

ALLISON L. WOOD

Legal Ethics Consulting, P.C.
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Allison L. Wood has 20+ years of experience interpreting and working with the Professional Rules of Conduct that govern attorneys. She is unique in that she has experience with attorney misconduct cases with the disciplinary agency in Illinois from three different perspectives. She presided over attorney misconduct cases as a Hearing Board Chair for 7 years and later, she prosecuted and investigated attorney misconduct cases for nearly 5 years as Litigation Counsel. Since 2011, she has been defending attorneys who face investigations and/or claims of attorney misconduct. She is a Certified MCLE Ethics Provider and a frequent presenter and/or panelist for ethics programs for local and national bar associations. She is a former member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability, and the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association. In 2017, she was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility and in 2024 she was appointed Chair of this Committee. Since 2021, she has served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers. She has taught professional responsibility and trial advocacy courses at Chicago area law schools. She is a seasoned trial attorney having handled commercial litigation and products liability cases prior to working for the disciplinary agency.

EDUCATION

Pace University, New York, New York
Bachelor of Arts 1984
Major: English
Minor: Accounting

DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, Illinois
Juris Doctorate 1987

BAR ADMISSIONS

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| Supreme Court of Illinois | 1987 |
| United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois | 1989 |
| Trial Bar, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois | 1990 |

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ASSOCIATION/COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility (2017-2023) (Chair 2024 - present)
Illinois Supreme Court Executive Committee on the Practice of Law (2024 – present)
Illinois Supreme Court Task Force – Generative AI and the Illinois Judicial Branch (2024)
Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers – Board Member (2021-present)
American Bar Association – Standing Committee for Lawyers Professional Liability (2012 -2015)
American Bar Association – Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility (2015-2018)
Illinois Bar Association – Standing Committee for Professional Conduct (2013-2014)
Chicago Bar Association – Board of Managers (2015-2017)
Cook County Bar Association – Board Member and General Counsel (2013-2014)

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Southern Illinois University Law Journal - Volume 45 Summer 2021

What is ABA Model Rule 8.4(g), Why is it so Controversial, and How did Illinois Respond?

CBA RECORD

The Tale of Two Solo Practitioners – November 2011

Managing Your Legal Reputation On-Line – April/May 2012

THE CHICAGO DAILY LAW BULLETIN

Staying In Your Lane – April 2014

Unlocking the Keys to Conflict Analysis – May 2014

Treat Your Clients Well, Reduce Your Risk, Make More Money – June 2014

Real Lawyers Know How to Ask For Help – July 2014

Follow the Money Keep It Safe – September 2014

Planning for the Future of Your Law Firm – October 2014

No More Excuses for Not Having Malpractice Insurance – November 2014

Take a Break, Give Back, Stay Out of Trouble – December 2014

Create One New Habit – January 2015

Ethical Leadership Reduces Risk and Increases Revenues – May 2015

Law Firms Must Assess Cyber Security Risks to Protect Businesses, Clients – August 2015

Protecting Law Firm and Client Data – October 2015

Driving Social Media Responsibly Can Help Grow Your Practice – February 2016

Treating Opposing Counsel Well Essential to Professionalism – March 2016

What is the Future of the Legal Profession? – May 2016

Putting the Sexual Harassment, Bias Issue in Black and White – June 2016

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ETHICS MCLE PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Wood has presented MCLE Ethics programs to the following groups:

- ❖ ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability
- ❖ ABA Center for Professional Responsibility
- ❖ American Immigration Lawyers Association
- ❖ Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers
- ❖ Black Women Lawyers Association
- ❖ Chicago Bar Association
- ❖ Clifford Law Offices – Annual Ethics Program
- ❖ Cook County Bar Association
- ❖ DePaul University College of Law Alumni
- ❖ DuPage County Bar Association
- ❖ Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- ❖ Illinois State Bar Association
- ❖ Lake County Bar Association
- ❖ National Judicial Institute & Conclave
- ❖ Practising Law Institute
- ❖ Professional Women's Club of Chicago
- ❖ Professional Liability Defense Federation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal, Legal Ethics Consulting, P.C.

April 2011 to present

Legal Ethics Consulting, P.C. is a firm that provides ethics evaluations and testimony in legal malpractice cases; strategic defense for lawyers who face ARDC investigations and complaints; and up until 2023, the firm provided advice and counsel to law students who face Character & Fitness issues. In 2023, Ms. Wood was appointed counsel to assist Character & Fitness hearing panels in their consideration of bar applicants. LEC also creates and presents Ethics MCLE programming to bar associations and firms; and frequently writes and lectures about ethics issues.

Litigation Counsel, Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission

September 2006 to February 2011

Managed, investigated, and analyzed claims of professional misconduct against Illinois attorneys. Prosecuted attorneys charged with violations of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct. Provided ethics advice in response to over 400 ethics inquiries made by Illinois attorneys as part of the ethics inquiry program. Investigated over 200 cases and prosecuted nearly 50 cases.

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Partner, The Bellows Law Group, P.C.

September 2005 to September 2006

Represented individual clients in employment contracts and severance negotiations; employment discrimination claims; and securities arbitrations. Drafted pleadings; prepared and defended motions; conducted all phases of discovery; and negotiated settlements.

Hearing Board Chair, Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission

1998 to 2003

Managed pre-trial and discovery phase of professional misconduct cases until matters were set for trial. At trial, adjudicated professional misconduct cases along with a lawyer and non-lawyer member, ruling on evidentiary issues and maintaining the pace and professionalism of the proceeding. Directed discussions with panel members as to whether burden of proof had been met, and appropriateness of recommended sanction. Adjudicated 16 cases.

Partner, Albert, Whitehead P.C.

June 1997 to September 2006

Represented corporate clients in products liability, employment discrimination, adversary claims in bankruptcy, and real estate litigation. Drafted pleadings; prepared and defended motions; conducted all phases of discovery; and negotiated settlements.

Litigation Counsel, The People Gas Light and Coke Company

June 1993 to June 1997

In-house counsel representing public utility in matters before the Illinois Commerce Commission; the Unemployment Security Board; and other administrative tribunals. Also litigated adversary claims in Bankruptcy Court and Housing Court. Managed outside counsel on litigation matters; and provided advice and counsel to internal customer service departments

Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender

June 1987 - June 1989

Represented indigent clients in criminal and civil bench and jury trials relative to criminal misdemeanor actions and paternity lawsuits. Conducted discovery and cross-examinations of medical experts.

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

DePaul University College of Law – Adjunct Professor (1992-2002) and The John Marshall Law School - Adjunct Professor (2002-2003)

Taught trial advocacy and pre-trial civil litigation skills to 3rd year law students in all phases of civil litigation including interviewing and counseling clients; developing a case theory and strategy; drafting pleadings and motions; taking and defending depositions; witness preparation; conducting opening and closing statements as well as direct and cross-examinations; and ethical obligations to clients, opposing counsel, and the court

The John Marshall Law School - Adjunct Professor (2009-2010) and DePaul University College of Law – Adjunct Professor (2011)

Taught professional responsibility to 3rd year law students in relation to the ethical framework that governs the legal profession; created opportunities for the students to review and analyze ethical dilemmas faced by attorneys in a variety of settings; and provided the students with tools so that they can make informed ethical decisions in their professional careers.

University of Chicago Law School – Lecturer and Adviser – Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop (for over ten years)

Guiding and providing feedback to students in trial techniques; including but not limited to how to develop a theory of the case; witness preparation; conducting direct and cross-examinations; and conducting opening and closing statements.

Harold Washington College Encore Program (2011)

Completed teaching program that focused on ways to integrate educational technology like Blackboard and student-centered learning principles into the classroom. The course met for eight weeks in two-hour sessions and provided an overview of classroom management, assessment of student learning, active learning strategies, and syllabus and course design.

DePaul University College of Law – Bar Passage Strategies 2015

Provided advice and counsel to 3rd year law students on bar passage strategies. Reviewed and provided instruction and comments on in-class essay exams, and practice exams for the performance part of the bar exam. Discussed methods to improve essay scores. Also discussed ways to reduce stress and anxiety in taking the bar exam.