

# Margaret Firnstein Gebhardt

Chicago, IL

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## PARTNER

### Overview

Margaret isn't afraid of trying cases; she has been protecting the interests of business owners in and out of the courtroom for more than 15 years. She enjoys researching and marshaling evidence to advocate for a party, and is apt to recognize when a case should be considered for early resolution.

Margaret is a litigator whose representations typically include defending construction firms and apartment / condo owners and managers against all manner of claims. Margaret recently defeated citations issued against a building by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal following a fire that resulted in the death of a young woman. She also achieved summary judgment on behalf of a church alleged to have employed a reverend who previously engaged in a sexual relationship with a minor. She has tried numerous jury trials and has authored appellate briefs.

### Experience

Received Dismissal of Matter Centered on the Apartment Building's Failure to Conduct a Background Check and to Secure Common Areas

Successfully Settled Matter Involving Sexual Assault Allegations Against a Minor

Obtained Dismissal in Matter Involving Sexual Assault Allegations Against a Masseuse

Represented Distributor of Electronic Monitoring Device and Software in Matter Involving Sexual Assault

Advocated on Behalf of a Large Residential Apartment Building Against Allegations of Negligence in a Sexual Assault Matter

Successfully Settled Case Against Hotel Employee

### SERVICES

Construction

General Liability

Product Liability

Transportation & Logistics

### EDUCATION

IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law, J.D., 1999

Northwestern University, B.A., 1996

### ADMISSIONS

Illinois

Handled Matter Involving Alleged Sexual Assault by a Hotel Security Staff Employee

Secured a Jury Verdict Significantly Less Than What Was Sought by Plaintiff's Counsel in a Rear End Accident

Secured a Defense Verdict for a General Contractor in a Case Involving a Construction Injury Accident

Obtained Summary Judgment on Behalf of a Church for an Alleged Sex Abuse Case

Successfully Settled Matter Involving Allegations of a Minor Being Sexually Groomed and Assaulted

Successfully Settled Matter Involving Sexual Assault Allegations Against a Hotel Bartender

Successfully Settled Matter Involving Claim of Sexual Assault Against Therapist

Defended a Condominium Association in a Civil Rights Action

Successfully Settled Matter for Care Facility Involving Assault and Civil Rights Violations

Defense of Condo Association and Property Manager in Pre-suit Claims for Burn Injuries

Successfully Settled Case Involving Fire Safety Measures

Defended a Steel Fabricator in a Personal Injury Action Where the Plaintiff Fell from a Steel Beam at Some Height and was Rendered Quadriplegic

Successfully Settled Case Involving Wrongful Death

Won Summary Judgment for a Premises Owner

Handled Case for Security Guard After a Domestic Dispute

Successfully Defended a Retailer Allegations of Negligence in Hiring

Represented Childcare Facility After Resident Was Allegedly Molested

### Membership & Involvement

- Member: Illinois State Bar Association; DRI
- Lead Regional Coordinator: TYLA National Trial Competition, 2004 and 2005

### Honors

- Received "Excellence In Pro Bono Service" Award from United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 2015

- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers “Rising Stars” list: 2013, 2014, 2015
- Received Chicago-Kent College of Law Young Alumni Award, 2008

### Firm News

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 26 Amundsen Davis Attorneys to 2015 List  
January 12, 2015

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 19 Amundsen Davis Attorneys to 2013 List  
January 3, 2013

### Alerts

Defense of COVID-19 Bodily Injury Litigation in Illinois

### Published Works

State of Illinois General Liability COVID-19 Quick Guide  
*USLAW*, September 1, 2020

Margaret  
Firnstein  
Gebhardt