

## Morgan Churma

[mchurma@scharfbanks.com](mailto:mchurma@scharfbanks.com)

312-897-1483

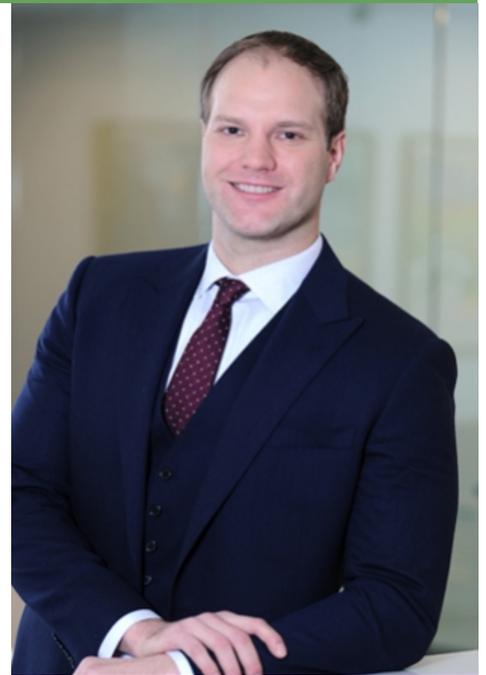
Morgan G. Churma concentrates his practice on complex litigation, insurance recovery, and employment litigation and counseling. Morgan has represented litigation clients in a variety of multiparty contract disputes, tort litigation, “long tail” insurance coverage, and employment disputes. Outside of litigation, Morgan provides counseling on a variety of insurance coverage and employment matters. The Daily Law Bulletin Publishing Company recognized Morgan as an “Emerging Lawyer” in the field of commercial litigation.

As part of his insurance coverage practice, Morgan has extensive experience advancing allocation, indemnification, defense costs, and bad faith on behalf of corporate policyholders up to and through trial. Morgan regularly counsels clients regarding coverage opportunities by fully evaluating any available policy. Frequently, Morgan successfully challenges reservation of rights and denial of coverage positions from insurers under cyber security, directors and officers, errors and omissions, general liability, employment practices, and municipal liability policies.

As a Special Assistant States Attorney for Cook County, Morgan has represented the Cook County Sheriff’s Office in numerous civil litigation matters alleging, among other claims, First Amendment, civil rights, due process, ADA, Title VII, and discrimination claims. In this capacity, Morgan worked to obtain the successful dismissal of a complaint alleging a variety of civil rights, whistleblower, and retaliation counts.

Morgan regularly counsels clients regarding wage and benefits practices under the Fair Labor Standards Act and related law. Morgan has evaluated and advised clients regarding FLSA exempt status for over 250 positions.

Morgan also has experience representing consumer lending and



### **Practice Areas:**

Complex Litigation  
Appellate  
Insurance  
Employment  
Food

### **Education:**

J.D., University of Illinois  
College of Law, cum laude, 2015  
B.A., University of California,  
Santa Cruz, 2010

### **Admissions and Qualifications:**

Illinois

### **Prior Experience:**

James T. Rohlifing & Associates,  
Chicago, IL - Associate (2015)  
Illinois Department of Public  
Health, Chicago, IL - Law Clerk  
(Summer 2014)  
Elder Financial Justice Clinic,  
Champaign, IL - Student  
Attorney (Spring 2014)  
The Honorable E. Kenneth  
Wright, Jr., Chicago, IL - Legal  
Extern (Summer 2013)

annuity companies in litigation alleging both tort and regulatory claims.

Morgan received undergraduate degrees in mathematics and economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz. To further his educational interests, Morgan spent a year abroad studying algebraic structures and group theory at the University of Manchester. Subsequently, Morgan received his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law, cum laude.

While at the College of Law, Morgan was the Internet Editor for University of Illinois Law Review, the Executive Editor on the Fredrick Green Moot Board, and a student attorney with the Elder Financial Justice Clinic.

## Experience

- Successfully resolved dispute over insurance coverage for a manufacturer by use of the incorporation doctrine under a commercial general liability policy.
- Counseled clients regarding FLSA exemption status for over 250 different positions.
- Obtained successful resolution of claims alleging negligence on behalf of financial services company.
- Served appointed over two dozen times as a Special Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County as counsel for the Cook County Sheriff's Office and its officers in a variety of civil litigation matters, including defeats of labor unions' collective bargaining and contractual claims against the Sheriff's Office and individual employee claims of civil rights violations.
- Representation of corporate policyholder in litigation and trial stemming from over 300,000 underlying lawsuits and over 50 years of triggered policy periods including several layers of excess and umbrella policies.
- Represented elderly individual against bank for negligent practices leading to fraudulently disbursed funds.
- Prepared opinion and research memoranda to advise on

medical cannabis legislation prior to meeting by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR).

- Negotiated and obtained favorable settlements in licensing action against a large nursing homes for violations of the Nursing Home Care Act.
- Defended the Illinois Department of Public Health in administrative actions challenging the Department's investigative procedures in reviewing alleged nursing home abuse.
- Represented plaintiff large breach of contract and unjust enrichment action regarding construction and repairs on a property development scheme. Prepared summary judgment motion and argued for the applicability and a favorable interpretation of new Illinois legislation in the action.
- Obtained dismissal of an action seeking a mechanics lien and breach of contract damages against small business owner without satisfactory documentation of the work performed pursuant to an oral contract.
- Represented plaintiff in an action against several defendants for civil conspiracy, tortious interference, unjust enrichment, and fraudulent conveyance involving the transfer of commercial property.
- Represented plaintiff board member and corporation in a derivative action involving the sale of corporate property by a corporate officer without the prior or subsequent approval of the board of directors.

## Professional Activities

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association

## PUBLICATIONS

- "How Mid-Size Law Firms Are Courting Corporate Clients with Technology," Above the Law Webinar, November 21, 2019.
- "Respondent in Discovery: How to Deal with This Unusual Illinois Procedure for Targeting Defendants in Litigation," Scharf Banks Marmor LLC Client Alert, November 2018.
- "New Age Authentication," Substance: Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association, Winter 2015.
- "Shadow Banking: Help is on the Way," Illinois Business Law Journal, December 2012.
- "Welfare, Innovation and Growth: The Patent Paradox," Illinois Business Law Journal, November 2012.