committee, Chair
- Professional Liability Committee
- Co-Chair, IDC 50th Anniversary Gala (2014)
- Executive Board President (2011-2012)
- Executive Board President-Elect (2010-2011)
- Executive Board 1st Vice President (2009)
- Executive Board 2nd Vice President (2008)
- Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer (2007)
- Co-Chair, Fall Seminar Committee (2000)
- Chair, Fall Seminar Committee (2001)
- Faculty, Trial Academy
- Medical Professional Liability Association
- Defense Roundtable Committee
- Other Professional/Civic Involvement
- Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation Board