

Michael Zhang

Chicago, IL

He/Him

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About Michael

A lawyer's lawyer, Michael devotes his practice to representing a wide range of professionals in civil litigation matters and disciplinary proceedings. He also advises attorneys and law firms on all aspects of the law governing lawyers, including lawyer regulation, legal ethics, risk management, and professional responsibility.

Michael's Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Standing Committee on Professional Regulation
- Chicago Bar Association, Professional Responsibility Committee, Vice-Chair and Chair, 2018 – 2020

Areas of Focus

Industries: Insurance; Professional Services

Initiatives: Lawyers for the Profession®

Recognition

- Chicago-Kent College of Law, National Ethics Trial Competition, Best Advocate; Stetson Pretrial Competition, National Finalist; American Association for Justice (AAJ), Trial Competition, Regional Champion and National Semi-Finalist; Dean's List

Credentials

Education

Chicago-Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology, JD, 2015

The University of Calgary, BA, 2010

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Languages

Mandarin Chinese

Interests

Did you know...

A coffee enthusiast, Michael delves into the craft with gusto. Extraction theory has won his heart.

Born in China, Michael is a first-generation Canadian immigrant who now proudly calls Chicago home. His favorite sports are basketball and boxing. In his spare time, Michael can be found on a remote hiking trail, spending time with his beloved corgi, Momo, and experimenting with all things coffee.

Thought Leadership

Presentations

- “The Firm Mentoring on Ethical Issues,” Hinshaw University, CLE Webinar, January 9, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “Legal Malpractice Top Ten Traps,” Multnomah Bar Association, CLE Webinar, September 24, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “Attorney Wellness and the Risk of Liability and Regulatory Scrutiny,” International Association of Defense Counsel, Professional Liability Roundtable, Chicago, Illinois, May 30, 2024
- Panelist, “Following Ethics Rules While on the Road,” Chicago Bar Association, Virtual Event, March 20, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “Trust Accounting 101: How to Bill Properly, Collect Your Fees, and Stay Out of Trouble,” One-and-Done: 6-Hour Professional Responsibility Overview, Chicago Bar Association, Virtual Event, June 8, 2022
- Panelist, “Objection! Improper Tweet: Admissibility of Social Media Evidence,” National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), 2021 Annual Meeting, Virtual Event, August 2021

- Panelist, “Bit by Bit: A Guide to Adapting to Technology in the Remote Workplace,” National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), 2020 Annual Meeting, Virtual Event, July 2020
- Co-Presenter, “Legal Ethics in the Age of COVID,” Professional Responsibility Committee, Chicago Bar Association, Webinar, May 2020
- Panelist, “Red Light/Green Light: The How’s, When’s, and Why’s of Utilizing Alternatives to Discipline,” National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), 2020 Mid-Year Meeting, Austin, Texas, February 2020
- Panelist, “Social Media Evidence,” Illinois State Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois, September 2019
- Panelist, “Idk. Do We Speak the Same Language? An Exploration of Inter-generational Communication in the Legal Profession,” National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), 2019 Mid-Year Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, January 2019
- Panelist, “Resourcing the Humans: The Fran Bassios Memorial Management Program,” National Organization of Bar Counsels (NOBC), 2018 Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, August 2018
- Co-Presenter, “Technology in the Workplace,” Chicago Bar Association Labor & Employment Law Committee, Chicago, Illinois, May 2018
- Panelist, “The World is Round and Getting Rounder: Global Regulatory Implications,” National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), 2018 Mid-Year Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, January 2018
- Panelist, “Life of the Litigator: Civility & Well-Being for the Zealous Advocate,” Center for Professional Responsibility, American Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois, December 2017
- Co-Presenter, “Trust Accounting: What Every Lawyer Should Know,” American Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois, December 2017

Publications

- Chapter 16, “Attorney Liability Risk Management,” *Attorneys’ Legal Liability*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 2025 Edition
- Co-Author, “The Next Wave of Practicing Lawyers,” *The Professional Lawyer*, Vol. 26, No. 2, December 2019
- “Dowling, Revisited,” *Illinois Courts News*, November 29, 2017

Event

- Michael Zhang will Present on Attorney Wellness, Risk of Liability, and Regulatory Scrutiny at IADC’s Professional Liability Roundtable, May 30, 2024

In The News

- Hinshaw Attorneys Contribute Six Chapters to the “Attorneys’ Legal Liability” IICLE Handbook, Jun 12, 2025

Lawyers for the Profession® Alerts

- Hinshaw Readers’ Choice Awards: Top Professional Liability and Legal Ethics Articles of 2024, Dec 30, 2024

- Florida Bar Advisory Opinion 24-1 Gives Green Light to Generative AI Use by Lawyers – With Four Ethical Caveats, Feb 5, 2024
- Absolute Litigation Privilege Bars Claim for Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Even Where Conduct is Unreasonable, Jun 13, 2023
- California Court Affirms Ethical and Statutory Obligation to Warn Opposing Counsel of Intent to Seek Default, Oct 25, 2022