

Donald L. Mrozek

Chicago, IL

He/Him

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About Don

Don served as chairman of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP from 1989 to 2015. Today, as leader of the firm's Consultant/Coach for the ProfessionSM Practice, he helps law firm leaders address complex business and management-related challenges and opportunities involved in effectively managing their firms.

He consults with attorneys and managing partners on forming new firms, combining firms through mergers and acquisitions, developing compensation systems and partner agreements, guiding senior partner transitions and retirements, strategic planning, and addressing ethical issues.

Don and the team also advise on governance and practice group structure, "enterprise risk management" for law firms, analysis and improvement of firm profitability, selecting and grooming successor leaders, and planning in the event of death or disability. He is available for professional coaching, arbitration and mediation of partner disputes, and acting as an expert witness in disputes involving lawyers.

Don's Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Fidelity and Surety Committee, Former Vice-Chairman
- International Association of Defense Counsel, Business Litigation Committee, Former Chairman; Fidelity and Surety Committee, Former Vice-Chairman
- Defense Research Institute (DRI), Professional Liability Committee, Past Chairman
- Chicago Inn of Court, Member, 2003 – present; President, 2006 – 2007
- DePaul University Law School; Dean's Advisory Council, 1990 – present; Chairman, 2011 – 2012

Areas of Focus

Industries: Professional Services

Initiatives: Consultants and Coaches for the Profession®; Counselors for the Profession;
Lawyers for the Profession®

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Litigation – Insurance, 2020 – 2026; Litigation – Construction, 2018 – 2021
- *Best Lawyers*®, Chicago, Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Insurance, 2023
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, 2005 – 2025
- *Leading Lawyers Magazine*, Business Edition, Top 100 Leading Business Lawyers in Illinois, 2010
- DePaul University School of Law, Distinguished Alumni Award, 2010; *Law Review Sapientia Award*, 2009; Certificate of Appreciation Award, 1997; *DePaul University Law Review*, Editor
- *Of Counsel*, The Best of the Law Firm Leaders, 2002
- *Leading Lawyer*, Closely & Privately Held Business Law; Commercial Litigation; Insurance, Insurance Coverage & Reinsurance Law
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rating

Credentials

Education

DePaul University College of Law, JD, *with honors*, 1973

Northwestern University, BSE, 1969

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US Supreme Court

US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Federal Trial Bar

US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

US District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

Interests

Did you know...

Don likes to stay in shape – physically and mentally. He enjoys golfing, reading, and, for fun, watching sports.

Community/Civic Activities

- St. Rita, Board of Directors, 2015 – 2021
- Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, Board of Directors, 2004 – 2019; Vice Chairman, 2012 – 2019
- DePaul University College of Law, Dean's Council, 1990 – present; Chairman, 2011 – 2012
- El Valor, Tocar el Futuro, Civic Leadership Team, 1996 – 2008; Board of Directors, 2005 – 2008
- Hinsdale Hospital Foundation, Board of Trustees, 1997 – 2003
- Josephinum High School, Board of Directors, 1992 – 1998; Development Committee, Chairman, 1993 – 1995; Board of Directors, Chairman, 1995 – 1998
- American Cancer Society, Hoops for Life, Sponsor, 1989 – present; Certificate of Appreciation Award, 1997
- St. Rita High School, Valentine's Day Committee, Founding Member, 1990 – present; Co-Chairman, 1993; Chairman 1994
- DePaul University, Cornerstone Campaign, Law School Division, Vice Chairman, 1992
- Burr Ridge Meadows Improvement Association, Board of Directors; Elected Member, 1984 – 1986; Board of Directors, President, 1985 – 1986
- Infant Jesus of Prague, Fiscal Board, Elected Member, 1981 – 1983; President, 1983

Thought Leadership

Presentations

Don has lectured on numerous legal and management topics to local, regional and national audiences at seminars sponsored by many organizations, including:

Law firm and law firm leader consulting and coaching:

- Co-Presenter, "Elevating Firm Growth: A Strategic Blueprint for Managing Partners," MPF Webinar Series: Building the Law Firm of the Future, February 19, 2025
- Co-Chair, Managing Partner Forum (MPF) Fall Symposium, Virtual Event, November 3, 2021
- Panelist, "State of the Legal Profession and Registrant Survey Results," Managing Partner Forum (MPF) Fall Symposium, Virtual Event, November 3, 2021
- Panelist, "A Big Picture Look at Succession Alternatives Assessing the Value of Your Law Firm: What's it Really Worth?," Managing Partner Forum (MPF) Fall Symposium, Virtual Event, November 3, 2021

- Panelist, “Transitioning to Younger Partners,” Managing Partner Forum (MPF) Fall Symposium, Virtual Event, November 3, 2021
- Panelist, “Lessons Learned: A Panel of Active and Retired Managing Partners Tells It Like It Is,” Managing Partner Forum (MPF) Fall Symposium, Virtual Event, November 3, 2021
- “Firm Leadership Succession,” The Managing Partner Forum, Atlanta, Georgia, May 2018
- “What’s Keeping Law Firm General Counsel Awake At Night? Law Firm Succession,” The Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 2018
- “Selecting The Next Leader Of The Firm: Law Practice Exit Strategies,” The IADC Midyear Meeting, La Quinta, California, February 2018
- “The Risks of Managing a Firm Like a Business,” The ABA National Legal Malpractice Conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado, September 2017
- “Leadership in Action,” The MPF 2017 Leadership Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, May 2017
- “General Counsel and Their Managing Partners: Developing a Risk Management Partnership,” The Legal Malpractice & Risk Management Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 2017
- “Successful Partnering: Between Inside and Outside Counsel,” The Chicago Bar Association, Program Faculty, Chicago, Illinois, 2003
- “Utilizing a National/Regional Program for Litigation,” 40th Risk and Insurance Management Society Annual Meeting, April 2002
- “Inside Law Firm M&A’s,” *Illinois Legal Times* Roundtable Discussion, March 1998
- “Competitiveness Through Innovative Client Services: Meeting and Exceeding Client Expectations is the Future for Your Firm,” Mid-Year Meeting/International Association of Defense Counsel, February 1996
- “Splitting the Pie: Determining Partners’ Income,” *Illinois Legal Times* Roundtable, November 1994
- “Building the Client-Driven Law Firm: Creative Ways to Get Lawyers to Listen to Their Clients,” Fourth International Conference on Legal Services Marketing, Institute on Law Firm Management, October 1994
- “Client Surveys and Focus Groups,” Association of Legal Administrators/Chicago Chapter, February 1994

Business Litigation, Fidelity Law, Corporate Governance, and Related Areas:

- “Common Issues Which Arise in the Investigation of the Fidelity Bond Claim,” American Bar Association, Tort Trial Insurance, Fidelity and Surety Law Committee, MidWinter Meeting, January 2013
- “Court Costs and Attorneys’ Fees,” American Bar Association, Tort Trial & Insurance Section, Fidelity & Surety Law Committee seminar “Financial Institute Bonds: From the Masters,” Baltimore, Maryland, November 2008
- “Fraud in the Executive Suite: Internal Investigation, Employment Law Ramifications and Fidelity Coverage,” Program Chair, Annual meeting of the American Bar Association/Fidelity and Surety Committee, August 1999
- “The Trial of a Loan Loss Case Against the Fidelity Carrier - A view from the Jury Box,” Mid-Winter Meeting, International Association of Defense Counsel, January 1999 (mock trial participant as attorney for the Fidelity carrier)
- “Fraud in the Executive Suite,” American Bar Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, 1999

Publications

- “Components of Effective Partner Compensation: Long-Term Focus (Perspective),” *Bloomberg Law*, September 15, 2017
- “Enduring Principles for an Effective Partner Compensation System (Perspective),” *Bloomberg Law*, May 17, 2017
- “How to Evaluate Law Firm Leaders (Perspective),” *Bloomberg Law*, March 1, 2017
- “How to Plan a Law Firm Leadership Succession Part II (Perspective),” *Bloomberg Law*, January 12, 2017
- “How to Plan a Law Firm Leadership Succession Part I (Perspective),” *Bloomberg Law*, November 23, 2016
- “How to Respond to Bullying in Big Law (Perspective),” *Bloomberg Law*, October 25, 2016
- “General Agreement (F) Notice of Legal Proceedings Against Insured – Election to Defend,” chapter co-author, “Financial Institution Bonds 537-576,” (Duncan L. Clore ed., 3d ed.) 2008
- “Chapter 78 Case Study: ServiceMaster’s National Litigation Program,” *Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel*, West Group & ACCA, September 2000 (updated 2003)

Event

- Hinshaw Hosts Reception for Incoming DePaul University College of Law Dean Jennifer Rosato Perea, Jun 1, 2015

In The News

- Media Coverage of the 16th Annual Legal Malpractice and Risk Management Conference, Mar 28, 2017
- Donald Mrozek Provides Perspective on Evaluating Law Firm Leaders, Mar 24, 2017
- Donald Mrozek Featured in Chicago Lawyer Cover Story on Importance of Law Firm Succession Planning, Mar 21, 2017
- Perspective on Managing a Law Firm Leadership Succession: Part II, Jan 13, 2017
- Mrozek Provides Perspective on Managing a Law Firm Leadership Succession, Dec 1, 2016

Press Releases

- 102 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *Ones to Watch*™, Aug 21, 2025
- 105 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2025 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch, Aug 15, 2024
- 101 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2024 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch, Aug 17, 2023
- Eighty-Seven Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2023 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch, Aug 18, 2022
- Sixty-Seven Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers, Aug 19, 2021

Webinar

- Don Mrozek to Present at MPF Fall Symposium on Law Firm Succession Planning, Nov 3, 2021

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