

Martin D. Gould

Partner

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Practice Areas

Boy Scouts

Clergy Abuse

Domestic Abuse

Environmental & Toxic Torts

Mass Torts & Class Actions

Medical Malpractice

Nursing Home Abuse

Product Liability

School & Institutional Abuse

Sexual Abuse & Hazing

Transportation & Car Accidents

Workplace Injury

Education & Certifications

- J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law, *cum laude*
 - Chicago-Kent Law Review, published member
 - Legal Writing Teach Assistant
 - CALI Award for receiving the highest grade in the class in: Legal Writing I, I & III, Illinois Evidence, Pre-Trial Civil Litigation, and Conflicts of Law
- B.A., Political Science, Minor in Business Institutions, Northwestern University

Martin D. Gould is a Partner at Romanucci & Blandin, LLC where he works in the firm's complex litigation and catastrophic injury group, representing individuals and classes of victims in wrongful death, toxic exposure, medical malpractice, nursing home negligence, auto and trucking accidents, construction and other workplace accidents, sexual abuse, including priest abuse, product defect, and airline crashes.

Martin has played a key role in securing numerous record-breaking multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of clients who have been harmed as a result of wrongful conduct, including: a \$44.7 million verdict at trial against the City of Chicago in a case where an off-duty police officer shot a construction worker in the head leaving him paralyzed; a \$21.337 million verdict at trial on behalf of the family of a mother of five young children who was killed in a car accident; and a \$12.35 million settlement at the beginning of trial on behalf of the family of a young mother of three children in a medical malpractice case. The settlement was the largest recorded in Illinois for a misdiagnosis of breast cancer case.

In addition to obtaining significant recoveries for his clients, Martin takes on many cases where he believes he can change policies or the law to protect future generations. In that regard, Martin has represented and currently represents dozens of survivors of rape and childhood sexual abuse in many of the highest profile abuse cases in the country. Some of those cases include claims against the Boy Scouts of America, the Boys & Girls Club, University of Michigan (abuse involving Dr. Robert Anderson), professional sports teams, the Estate of Jeffrey Epstein, private and public schools, elite private boarding schools, orphanages, foster care programs, hospitals, mental health facilities, Fortune 500 companies, and countless religious institutions and related entities (ranging from the Catholic Church, religious orders, and the YMCA, to Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormon Church, and the Royal Rangers Youth Organization). He has helped shed light on systemic abuse and cover-ups while securing millions of dollars in settlements on behalf of survivors.

In helping manage the firm's mass tort litigation practice, Martin represents hundreds of individuals injured by consumption of or exposure to harmful products, including Sterigenics' ethylene oxide emissions in Willowbrook, Illinois; RoundUp herbicide exposure; Johnson & Johnson talc baby powder; hernia mesh implants, and individuals who took prescription and over-the-counter Zantac/ranitidine medication, which was recalled by the FDA due to defects in

- Northwestern Leadership Certificate Program
- NCAA Division I Wrestling Team (2005-2009), team placed 4th in the NCAAs in 2007
- Recipient of the Northwestern Alumni Association's *Scholastic Achievement Award*, for having the highest GPA on the Northwestern Varsity Wrestling Team, 2009

Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice

Illinois

Northern District of Illinois

Central District of Illinois

Eastern District of Wisconsin

Pro Hac Vice, New York

Pro Hac Vice, Florida

Pro Hac Vice, Indiana

Pro Hac Vice, Michigan

Pro Hac Vice, Missouri

Pro Hac Vice, Arizona

Pro Hac Vice, Ohio

Pro Hac Vice, Northern District of New York

Pro Hac Vice, Middle District of Florida

Pro Hac Vice, Western District of Louisiana

Pro Hac Vice, Northern District of New Jersey

Pro Hac Vice, District Court of Utah

Pro Hac Vice, District Court of Minnesota

Pro Hac Vice, Northern District of Indiana

Pro Hac Vice, District of Nebraska

Pro Hac Vice, District of Wyoming

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals

its design, potentially leading to cancer. When the Edenville Dam failed in 2020 flooding and destroying the City of Midland, MI, Martin and founding partner Stephan D. Blandin stepped in to represent hundreds of families in their fight for justice against the State of Michigan and other responsible parties who ignored warnings for decades.

Martin regularly appears in the media to discuss cases, including appearances on Fox 32 and ABC 7 to discuss the toxic exposure in Chicago's western suburbs involving Sterigenics, interviews with the Associated Press, Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin to discuss priest abuse lawsuits; interviews with the New York Times to discuss lead poisoning litigation; and appearances on the Legal Broadcasting Network to discuss a federal class action lawsuit against the City of Chicago.

Experience

\$4,500,000 Settlement - Trucking Accident

July 12, 2022

\$880,000 Settlement - Clergy Abuse

June 23, 2021

\$1,200,000 Settlement - Sexual Abuse at Boarding School

April 29, 2021

\$865,000 Settlement - Sexual Abuse

September 2020

\$1,310,000 Settlement - Unreasonable Force by Police

July 2020

\$900,000 Settlement - Title IX, Wrongful Death

May 2020

\$2,100,000 Settlement - Sexual Abuse of Child at Catholic Church Camp

April 2020

\$12,350,000 Settlement - Cancer Misdiagnoses

February 2020

\$1,850,000 Settlement - Motor Vehicle Accident

June 2019

\$21,300,000 Verdict - Police Chase

April 24, 2019

\$2,875,000 Settlement - Medical Malpractice

March 11, 2019

\$1,400,000 Settlement - Clergy Abuse

August 2018

\$44,700,000 Verdict – Police Misconduct
November 2017

\$1,000,000 Settlement – Premises Liability
July 2016

Awards & Recognition

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*, 2021-2023
- Rising Star by Illinois Super Lawyers®, 2016-2021
- *Emerging Lawyer* by Law Bulletin Publishing Company, 2017-2021
- Selected to “Top 40 Attorneys under 40” by The National Trial Lawyers, 2020, 2021
- Top 10 Motor Vehicle Accident Verdicts in Illinois in the year 2019, *Carreon v. City of Chicago*
- Top 10 Verdicts in Illinois in the year 2017, *LaPorta v. City of Chicago*

Legal Activities & Leadership

- American Association for Justice (AAJ)
 - Sexual Abuse Litigation Group, 2021-Present
 - Professional Negligence Section, 2020-Present
- National Crime Victims Bar Association (NCVBA)
 - Clergy Abuse Committee, November 2020-Present
 - Child Sexual Abuse Section, November 2020-Present
 - Young Lawyer’s Council, November 2020-Present
- Chicago Bar Association (CBA)
 - Torts Litigation Committee, Chair, June 2017-Present
 - YLS, First Vice Chair, April 2022 - Present
 - YLS, Second Vice Chair, June 2021- April 2022
 - Judge, Moot Court Competition, November 18, 2021
 - YLS, Members Services Manager, June 2020–June 2021
 - YLS, Project Coordinator, June 2018–June 2020
 - Legislative Liaison, October 2017-June 2018
- Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA)
 - Young Lawyers Division, Chair, June 2018 – Present
 - Young Lawyers Division, Board Member, June 2015-June 2018
- Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA)
 - Civil Practice & Procedure Section Council, 2020-2021
- Decalogue Society of Lawyers
 - Board of Managers, June 2016-Present

- Young Lawyers Division, Co-Chair, 2015-2021
- Chicago-Kent College of Law
 - Young Alumni Board, Board Member, 2015-2020
- Public Justice, Member
- Child USA
 - Junior Council, April 2022-Present

Notable Cases

- *LaPorta v. City of Chicago*, October 2017, civil rights, \$44.7M verdict
- *Carreon v. City of Chicago*, April 2019, police chase, \$21.3M verdict
- Confidential, February 2020, medical malpractice, \$12.35M settlement
- *Client v. Chicago-Area Hospital and Neurosurgeon*, 2019, medical malpractice, \$2.875 million
- *Jane Doe v. Archdiocese of Chicago*, 2019, clergy abuse, \$2.1M settlement
- *Jane Doe v. GPT*, sexual abuse, \$2M settlement
- *Wdziekonski v. S Saft & Company*, 2019, motor vehicle accident, \$1.75M settlement
- *John Doe v. Diocese of Joliet*, 2018, clergy abuse, \$1.4M settlement
- *John Doe v. Private U.S. Boarding School*, 2021, sexual abuse by teacher, \$1.2M settlement
- *Barker v. Restrepo and Ruiz*, 2017, premises liability, \$1.175M settlement
- *Estate of John Brown v. Walworth County, et. al.*, 2017, police misconduct, \$1.1M settlement
- *Larios v. Chadron State College*, 2020, Title IX case, \$900,000 settlement
- *John Doe A and B v. Archdiocese of Chicago*, 2021, clergy abuse, \$880,000 settlement
- *Liggett v. El-Paso Gridley Community School District, et. al.*, school bullying case, \$250,000 verdict

In the News

Chadron State College promised to honor a student after her suicide. Her family says 'they're hiding it'
Nebraska Public Media, September 20, 2022

Settlement reached for Illinois trucker hit on I-80
Casper Star Tribune, September 19, 2022

Chicago Archdiocese to pay \$1.75M settlement to woman who says she was abused by priest in 1980s
Fox 32 Chicago, August 5, 2022

Chicago Archdiocese To Pay \$1.75 Million To Woman Who Says Priest Sexually Abused Her At South Side Catholic School
Block Club Chicago, August 5, 2022

8 kids have died in 8 months under DCFS' watch, public guardian says
ABC - 7, July 12, 2022

Latest suit from Chief derailment claims Amtrak, BNSF 'placed profits over safety'
Trains, July 11, 2022

Lawsuit filed on behalf of an injured passenger in Amtrak train derailment
NBC - 8 KOMU, July 9, 2022

How 2 Industries Stymied Justice for Young Lead Paint Victims
New York Times, March 29, 2022

University of Michigan reaches \$490 million settlement after sex abuse allegations against former UM doctor
CNN, January 19, 2022

Before off-duty police shooting, Chicago officer had long complaint record. Should the city pay?
Washington Post, September 22, 2021

CDLB People – Martin D. Gould honored with the Milton H. Gray Award.
Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, June 21, 2021

Blog Posts

Lead-Based Paint Remains a Serious Public Health Concern
Romanucci & Blandin Blog, January 4, 2021

Speaking Engagements

- "Civil Justice for Victims of Crime in Illinois," National Crime Victims Bar Association, Panelist, July 2022
- "Litigating in the Age of Covid: The Expert Perspective on Medical Malpractice, Work Accident, and Mass Torts Cases," Chicago Bar Association, Moderator, March 2021
- "Resolutions to Reform the Chicago Police Department: The Differences Between CPAC and GAPA," Chicago Bar Association, Moderator, September 2020
- "U.S. Senator Dick Durbin: The Justice in Policing Act of 2020," Chicago Bar Association, Moderator, July 2020
- "Mid-Michigan Dam Failure Disaster: Legal Landscape," Midland County, MI Town Hall, Panelist, June 2020
- "Know Your Options Small Business Forum: Insurance Claims for Lost Revenue, Government Loans and Grants, and other Legal Options in the Face of Coronavirus," City of Chicago (25th Ward), Speaker, May 2020
- "Know Your Options Small Business Webinar: Business Interruption Insurance Claims," Chambers of Commerce for Evanston, Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, and the Greater Wheeling Area (Illinois), Speaker, May 2020
- "Litigating the High Stakes Medical Malpractice Case," Chicago Bar Association, Moderator, March 2020
- "Using Digital Evidence at Trial", Illinois State Bar Association, Speaker, March 2020
- "Working Up the Hospital Apparent Agency Case: A Fight Worth Fighting," Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Speaker, February 2020
- "An injured worker comes to your office. What do you do? Key pointers to litigating the Worker's Comp Third-Party Crossover Case," Chicago Bar Association, Speaker, December 2019
- Chicago's "Top 40 Attorneys Under 40" Practice Tips, Chicago Bar Association, Speaker, June 2019
- "Key Takeaways from High-Speed Police Chase Verdict," American Association for Justice, Speaker, June 2019
- "Maximizing and Attacking Damages in Personal Injury Actions," Chicago Bar Association, Moderator, March 2019
- "Medical Malpractice of Non-Employee Doctors: Establishing Agency for Hospital Liability," CLE, Chicago Bar Association, Speaker, May 2018
- "Anatomy of a \$44.7 Million Police Misconduct Verdict," NPAP - National Lawyers Guild, Speaker, January 2018

- "Obtaining and Using Social Media Evidence at Trial," Continuing Legal Education, Illinois State Bar Association, Speaker, November 2017
- "Use of Social Media Evidence in Civil and Criminal cases," CLE, Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission, Speaker, May 2017
- "Evaluating Bullying/Hazing and Police Misconduct Cases," A Litigation CLE, Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, Speaker, February 2017
- "Section 1983: Litigating and Vetting Police Misconduct Cases," CLE, Chicago Bar Association, Speaker, February 2017
- "Dr. Martin Luther King Forum: Civil Rights and the Chicago Police Department," A Professional Responsibilities CLE Event, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Speaker, January 2016
- "Introduction to Personal Injury Law," Chicago-Kent College of Law, Speaker, October 2015
- American Association for Justice 2015 Annual Convention, created "Overcoming Juror Bias in Police Misconduct Cases" Presentation with Antonio M. Romanucci, July 2015
- "Legal Aspects of Malaysia Flight 370," Chicago Bar Association, Contributor, April 2014

Publications

- Decalogue Tablets, "Close to Home: Your Unfriendly, Neighborhood Carcinogen" (Sterigenics-Ethylene Oxide Exposure Cases), Summer 2019
- Trial Journal, "School Bullying Cases: Holding School Districts and Officials Accountable in Illinois," Winter 2018
- Illinois Bar Journal, *Obtaining Social Media Evidence Through Discovery*, December 2017
- Illinois Bar Journal, *Social Media Evidence & Ethical Considerations*, September 2017
- Decalogue Tablets, "Legality of President Trump 'Sending in the Feds' to Chicago," February 2017
- Decalogue Tablets, "Top 10 things Associates Should Know about Preparing for Trial," February 2017
- Illinois Bar Journal, *The Admissibility of Social Media Evidence in Illinois*, January 2017
- Decalogue Tablets, *How Technology is Driving Much Needed Police Reforms*, 2016 Fall Edition
- Chicago-Kent Law Review, *The Conflict Between Forum-Selection Clauses and Consumer Protection Laws: Why Illinois Got It Right in Jane Doe v. Match.com*, Spring 2015