

VEDDER PRICE

MARGO WOLF O'DONNELL



Does Margo Wolf O'Donnell ever sleep? Nominator Audrey Rubin of Aon Corporation wonders how, with O'Donnell's commitment to excellence in her legal work, along with her active leadership in the community.

O'Donnell's practice involves high-stakes commercial and employment litigation. She consistently achieves successful results for her clients, including a recent summary judgment for a national truck sales company on a multi-million dollar unfair competition claim and numerous dismissals and beneficial settlements of discrimination, wage and hour and restrictive covenant claims. She also acts as a counselor to her clients and trains them on employment issues and the prevention of litigation. O'Donnell has received national recognition for her legal talent. Martindale-Hubbell awarded its top AV Preeminent rating to O'Donnell, and she was selected for inclusion in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register for Preeminent Women Attorneys. O'Donnell is a Super Lawyer, and she was recognized by *Leading Lawyers Network Magazine* as one of the "Top 100 Women Lawyers in Illinois." O'Donnell is also a past recipient of Law Bulletin Publishing's "40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch."

O'Donnell's accolades are attributable to her many loyal clients, who laud her formidable advocacy skills. Cristina Hawilo, Senior Litigation Counsel at Videojet Technologies, describes O'Donnell as "always calm, always deliberate in her legal strategies, and always poised to deliver the best solutions without losing sight of the high ethical standards to which she holds herself in the practice of law." Sidney Kerley, Vice-President and General Counsel of Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc., said, "I have turned to Margo to handle some of my most important legal issues. Margo's superior legal skills are unmatched 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."

O'Donnell shares lessons learned from her experiences through her work with Vedder Price's Diversity Committee and the Executive Committee of the Coalition of Women in Law, which brings together the leaders of women's initiatives at law firms and corporations. Coalition board members praise O'Donnell for her "creativity and ability to implement new programming and ideas that have transformed our group." Marcia Owens, a partner at Edwards Wildman, writes, "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." O'Donnell is a frequent speaker at leadership conferences and is the author of the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* column, "Margo's Master Plan." Community groups likewise benefit from O'Donnell's leadership. She serves on the Boards of the Yale Club of Chicago, the Auxiliary Board of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Development Committee of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. For Yale, O'Donnell is in charge of interviews for applicants from Chicago, and she was selected to serve on the Yale Alumni Fund Board. O'Donnell also chairs one of the largest and most successful family events at the Art Institute of Chicago. Kevin Hennessy, Chair of Vedder Price's Labor and Employment Group, writes, "O'Donnell's client services, firm committee efforts, and community involvement provide an excellent model for all attorneys."

Women in Law 2012

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