

Lauri E. Cleary

Principal



Areas of Practice

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Employment & Labor

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Recent Honors

John Carroll Society's Pro Bono Service Award
The Daily Record's 2009 Leadership in Law Award

Lauri Cleary is a principal in the firm's Litigation, Creditors' Rights & Workouts and Employment & Labor groups. She represents individual and corporate clients, including religious and other nonprofit organizations and educational institutions, automobile dealers, financial institutions, title insurers and other insurance underwriters in a wide range of complex commercial, employment, tort, insurance, and white collar criminal defense matters. Her experience as a litigator qualifies her to serve as a counselor, sharing risk management and litigation avoidance strategies with the firm's clients.



As many of the matters Lauri litigates arise out of employment relationships, she has developed particular expertise in the area of employment law. She has spoken to risk management and human resource professionals on a variety of topics, including sexual harassment, hiring and termination practices, and questions of liability for the acts of employees and volunteers. Lauri's representation also extends to title insurance underwriters and their insured claimants in resolving complex settlement escrow and land title issues. Additionally, she has more than 20 years of experience representing auto dealers in all manner of operational and franchise matters. In connection with our insurance defense practice, Lauri works closely with claims counsel defending a wide variety of tort and commercial litigation claims.

Lauri is a graduate of the University of Maryland, where she received her B.A. degree in English in 1982 and her J.D. degree in 1985. Lauri joined the firm in 1986, after serving as judicial law clerk to the Honorable Howard S. Chasanow (Retired), Court of Appeals of Maryland, then a member of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. She is admitted to practice in Maryland, DC and Virginia, and has successfully managed all aspects of litigating trial and appellate cases before state and federal courts and administrative agencies in all three jurisdictions.

Her representation of religious organizations has allowed Lauri to develop particular expertise in issues involving First Amendment religious freedoms, and complements her strong commitment to the pro bono representation of indigent persons. She serves as Chair of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Committee and as a member of the Advisory Council of the Archdiocesan Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington. Lauri also serves as the host of segments of the local cable access show "Law School for the Public", and co-chairs the Bar Foundation Committee that produces the program as a public service for Montgomery County citizens on the County's Cable TV station.

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