



Caroline H. Gentry

Caroline practices in the areas of commercial litigation, class action defense, ERISA litigation, telecommunications law and drone law. She serves as co-chair of the firm's Unmanned and Autonomous Systems (drones and driverless vehicles) Practice Group. She currently teaches at Sinclair Community College on the topic of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) law, and is pursuing an associate's degree in Sinclair's UAS program.

Caroline is a graduate of Yale Law School and former law clerk for the Honorable Walter Herbert Rice, United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. She has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] in the area of Commercial Litigation. Caroline has also been recognized by *Ohio Super Lawyers*[®] in the area of Business Litigation, including its Top 25 Women in Cincinnati in 2020. She has served on several non-profit boards, was recognized by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality/Legal Aid of Western Ohio for her pro bono work in the area of voting rights, and is a Fellow of the Dayton Bar Foundation, Ohio State Bar Foundation and American Bar Foundation.

Representative Matters

Representative Trial Matters

- Defended a patent litigator in a multi-million dollar malpractice case in a state court jury trial
- Represented homeless organizations pursuing voting rights claims in a three-week federal court bench trial
- Represented a telecommunications company in two state court bench trials involving breach-of-contract claims
- Successfully tried a preliminary injunction action against the state of Ohio in a case challenging the termination of Medicaid mental health benefits for nursing home residents

Representative Appellate Court Decisions

- *Safdi v. Covered Employer's LTD Plan*, 631 Fed. Appx. 304 (6th Cir. 2015)
Upheld insurer's denial of benefits where employee did not satisfy the plan's recurrent disability provision

Partner

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Blogs
employerlawreport.com

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, J.D., 1995

Kalamazoo College, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1992

SERVICES

Litigation

- Commercial litigation
- Class actions, mass torts and MDLs
- Intellectual property litigation
- Non-competition and trade secrets litigation
- Product liability
- Appellate and Supreme Court practice
- Financial services litigation
- Unmanned and autonomous systems (Drones and driverless vehicles)

- *Avis Rent-A-Car Sys. v. City of Dayton*, 581 Fed. Appx. 479 (6th Cir. 2014)
Affirmed award of summary judgment to rental car companies after city attempted to terminate lease agreement
- *Durbin v. Columbia Energy Group Pension Plan*, 522 Fed. Appx. 341 (6th Cir. 2013)
Affirmed award of judgment to plan administrator in pension benefits dispute
- *Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless v. Husted*, 696 F.3d 580 (6th Cir. 2012)
Upheld order requiring provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct to be counted
- *Ameritech Publishing, Inc. v. Mayfield*, 2011-Ohio-2971, 7th App. Dist.
Upheld judgment in favor of publisher in breach of contract action
- *Kimmel v. Lowe's, Inc.*, 2011-Ohio-28, 2nd App. Dist.
Upheld award of summary judgment to employer on hostile work environment claim
- *Ameritech Publishing, Inc. v. Snyder Tire Wintersville*, 2010-Ohio-4868, 7th App. Dist.
Upheld judgment in favor of publisher in breach of contract action
- *Berry Network, Inc. v. United Propane Gas*, 2009-Ohio-2537, 2nd App. Dist.
Upheld award of summary judgment and fees in action to enforce settlement agreement
- *Kanally v. Ameritech Ohio Co.*, 2008-Ohio-4446, 8th App. Dist.
Reversed denial of telephone company's summary judgment motion in putative class action
- *Russell v. AT&T Corp.*, 2008-Ohio-3489, 2nd App. Dist.
Affirmed dismissal of customer's action against telephone company due to lack of jurisdiction

Representative Trial Court Decisions

- *Demange v. Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 159915 (N.D. Ohio Sept. 19, 2019)
Denied plaintiff's motion to apply a de novo standard of review in dispute regarding accidental death benefits
- *Eco-Site, Inc. v. City of Huber Heights*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 104773 (S.D. Ohio June 22, 2018)
Awarded judgment and injunctive relief to plaintiff requiring immediate approval of tower application under the Telecommunications Act of 1996
- *Bailey v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23914 (N.D. Ohio Feb. 26, 2016)
Granted insurer's motion to dismiss claim for bad faith
- *Hunt v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46263 (S.D. Ohio Apr. 3, 2014)
Awarded judgment to insurer in disability benefits dispute

SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Employee Benefits

- ERISA and employee benefits litigation

Labor & Employment

- Employment litigation
- Class and collective actions
- Employment law compliance counseling
- Recruiting, hiring and training

Intellectual Property

- Advertising, false advertising, unfair competition and product claims
- Enforcement, disputes and litigation

Government & Regulatory Affairs

- Election law representation
- Regulatory advocacy and drafting

Wireless & Telecommunications

Financial Institutions

- Financial services litigation

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Dayton Bar Association, Board Member and Secretary, 2019-2021
- Dayton Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio Bar Foundation, Fellow
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow



- *Logsdon v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 99160 (N.D. Ohio July 16, 2013)
Dismissed putative class action challenging insurer practices
- *Watiker v. Hartford Ins.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 154694 (S.D. Ohio Oct. 29, 2012)
Awarded judgment to insurer in disability benefits dispute
- *Dent v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 80213 (N.D. Ohio June 11, 2012)
Awarded judgment to insurer in disability benefits dispute
- *Halsema v. Target Corp.*, Case No. 2010 CV 5021, Slip Op. (Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas May 21, 2012)
Overruled plaintiff's motion for class certification
- *Lingo v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 91009 (S.D. Ohio Aug. 16, 2011)
Awarded judgment to insurer in disability benefits dispute
- *Galion Community Hosp. v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44757 (N.D. Ohio May 7, 2010)
Awarded summary judgment to insurer in action involving stop-loss coverage
- *Wike v. Vertrue, Inc.*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 52310 (M.D. Tenn. July 3, 2008)
Dismissed claims against defendant in putative class action

Bar Admissions

Ohio

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

Supreme Court of the United States

Presentations

- "Litigation Trends & Updates," Porter Wright Employment Relations Webinar, Nov. 19, 2020
- "Returning to Work: How to Screen for COVID-19 Symptoms & Accommodate High-Risk Employees," Porter Wright Employment Relations Webinar, May 6, 2020
- "Election Law Update," Ohio State Bar Association Federal Courts & Practice Committee Bench Bar Conference, Oct. 10-11, 2019
- "Preparing to Launch an In-House Drone Program," American Bar Association Drone Law Conference, June 18, 2019
- "The Drones are Coming! An Overview of Current Law & Future Trends," Drones, Cyber-Hacking & PEDs, Oh My! Northeast Ohio Association of Corporate Counsel, Nov. 15, 2018
- "The Drones are Coming! An Overview of Current Law and Future Trends," Dayton Bar Association, Oct. 24, 2018



- “The Good, the Bad and the ERISA: An Overview of ERISA Claims, Procedures and Best Practices,” Porter Wright Employment Relations Seminar, May 21, 2018
- “Trends: Class Actions, Mass Torts and MDLs,” Porter Wright Annual Ethics & Trends in Litigation Seminar, Dec. 7, 2017
- “The Evolving Law of Commercial Drones: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,” Nov. 16, 2017
- “Ghostly Glow: The Good, The Bad...and the Unknown,” Porter Wright Employment Relations Seminar, Nov. 1, 2017
- “Do or Do Not – There is No Try: Evolving Gender Protections Under Title VII,” Porter Wright Employment Relations Seminar, June 2, 2017
- “What In-House Counsel Needs to Know About Commercial Drones,” Central Ohio Association of Corporate Counsel, Feb. 9, 2017
- “Defending Class Actions: What You Need to Know Today,” Porter Wright Annual Ethics & Trends in Litigation Seminar, Dec. 3, 2014
- “Class Act: Best Practices for Defending Class Actions,” American Bar Association Committee on Corporate Counsel CLE Seminar, February 2014
- “*Dukes v. Wal-Mart*: What a Difference a Year Makes,” Defense Research Institute Commercial Litigation Seminar, May 2012
- “Strategies You Can Use to Protect Your Company,” Ohio Class Action Summit, Porter Wright, October 2010

Publications

- “Ohio employee with coronavirus files suit over firing,” *HR Daily Advisor*, Sept. 4, 2020
- “Drone law for defense lawyers,” *For the Defense*, July 2020
- “Drone deliveries face technological, legal hurdles,” *Law360*, Sept. 20, 2019
- “Rules of the sky for commercial UAVs,” *The Dayton Bar Briefs*, November 2018
- “Dayton attorney talks new drone rules and what to know,” *Dayton Business Journal*, Sept. 2, 2016

Honors | Awards

- *Best Lawyers*®, Commercial Litigation
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*®
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*®, “Top 25 Women Cincinnati Super Lawyers”
- Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc., Lloyd O’Hara Public Interest Law Award, 2011
- *Dayton Business Journal*, Forty Under 40 Award
- Phi Beta Kappa

Community

- Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board Member

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- Academic Decathlon of Ohio, Inc., Board Member and Treasurer
- Leadership Dayton