



EDWARD R. GOWER

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Ed Gower is a lawyer whose 40-year legal career included 28 years in private practice and 12 years in government service. He is the rare lawyer who was not exclusively a government or owner's lawyer, a contractor's lawyer or design consultant's lawyer, but rather represented all effectively. His knowledge and understanding of government operations, requirements and contracts, coupled with his intellect, hard work and fair, ethical and honest conduct, enabled him to secure fair results that also served the public interest. He was known for his grace and calm under pressure and recognized as a rock who stayed the course in the most difficult times to serve his clients' interests.

Ed served as the Chief Counsel for the Illinois Department of Transportation for 12 years and was partner at the national law firm Hinshaw & Culbertson from 2003 until he retired in 2020. At IDOT, Ed was responsible for all legal advice to an entity that was one of the largest state transportation departments in the United States, served for a year as the Acting Director of Aeronautics, and was the agency's first ethics officer.

In private practice, Ed was a highly regarded expert on government construction contract issues and public transportation projects and operations. In the public sector, he provided substantial services to a major Chicago area public transit system that provides approximately 83 million rides annually. He represented other governmental entities with major public infrastructure projects and also represented numerous heavy highway construction contractors and engineering firms concerning government contracts.

Ed is familiar with the FHWA, FTA, FAA and FRA rules governing federally funded contracts, has provided extensive advice and litigated issues involving the federally mandated DBE program, and has litigated challenges to and in defense of NEPA compliance on major transportation infrastructure projects. He has defended clients in matters concerning state and federal employment obligations imposed on contractors performing state and federally funded construction contracts, and has appeared before every Illinois state entity responsible for state contracts requirements and ethics.

Ed completed intensive training in mediation from the faculty of Pepperdine University School of Law's top-ranked Straus institute for Dispute Resolution. *Leading Lawyers Magazine* named him to its list of Leading Lawyers in Illinois 2011-2019. He also completed training at the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation's Administration & Practice /Chairing Workshop.

References are available upon request.

EXPERIENCE

2003-2020

PARTNER, HINSHAW & CULBERTSON, LLP.

SPRINGFIELD AND CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

2000-2003

CHIEF ETHICS OFFICER, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1991-2003

CHIEF COUNSEL, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1991 AND 1997

ACTING DIRECTOR, AERONAUTICS, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1989-1991

PARTNER, KECK MAHIN & CATE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1986-1987

SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE ILLINOIS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

1980-1988

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY, ISHAM, LINCOLN & BEALE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT EXPERIENCE

Drafted and negotiated construction contracts and subcontracts and have successfully litigated cases involving the following issues: bid protests; failure to properly remanufacture defective locomotives and related warranty extension issues; design errors and omissions; scheduling delays; access to work site (typically but not always associated with utility relocation); unforeseen and differing site conditions; interpretation of contract plans, drawings and language; extra work; defective work; undue owner interference and/or improper contract administration; warranty noncompliance; fraud; statute of limitations; compliance with federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and EEO requirements and unconstitutional administration of same; compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act; and compliance with the Davis Beacon Prevailing Wage requirements, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

EDUCATION

1980

J.D., UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

1977

B.A. DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

FELLOW, PHI BETA KAPPA

RECOGNITION

- Commuter Rail Board Resolution METRA 19-18 Honoring Ed for his service as a transportation leader in Illinois for over 30 years, and for outside counsel services involving high-profile and significant METRA matters for 17 years. METRA is the greater Chicago metropolitan area intercity passenger rail service that provides over 83 million rides annually.
- Profiled in “Excelling where Law, Government and Policy Intersect” in Leading Lawyers Magazine: Real Estate, Construction & Environmental Edition, January 2012
- Leading Lawyers Magazine Business Edition named him to its list of Top 100 Leading Downstate Business Lawyers in Illinois 2010
- Top Leading Lawyers 2011-2019.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- “Development and Prosecution of Government Construction Contract Claims,” Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association, (IRTBA) Annual Convention, Aruba, February, 2017
- “New Ethics Laws, A Primer on the Statutory Gift Ban, and Noteworthy Revisions to the Procurement Laws,” IRTBA Annual Convention, Kauai, Hawaii, February 2010
- “Getting the Lead Out” Design Professionals Risk Control Group Loss Prevention Convocation, Montreal, Canada, October 2007
- “Recent Changes in Illinois Law,” published in the Construction Law Update section of Real Estate Finance, June 2006
- “Appearing as an Expert Witness,” Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association Annual Conference, Springfield, Illinois, February 2006
- “Do You Need an Employee Handbook and if so, What Should it Say,” Illinois Society of Association Executives Annual Conference, Springfield, Illinois, January 2005
- “Pay Up or Else: Fee Collection from Contract to Court” Hinshaw and Euclid Insurance Agency Seminar, Chicago, Illinois and Oak Brook, Illinois, November 2004
- “Getting Paid and Reducing your Exposure,” Holmes Murphy/XL Design Professional Conference, Springfield, Decatur, and Peoria, Illinois, Spring 2004.