

Shermin Kruse

Partner

Sher concentrates her practice on intellectual property disputes, antitrust litigation, and general complex commercial contract and tort disputes for a wide variety of domestic and international corporations. Sher's practice extends to federal, state and appellate courts throughout the country. She is the co-author of the 2006 and 2008 editions of the Contract Law Handbook, published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. She wrote a quarterly column for *Chicago Lawyer* magazine advising younger attorneys on ways to succeed in a large law firm environment. In 2012 Sher became that publication's first weekly advice columnist.

Sher is an active corporate partner of the National Association of Women Business Owners, where she advises women business owners on every aspect of their business. Sher is also a frequent lecturer and commentator on NPR on foreign policy issues. In addition, she works with a number of non-profit entities on a pro bono basis in both civil and criminal cases, has received an award for her pro bono efforts by Illinois Legal Aid Online, serves on several non-profit boards, and has formed her own non-profit entities. She has also published creative writing pieces in several national anthologies.

Representative Clients

- Bank of America
- Fendi
- Louis Vuitton North America
- LVMH
- Motiva Enterprises
- Shell Oil Company



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Practices

- Intellectual Property
- Litigation

Education

- University of Michigan Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2002
- University of Toronto, B.S., *honors degree*, 1999

Bar & Court Admissions

- State of Illinois
- U.S. District Court - Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals - 7th Circuit

Representative Matters

- **Fast Break Foods, LLC v. Saudi Aramco Corp.**
Represented Motiva Enterprises (a joint venture of Shell and Saudi Aramco) in three consolidated actions brought in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, alleging Sherman Act violations in the refined petroleum products market.
- **Siegel v. Shell Oil Co.**
Represented Shell in consumer class action in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, alleging oligopolistic control over prices in retail gasoline market.
- **Smith as Plan Trustee for and on behalf of the Estates of Boston Chicken v. Arthur Andersen LLP; Beck v. Bank of America**
Represented Bank of America in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona in connection with third-party action seeking recovery of more than \$1 billion in damages allegedly arising out of national restaurant chain's insolvency.
- **Trademark Infringement: Appellate**
Represented Louis Vuitton Malletier, a division of LVMH, in successful appeal to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from denial of Louis Vuitton Malletier's motion for preliminary injunction against Dooney & Bourke in trademark infringement action.
- **Pro Bono: Iranian Political Asylum**
Barack Ferrazzano attorneys succeeded in petitioning the U.S. Department of Justice Immigration Court to grant political asylum to an Iranian national, who fled Iran after being targeted by the government for participating in the historic protests that followed the election of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2009. This appears to be one of the first U.S. asylum cases connected with the widely reported 2009 election protests in Iran.

Articles and Publications

- Making It Work: Occasional Failures are Inevitable (March 1, 2012)
- Climbing the Ladder: Should working moms network? (November 2011)
- Climbing the Ladder: I'm pregnant! Now what? (November 2010)
- Climbing the Ladder: The Rules of Evidence (July 2010)
- Climbing the Ladder: To Try or Not to Try (March 2010)
- Climbing the Ladder: Braving the Economic Downturn (March 2010)
- Climbing the Ladder: Assisting Your Assistant (November 2008)
- Climbing the Ladder: Mastering the Chess Game (June 2008)
- Climbing the Ladder: Discovering a Work-Life Balance (December 2007)

- Co-Author, "Rights, Legal Remedies, and Calculating Damages for Breach of Contract," Chapter 13, IICLE Contract Law, 2008 and 2006 editions
- Editor of and contributor to Dicta, the Michigan Law School literary journal, 2001
- Associate Editor, Michigan Journal of Law Reform, 2001
- Shermin has also published creative writing pieces in various poetry journals, is working on her first novel, and is a candidate for Masters in Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Events and Speaking Engagements

- Shermin Kruse on "Standards of Admissibility" (June 2010)

Charitable and Community Involvement

- Co-founder and director of Pasfarda Arts & Cultural Exchange, October 2008 – present
- Former director of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter
- Active Corporate Partner, National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), 2008
- Named "Pro Bono Attorney of the Month" by Illinois Legal Aid Online, May 2008