



Michelle Peirce

PRACTICE AREA: LITIGATION

Michelle R. Peirce is Co-Chair of the firm's Litigation practice, devoting her time equally to complex civil litigation and white-collar criminal defense. She is a past president of the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts and has been selected as a "Super Lawyer" for 2009-2016. Michelle has tried numerous jury and bench trials both at Donoghue Barrett & Singal and while serving as a Special Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County.

In her criminal practice, Michelle represents business executives, corporations, and professionals who are under investigation or indictment for white-collar crimes. These include cases alleging fraud in the areas of healthcare, securities, banking, bankruptcy, export, tax, defense procurement, and other state and federal crimes.

In her civil practice, Michelle represents individuals, businesses, and public entities in complex civil disputes. These include contract disputes, litigation between businesses, employment disputes, insurance, and many others. She was a member of the insurance practice group at her former firm and brings this experience to bear in seeking coverage for her clients. In addition, Michelle defends lawyers, doctors, and other professionals in disciplinary, regulatory, and licensing proceedings.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Circle of Excellence honoree for the Top Women of Law 2017, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly
Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Top Women of Law 2013*
Massachusetts Super Lawyers 2009-2017*
Massachusetts Rising Stars 2005 & 2006*

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Associate, Goodwin Procter, Trial Department, Insurance Practice Group
Special Assistant District Attorney, Cambridge District Court
Vice President, Lawyers Weekly, Inc.
Adjunct Professor, Suffolk University Law School
Law Clerk for the Honorable Andrew A. Caffrey, U.S. District Court in Boston

EDUCATION

Boston College Law School, J.D., magna cum laude, "Order of the Coif," 1990
Executive Editor of the Boston College Law Review
Georgetown University, B.A., magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1987

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COURT / BAR ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts

U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts

United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

SERVICE AREAS

Fraud; Computer/cyber fraud; Defense procurement/Government contracting export violations; Mail and wire fraud; Mortgage fraud; Tax fraud; Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; Internal investigations; Business torts; Commercial litigation; Contract disputes; Noncompetition agreements; Employment disputes/discrimination/retaliation; Insurance coverage disputes; Real estate litigation; SEC civil cases; Unfair and deceptive trade practices (Chapter 93A); Independent authority representation

INDUSTRIES

Professional Services (attorneys, CPAs, engineers, physicians); Non-profit Organizations; Government Contractors, Public Officials, State and Local Government; Quasi-public Agencies; Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Companies; Hospitals; Managed Care; Pharmacies; Providers; Transportation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

BBA Business and Commercial Litigation, Steering Committee Member

National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Faculty Member, December 2014

Federal Bar Association, Massachusetts Chapter, Civil Healthcare Section Co-Chair

Boston Bar Association, Civil Litigation and Criminal Law Sections

Massachusetts Bar Association, Member

Women's Bar Association, President, 2009-2010; Member of Executive Board, 2007-2010; Vice

President of Membership and Statewide Outreach, March 2007-2008; Media Committee Chair

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, Board of Editors

Women's Bar Foundation, Board of Trustees

National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Member

*The Super Lawyers list is issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found at http://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.



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PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Michelle has testified at the State House several times in her role as President of the Women's Bar Association. In addition, she speaks regularly at legal community, and bar association, events, including:

Women's Bar Association "Women Lawyers Leading Cases in the Courtroom," June 2017

CLE "Healthcare Fraud 2017," May 2017

CLE "Healthcare Fraud 2016: Government and Defense Perspectives," May 2016

Boston Bar Association "Criminal Exposure in Civil Cases - Traps for the Unwary," Nov. 2015

MCLE "Practicing Before the Board of Registration in Medicine and the Division of Health Professions Licensure," September 2015

MCLE "Using Social Media to Win Cases," June 2014

MCLE "Key Issues in Discovery Practice," May 2014

Boston Bar Association "Health Care Fraud," May 2014

Moderator, Women's Bar Association panel "Demystifying the Path to the Bench", October 2013

MCLE "Using Social Media to Win Cases," June 2013

MCLE "Using Social Media to Win Cases," June 2012

MCLE "Key Issues in Discovery Practice," May 2013

Keynote speaker, Lawyers Weekly Unsung Hero Awards, October 2011

Boston Bar Association panel on jury instructions, April 2011

MCLE Trial Advocacy Workshop, July 2010

She was a chapter author of the MCLE Massachusetts Discovery Practice (2nd edition 2012, with 2014 supplement)

She is a regular panelist and speaker for the Women's Bar Association, including "Trials Facing Women Litigators," a panel that included Attorney General Martha Coakley and the Honorable Magistrate Judge Bowler, June 2010

"Hidden Dangers Embedded in the Affordable Care Act for Health Care Providers Receiving Medicaid Payments," Law.com (June 2014)

"The Affordable Care Act: Five Hidden Dangers for Healthcare Providers." Originally published for a Boston Bar Association seminar. (May 2014)

Michelle is often quoted by, or published in, various media including: Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly; Lawyers USA; the National Law Journal; the MBA's Massachusetts Lawyers Journal; Law360; Lawyers Weekly Medical Law Reporter; and, the Boston Herald

CIVIC & CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Attorney for the Women's Bar Foundation's Family Law Project

Pro bono representation for summary judgment purposes of prisoner in Quintal v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts (filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts)



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TESTIMONIALS

“I feel such a weight lifted off my shoulders. You have been a rock through out this ordeal, with your composure, confidence yet at the same time being cautious and supportive. You prepared me thoroughly and I appreciate you for that and for your outstanding professionalism.”

—Physician, sanction avoided

“I would recommend her to anyone for anything. She was direct, extremely caring, and gave me some hope that better things might actually be possible.” —Criminal client, dismissed by prosecutor

“My most sincere appreciation to you for your expert attention to our recently wrapped up legal troubles. While the vagaries of the law and the government were cause for concern throughout this protracted ordeal, there was never a moment when I doubted your dedication and expertise. Your knowledge, thoroughness and thoughtful manner allowed me to have the peace of mind to feel confident that, whatever the result, we were well represented.” —Medical practice, investigated for healthcare fraud.”



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REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- successfully defended public authority in a commercial contract suit claiming nearly \$10M in damages
- won landmark federal appeal upholding a no-jail sentence for client convicted of Big Dig highway fraud
- persuaded federal authorities not to indict scientist for alleged export crimes after lengthy negotiations
- successfully resolved case against insurance carrier for failing to cover hospital's loss
- won civil fraud and consumer protection case, without a trial, against an attorney alleged to have participated in a real estate scheme
- won dismissal of case brought by union against public authority claiming violation of fire safety regulations
- dismissal of all criminal charges in kidnapping case
- dismissal of disciplinary complaint against physician at Board of Registration in Medicine in matter involving a patient death
- successfully represented family and heirs seeking damages after being defrauded by another family member
- persuaded federal prosecutors not to bring charges against attorney in a bankruptcy fraud investigation; successfully disposed of attorney disciplinary complaint arising out of same conduct