

## Jeffrey Morris

*Retired Partner*

Jeffrey Morris litigated a wide array of business and employment disputes. Mr. Morris's practice areas included:

- **Non-compete Litigation** – extensive experience litigating employment non-competition agreement claims. He has litigated such claims on behalf of a wide variety of employers, including temporary help agencies, insurance brokers, securities brokers, medical device manufacturers, business forms distributors, electronics component manufacturers, wholesale food brokers, paper manufacturers, phone system distributors, and cheese makers.
- **Antitrust Litigation** – including experience representing BMG Music, Microsoft, and MasterCard in putative "indirect purchaser" class actions alleging violations of Wisconsin's Antitrust Act.
- **Employment Litigation** – extensive experience defending employers in state and federal courts, as well as in administrative forums, against Title VII and state law discrimination claims, wrongful discharge claims, and breach of employment contract claims.
- **ERISA Litigation** – including arbitration of withdrawal liability disputes under Multiemployer Pension Plan Act.
- **Dealership Litigation** – including obtaining summary judgment for Miller Brewing, Bayliner Marine Corporation, and John Deere in dealership termination lawsuits.
- **Patent Litigation** – involving products in the flexible packaging industry.

In addition to his work in the noncompete, antitrust, employment, dealership, and patent arenas, Mr. Morris had also successfully handled litigation matters dealing with a wide range of other matters.

Representative cases included:

- *Fortier v. Sara Lee, et al.* – obtained summary judgment for Sara Lee in multiparty toxic tort case involving alleged personal injuries from contaminated groundwater beneath municipal dump.
- *DeRuyter v. Wisconsin Electric* – assumed representation of Wisconsin Electric on appeal after trial court had granted summary judgment against Wisconsin Electric, finding that its employee was in the scope of his employment and that Wisconsin Electric was therefore liable for plaintiff's wrongful death claim. Prevailed on appeal. Wisconsin Court of Appeals not only reversed summary judgment in favor of the plaintiff, but awarded Wisconsin Electric



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summary judgment.

- *Plautz v. Time Insurance Company* – assumed representation of Time Insurance after a Milwaukee County jury had rendered a \$2.25 million verdict against it on an insurance bad faith claim. On appeal, obtained reversal and a new trial. After remand to the trial court, obtained summary judgment for Time Insurance. Summary judgment upheld on appeal.
- *Olson v. Ohmeda* – involvement began after jury had rendered a verdict against Ohmeda in a product liability suit involving an anesthesia machine. Prepared successful motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, which was affirmed on appeal.
- *Predco v. First Bank Southeast* – obtained summary judgment for First Bank Southeast in complex litigation alleging malfeasance in bank trust department's handling of industrial revenue bond administration.
- *Murray v. Loewen Group International Inc.* – obtained arbitration award dismissing business fraud claims.
- *Estate of Carley v. Fluid Management* – obtained summary judgment dismissing claims alleging professional malpractice by environmental consulting firm.
- *WMBIC v. California Reinsurance* – obtained favorable arbitration award on complex reinsurance dispute involving directors and officers liability insurance.
- *Metro Credit Union v. Building Committee, Inc.* – obtained favorable arbitration award on construction management dispute.
- *Russell v. Cooper Industries* – obtained defense jury verdict on part of plaintiff's personal injury claim and judgment notwithstanding the verdict on the balance of the claim.
- *Clancy v. Nicolet High School* – obtained summary judgment on alternative student newspaper's First Amendment challenge to school's rules regarding non-school-sponsored publications.
- *Olson v. Rexworks* – obtained defense jury verdict on products liability death claim involving aggregate conveyor.
- *SSG Corporation v. Unisys Corporation* – obtained summary judgment dismissing action for fraud and breach of warranty with respect to a computer hardware system.
- *AAA Builders, Inc. v. International Truck & Engine* – defended truck manufacturer on lemon law claim. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed suit midway through jury trial in exchange for agreement not to pursue recovery of defense costs.
- *Olson v. Monumental General Life Insurance* – obtained summary judgment dismissing claim for benefits allegedly owed under mortgage insurance policy.
- *A.L. Schutzman v. Nutsco* – obtained summary judgment on liability and damages on claim for breach of supply contract.

## Education and Honors

- Stanford Law School (J.D., 1979)
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- Dartmouth College (B.A., 1975)
  - Phi Beta Kappa

## Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas

## Professional and Civic Activities

- Children's Outing Association (Volunteer)
- Village of Shorewood Board of Review (Member)
- Shorewood Little League (Board Member)

## Professional Recognition

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® (2013–present: Commercial Litigation)
- Selected for inclusion in the 2005 Wisconsin Super Lawyers® list (Business Litigation)
- State Bar of Wisconsin – Pro Bono Honor Society (2015)