

Margo Wolf O'Donnell



Vedder Price 40 Under Forty Class of 2003

When the Law Bulletin honored Margo Wolf O'Donnell in 2003's Forty Under 40, it turned out to be one step of a very successful career path for this sought after lawyer in commercial and employment litigation. O'Donnell continues to flourish as one of the city's top lawyers.

O'Donnell is now a shareholder at Vedder Price, serving in the Litigation and Labor and Employment practice area. Outside of the office, O'Donnell has ascended to the Presidency of the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law that draws in lawyers from 51 firms and 22 corporations and focuses on highlighting women's initiatives not only at law firms, but all varieties of corporations. She also sits on Vedder Price's Diversity Committee.

O'Donnell, a University of Michigan Law School graduate, takes in much praise on her ability to navigate complex aspects of the law involving disability, age discrimination, wage violations and breach of contract.

"I have turned to Margo to handle some of my most important legal issues," raved Sidney Kerley, Vice-President and General Counsel of Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc. "Margo's superior legal skills are outmatched only by her unceasing dedication to her clients. Margo is consistently on the forefront of legal strategy, allowing her to deliver excellent results in a cost-effective manner."

In 2012 O'Donnell's placement on the "15 Women Making an Impact" was just one of many accolades that have come her way. She was listed in Illinois Super Lawyers from 2012-2014 and won placement recently as "Top 100 Attorneys in Illinois," as well as "Top 50 Women Attorneys in Illinois." O'Donnell was also given an "AV Preeminent" Peer Rating by Martindale-Hubbell, which is the top honor in that category.

"Margo is one of the women that I can turn to with an issue – whether it is how to juggle, how to balance, how to climb the ladder or anything in between," noted Marcia Owens, a partner at Hamilton Thies & Lorch LLP.

The reason why she has been so successful is O'Donnell advises her clients on how to avoid disputes and suggests ways to alleviate issues regarding employment law. Because of her expertise, she is frequently sought out by media organizations to provide perspective and context on how to prevent litigation.

O'Donnell's career may be challenging and time consuming, but her community involvement continues with her seats on the board at the Auxiliary Board of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Chicago Laboratory School Development Committee. In the past, she has served as chairwoman of the Young Leaders Fund of the Chicago Community Trust where her stewardship earned her praise for steering the Fund's future in a positive direction.

O'Donnell graduated *magna cum laude* from Yale and continues to be active in one of the nation's most prestigious universities by interviewing local applicants and having a seat on the Yale Alumni Fund Board.

O'Donnell still finds time to pen "Margo's Master Plan" for the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, where she offers advice and suggestions for local lawyers.

Kevin Hennessy, Vedder Price's Labor and Employment Group Chairman sums up the work of his colleague by saying, "O'Donnell's client services, firm committee efforts and community involvement provide an excellent model for all attorneys."

