

Matthew P. Connelly

Age: 33



Connelly, Roberts & McGivney LLC

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Specialty: Commercial Litigation, Product, Tort Liability, Construction Defect, Employment Claims

Law School: John Marshall Law School

Matthew Connelly, an attorney with the Chicago-based law firm of Connelly, Roberts & McGivney, LLC is one of the youngest lawyers represented on these pages. But at age 33, he has already crafted a noteworthy legal career.

And the best news, according to his peers, is that Connelly's future looks even brighter.

“Matt has a winning personality, an ability to be direct, to look you in the eye, to charm you and to persuade you to his point of view,” said Jill Berkeley, an attorney with Chicago law firm Schiff, Hardin & Waite. “I have seen him deal with very difficult personalities and completely win them over. Moreover, he has all the qualities that reflect well on me when I introduce him to my clients. ... I look forward to his truly excellent future.”

Connelly has demonstrated his ability in both the courtroom and outside of it.

Consider a recent case in which Connelly represented a client in a defective construction suit involving millions of dollars. Connelly added to his reputation as a strategist and insightful judge of people during a mediation of the claim. Approximately 20 lawyers participated in the mediation, but Connelly took the co-lead and helped his fellow attorneys and the mediator reach a favorable result.

Because of his trial skills, Connelly frequently represents clients in complex commercial litigation, while still handling more straightforward product liability and other personal injury matters. One of his biggest successes was a multi-million dollar suit between a large foreign heavy machinery manufacturer and one of its US distributors, Matt obtained an injunction after a three-day trial. Sometime after the injunction was in place, it was discovered that the principal of the distributor was violating the injunction by wrongfully selling or hiding a number of the heavy equipment pieces that were subject to the injunction. Matt immediately sought a rule to show cause and after a two-day

hearing on the same, the Federal District Court judge granted Matt's motion seeking to pierce the corporate veil and sanctioned the principal personally and entered a \$750,000 sanction against the principal individually and in favor of Matt's client in addition to a judgment in excess of a \$1 million dollars against the defendant company. The Federal Court judge also granted Matt's Rule 11 motion against the distributor's law firm and its attorneys for various pleading and discovery violations and awarded Matt's client most of the fees and costs it had incurred during the course of the suit

“The thing that impresses me most about Matt is his devotion to clients and his sense of fair play,” said John Schroeder, an attorney with Schroeder, Adams & Swatek in Geneva. “Because of this he has consistently achieved for his clients the optimal result at a reasonable cost. Proof of this is the fact that he is often sought after by new and existing clients.”

Connelly has also made his mark in the publishing world, writing several pieces for trade associations and magazines on topics ranging from legal malpractice to sex and race discrimination.

And at a young age, Connelly has found plenty of time to make an impact in his community. He serves as a trustee on the Village of Riverside Police Pension Board, and acts as pro bono counsel to the board of directors of the charity foundation for Children in Need. He also sits on the board of directors for the Hemophilia Foundation of Illinois and the board of directors of the Fox Valley General Contractors Association.

Clearly, Connelly not only has crafted a solid past, he has laid the foundation for an even more exciting future.

“Matt's legal skills are exceptional,” said one of his peers. “I find his approach to cases to be very imaginative and always geared toward getting a good result for his clients. At such a young age, Matt has achieved an incredible amount of success.”