

Daniel L. (D.L.) Morriss

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He/Him

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About D.L.

D.L. represents and defends financial institutions at the regional and national levels. His counsel spans tort, contract, and statutory claims, including complex commercial foreclosure, guaranty and loan liability actions, and post-judgment collections. He has obtained high-value judgments in large, contested commercial foreclosure cases and has successfully defended and secured the dismissal of lender liability claims involving tort, contract, and Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) issues. D.L. also handles UCC matters more broadly, including those related to commercial loan collection and retail banking disputes involving wire and check fraud schemes. In addition, he advises on bankruptcy and creditors' rights issues. In addition, he advises on bankruptcy and creditors' rights issues.

D.L. regularly engaged in general litigation, including matters involving commercial landlords and tenants in property management disputes, as well as internal management, contract, and tort issues for corporate clients. In addition to his practice, D.L. serves as the [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) Partner of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, where he oversees the firm's culture groups and civic engagements.

Further, D.L. represents clients in entertainment law, handling complex trademark issues, breach of contract disputes involving intellectual property, and defamation claims.

D.L.'s Affiliations

- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), Fellow
- The Economic Club of Chicago, Member, 2019 – present
- Chicago Chamber of Commerce, Emerging Leaders, 2014 – present

- Chicago Inn of Court, Member, 2014 – present
- Leadership Greater Chicago, Fellow, 2016
- Chicago Bar Association, Judicial Evaluation Committee, 2014 – 2016

Areas of Focus

Industries: Financial Services; Professional Services; Real Estate

Services: Bankruptcy, Workout Strategic Planning & Restructuring;
Complex Commercial Litigation ; Financial Services Litigation ; Intellectual Property;
Litigation & Trial

Experience

- Obtained summary judgment and affirmed on appeal in defense of contested foreclosure action in which borrower challenged the authority of the foreclosing mortgagee based on claims of fraud, invalid assignment of mortgage, and improper foreclosure.
- Obtained summary judgment in defense of a contested foreclosure action in the which borrower alleged deficiencies in notice of default as condition precedent to foreclosure.
- Obtained a dismissal of claims against a lender by bankrupt debtor asserting lack of standing and asserting rights under pooling and servicing agreement.
- Successfully defended a lender's interests following a foreclosure deed in tax petition dispute.
- Successfully defended a lender in dispute with condominium association on liability for outstanding assessments following foreclosure.
- Assisted a pro se criminal defendant and argued before the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in a case involving allegations of mail fraud and arson.
- Secured an arbitration award for a financial institution before the American Arbitration Association (AAA) involving claims of breach of contracts, common law negligence, violation of the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA), Delaware Uniform Commercial Code Article 4A (UCC), and Delaware Consumer Fraud Act (CFA), the Delaware Identity Theft and Breach of Security Monitoring Act (Identity Theft Act), the Delaware Banking Code, and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA). Hinshaw's legal team convinced the arbitrator to issue an arbitral award dismissing all the claims with prejudice against the claimant.
- Secured an appellate victory on behalf of a financial institution in a case involving claims of breach of contract, conversion, and unjust enrichment. Hinshaw successfully convinced the court to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.
- Successfully secured a motion to dismiss on behalf of a financial services client in an alleged race discrimination case. The court found that bank holding companies are not liable for alleged misconduct by one of their subsidiaries.

Recognition

- *Crain's Chicago Business*, Notable Leader in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 2023; Notable Black Leader and Executive, 2021; Notable Minority Lawyer, 2021
- *Leading Lawyers Magazine*, Emerging Leader, 2015 – 2019
- DePaul University College of Law, CALI Award for Judicial & Scholarly Writing; Black Law Student Association Scholarship; Law Achievement Scholarship; Dean's List

Credentials

Education

DePaul University College of Law, JD, 2008

Wheaton College, BA, 2005

Bar Admissions

Illinois

New York

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Interests

Did you know...

D.L. is a strong advocate for mental health and wellness, and his favorite hobby is attending yoga and mindfulness retreats.

Community/Civic Activities

- The Joffrey Ballet, Board of Directors, 2016 – present
- Breakthrough Young Professionals, Board Member, 2015 – present; Events Committee
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Boys & Girls Club, Board Member, 2010 – 2013; Programming Chair, 2013

Thought Leadership

Presentations

- Co-Moderator, “A Comparative Approach to The Rule of Law as it Relates to Judicial Independence, Client Representation and Talent Management,” International Arbitration Conference, International Section, New York State Bar Association, Hamburg, Germany, October 15, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “Navigating the Shifting Sands of DEI: Distinguishing Legal from Illegal Practices,” National Bar Association’s 100th Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois, July 31, 2025
- Opening Keynote, Leaders League Alliance Summit: Law & Innovation, Miami, Florida, June 10, 2025
- Panelist, “Affinity Groups and Employee Resource Groups (ERGs): Is Your Law Office Using (and Empowering) Them Most Effectively?,” Practising Law Institute, Virtual and in New York, New York, May 9, 2025
- Panelist, “Stephen Denyer Memorial DEI Roundtable Discussions,” North American/European Summit, Inclusion in the Legal Profession (IILP), London, United Kingdom, April 30, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “The Brave New World of Post-Pandemic DEI: A Summit on DEI in Multinational Law Offices,” North American/European Summit, Inclusion in the Legal Profession (IILP), London, United Kingdom, April 28, 2025
- Panelist, “Brazilian Black History Month,” Brazil Chapter of the New York State Bar Association International Section, Webinar, December 5, 2024
- “Race & Bias in Law,” New York Law School, New York, New York, November 6, 2024
- Panelist, “The Rise of Global Wire Fraud Claims and Financial Institution Liability,” 2024 Seoul Global Conference CLE, Seoul, South Korea, October 17, 2024
- Moderator, “A Comparative Approach to Employment Litigation and Best Practices for Employers,” 2024 Seoul Global Conference CLE, Seoul, South Korea, October 16, 2024
- Opening Remarks, “One World, Many Cultures: Diversity in International Business,” Leaders League Alliance Summit: Law & Innovation, Miami, Florida, June 25, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “‘Say It Out Loud’ by James Brown – The Intersectionality of LGBTQ+ Equality,” Hinshaw University CLE, Chicago, Illinois, June 20, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “Reinventing Masculinity in the Law: Changing Up the ‘Man Rules’ for Happier Male Lawyers and a Better, More Inclusive Legal Profession,” Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession (IILP), Webinar, April 23, 2024
- Panelist, “New Voices: Bringing a More Inclusive Approach to Workplace Belonging,” From Day One, Live 2024: Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, April 9, 2024
- Moderator, “ESG, DEI, Marriage Equality, and Human Rights in Japan,” Japan Chapter of the New York State Bar Association International Section, Webinar, January 24, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “The Impact of *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc.* on Affirmative Action and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives,” Hinshaw’s 27th Annual Labor & Employment Seminar, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, October 19, 2023
- “Race and Bias in the Law,” New York Law School, 2023
- Moderator, “Mindfulness and Mental Health: Expanding the Concept of Inclusion in the Legal Profession and Representation,” New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting 2023, New York, New York, January 18, 2023

- Moderator, “The Emperor Has no Clothes: Reimagining DEI Initiatives in the Legal Industry Through Mindfulness,” 2022 London Global Conference, London, UK, November 30, 2022
- Co-Presenter, “Looking Ahead in 2023: The Brazilian Black Legal Experience,” Brazil Chapter of New York State Bar Association International Section, Virtual Event, November 17, 2022
- Panelist, “By Rule or Relationship: Exploring International Initiatives to Advance Diversity and Inclusion,” New York State Bar Association’s International Section Spring Meeting, Madrid, Spain, April 29, 2022
- Panelist, “Is Your Company Developing an Inclusive Culture?,” From Day One Chicago 2022 Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 29, 2022
- Co-Presenter, “Love and Let Love: Breaking Down the Barriers to LGBTQ Equality,” NYSBA’s International Section Webinar, June 24, 2021
- Panelist, “Mindfulness as a DEI Strategy,” Chicago Bar Association, Virtual Event, May 14, 2021
- Moderator, “A Breath of Fresh Air: 2020’s Impact on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | How the Global Legal Community Has Been Impacted and is Responding to Proactively Advance the Landscape and Promote Inclusion,” NYSBA Webinar, Virtual Event, January 27, 2021
- Panelist, “How Employee Resource Groups Drive Diversity,” From Day One Webinar, May 28, 2020
- Co-Presenter, “Updates on U.S. v. South Africa Experience of COVID-19,” NYSBA Webinar, April 22, 2020
- Panelist, “Should Lady Justice Be Blind,” NYSBA International Section’s Global Conference 2019, Tokyo, Japan, November 8, 2019
- “The ROI on D&I,” Mortgage Bankers Association Legal Issues and Regulatory Compliance Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, May 6, 2019
- “Hot Topics in Lending,” Commercial Loans - Planning for Summer Heat Seminar, Video Conference, July 2013
- “Without A Leg To Stand On: Establishing Standing in Illinois Commercial Foreclosures,” In-house Client Presentation, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, March 2013
- “Checks, Fraud and the UCC,” In-house Client Presentation, Dallas, Texas, February 2012

Publications

DL has written publications including:

- “[The Diversity Conundrum: A Discussion on DEI Following the USSC SFFA v. Harvard, et al. Decision](#),” *New York Law Journal*, August 30, 2023
- Co-Author, “Diversity & Inclusion: Harnessing Tomorrow’s Opportunities,” White Paper, presented at the NYSBA International Section’s Global Conference 2019, November 8, 2019
- Co-Author, “Key Issues With Employee Dishonesty and Employee Theft Coverage,” White Paper, presented at the *Fidelity Bond & Crime Coverage Conference*, December 2004

Events

- D.L. Morriss and Mohamed F. Sweify Present at the NYSBA International Arbitration Conference in Hamburg, Germany, Oct 15, 2025

- D.L. Morriss Keynotes Firm-Sponsored Leaders League Alliance Summit: Law & Innovation, Jun 10, 2025
- Ed Lenci and D.L. Morriss Advance Global Legal Dialogue, May 18, 2025
- D.L. Morriss Speaks on Effective Affinity Groups at PLI Conference, May 9, 2025
- D.L. Morriss Participates in “DEI in a Global Environment” Summit, Apr 28, 2025

Hinshaw Newsletters

- The Report Card - February 2013 Edition, Feb 28, 2013
- Employment Practices Alert - February 2010 Edition, Feb 1, 2010

In The News

- D.L. Morriss Pens Byline in The Voice: Shooting for Stars – How to Build Relationships, Nov 10, 2021
- Hinshaw’s D.L. Morriss Provides Perspective on Importance of Cultural Competence, Dec 27, 2019
- D.L. Morriss Quoted in Bloomberg BNA Analysis of Diversity in Law Firms, Apr 17, 2017

Press Releases

- Hinshaw Issues 2024 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Report: “Stitching Together the Stories of All”, Apr 30, 2024
- New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) International Section Elects Two Hinshaw Attorneys to Leadership Positions, Mar 6, 2024
- D.L. Morriss Named to the 2024 Fellowship Class and Elizabeth Heredia and Sabrina Janeiro Named to the 2024 Pathfinder Program of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Feb 7, 2024
- Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP Recognized as a 2023 Thomas L. Sager Award Finalist by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, Oct 19, 2023
- Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP Announces Back-to-Back Mansfield Rule Certification with 5.0 and New 6.0 Achievement, Oct 10, 2023

Webinars

- Ed Lenci and D.L. Morriss to Participate in NYSBA Program on Marriage Equality and Anti-Discrimination Legislation in the U.S. and Japan, Jun 24, 2021
- Hinshaw’s Transgender Day of Remembrance, Nov 20, 2020
- Webinar Hosted by From Day One: D.L. Morriss and David Alfini to Discuss Impact of Employee Resource Groups on Diversity, May 28, 2020
- D.L. Morriss to Discuss COVID-19 Impacts in the U.S., South Africa, and Japan in NYSBA Webinar, Apr 22, 2020

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