

William E. Bazarek

Chicago, IL

☎ 312-704-3877

✉ wbazarek@hinshawlaw.com



About William

William is an accomplished trial lawyer with extensive experience in federal and state courts. He handles complex legal challenges and crisis management, with deep knowledge of governmental policies and the issues facing governmental entities.

Prior to entering private practice, William spent nearly 30 years in the public sector, notably serving as a leading trial attorney in the Federal Civil Rights Litigation Division of the City of Chicago Law Department and later as the First Assistant General Counsel for the Chicago Police Department. In these roles, he defended the City, the police department and its members against civil rights claims, prosecuted cases for the Mayor's License Commission, and provided legal counsel on high-profile matters.

In private practice, William has defended governmental employees and municipalities in high-exposure litigation involving allegations of false arrest, wrongful conviction, coerced confession, fabrication of evidence, malicious prosecution, excessive force, and wrongful death. He has counseled the Superintendent and command staff of the Chicago Police Department, coordinated legal activities, and assisted large governmental agencies in developing internal policies. William has also participated in contract negotiations with governmental bargaining units and helped draft local ordinances and legislation. Additionally, he has extensive experience with internal investigations and has taken and defended hundreds of depositions in jury and bench trials.

William's Affiliations

- Federal Bar Association

Areas of Focus

Industries: Government

Experience

- Lead defense counsel in coordinated pretrial proceedings in federal lawsuits involving over 180 plaintiffs alleging that a tactical team led by a former police sergeant fabricated drug and gun charges, resulting in wrongful convictions.
- Effectively defended a case concerning a police-involved shooting, where two off-duty officers confronted an armed assailant in a busy commercial area. The officers were later cleared of any wrongdoing in their use of force.
- Achieved a successful defense outcome on behalf of the City and its officers in a case involving a plaintiff who spent nearly 30 years in prison and alleged he was wrongfully convicted due to police and prosecutorial misconduct in a fatal arson case.

Credentials

Education

University of Illinois Chicago School of Law (formerly The John Marshall Law School), JD
Southern Illinois University, BS

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

Federal Trial Bar
US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Interests

Did you know...

Outside of work, William enjoys hiking, biking, and traveling.