



WilliamsMcCarthy_{LLP}

[The Firm](#)

[Practice Areas](#)

[Attorneys](#)

[News & Events](#)

[Publications](#)

Comments from Counsel

Wendi Werren Hired as New Associate



We are pleased to announce the addition of Associate [Wendi J. Werren](#). Her practice is focused on civil litigation, family law, and workers' compensation. She serves clients from both the Rockford and Oregon offices.

Before joining WilliamsMcCarthy LLP, Werren served as a judicial clerk in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in Kane County and also had the honor of serving as judicial clerk in the Fifteenth Circuit in Ogle County. She graduated cum laude in 2017 from Northern Illinois University College of Law. She received a bachelor's degree from University of Illinois at Springfield in 2012, graduating summa cum laude, majoring in liberal studies and business management.

As a law student, Werren served as a graduate assistant in human resources where she focused on civil rights and Title IX investigations. [Read more...](#)

New Publications

Timing Matters: The Impact of the New Tax Law on Maintenance Obligations in Divorce
By [Carol N. Bailey](#) and [Tyler B. Slack](#)



Carol N. Bailey

If you live in Illinois and are - or know someone who is - currently involved in a divorce proceeding or contemplating filing for divorce, changes in the tax law could affect your case or situation. Currently, an individual who receives alimony payments must report them as income on his or her tax return and pay taxes on them. The individual responsible for paying the alimony to a former spouse is allowed, however, to deduct these payments from his or her taxable income.

Beginning on January 1, 2019, the new tax law will significantly affect



Tyler B. Slack

those individuals who will be receiving or paying maintenance (formerly known as alimony) to an ex-spouse.

[Read more](#) about the upcoming changes from Partner [Carol N. Bailey](#) and Associate [Tyler B. Slack](#).

Sending Your Child Off to College? Don't Forget the Discussion on Alcohol, Incapacitation, and Consent

By [Wendi J. Werren](#)



Wendi J. Werren

As parents get ready to send kids off to college, no doubt they have thought about the obvious - tuition, room and board, and perhaps even whether their child can operate a washing machine. What does not make the list of concerns is Title IX, but it ought to.

During orientation, one of the most important topics the university will cover is its Title IX policy and its definition of consent. Amidst the overload of information, it may be tempting to zone out of the Title IX talk, in part because students and parents think Title IX violations will never be a part of their college experience - until it is. [Read more...](#)

Client Successes

Family Law Attorneys Win Appeal Securing Judgment in Excess of \$800K for Divorce Client



Carol N. Bailey



Tyler B. Slack

Attorneys [Carol N. Bailey](#) and [Tyler B. Slack](#) represented a divorce client in both the trial and appellate courts. After a hearing in the trial court, the Judge determined that the real estate at issue was marital and thereby awarded their client more than \$800,000. [Read more](#) on what happened after the spouse appealed the ruling.

James Devine Obtains Defense Verdict in Wrongful Death Trial



James P. Devine

Attorney [James Devine](#) successfully defended a farmer sued in Circuit Court in Ogle County, Illinois, for wrongful death. This is the second wrongful death verdict in favor of the defense that Mr. Devine has obtained in the last seven months. [Read more...](#)

Home Builder Scores Copyright Win



Marc C. Gravino



Joel M. Huotari

Attorneys [Marc C. Gravino](#) and [Joel M. Huotari](#) recently achieved a favorable ruling in a copyright suit involving their Northern Indiana home builder client. The ruling is significant because it represents one of the few times that a copyright plaintiff has had a claim disposed of by the court prior to trial. [Read more...](#)

People at WilliamsMcCarthy LLP



James P. Devine

In addition to being licensed in the state of Illinois, [James P. Devine](#) is also now licensed to practice law in the state of Wisconsin.

On June 26, James was a featured speaker at the National Business Institute's seminar for Continued Legal Education on June 26 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Rockford. The topic of the seminar was "The Rules of Evidence: A Practical Toolkit. [Read more...](#)

[Joel M. Huotari](#) is helping to further develop intellectual property and technology law by serving as director of the Intellectual Property &



Joel M. Huotari

Technology Law Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and serving as chair of the Door County Intellectual Property Academy (IP Academy), which is scheduled for July 19-20, 2018 in Sturgeon Bay, WI.

The IP Academy provides intellectual property lawyers with cutting edge analyses of today's hottest IP issues. [Read more...](#)



Daniel A. Huntley

[Daniel A. Huntley](#) continues his work to help local dreams become a reality by serving as a member of Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity's legal counsel, handling many of its land transactions. Over the years, he has volunteered both his time and expertise, most recently with home closings that took place on April 13 in Rockford. [Read more...](#)



**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

Several WilliamsMcCarthy LLP lawyers have been appointed or re-appointed to various leadership roles within the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) section councils. The ISBA is the premier bar association in the state, with the section councils being responsible for enhancing the professional capabilities of Illinois lawyers. Section councils also are responsible for reviewing proposed legislation that may affect their members' practice areas. [Read more...](#)

WilliamsMcCarthy LLP in the Community



We are pleased to continue our long-time partnership with Anderson Japanese Gardens by supporting its 2018 season of *Tuesday Evening in the Gardens*. This season includes 14 unique evenings filled with live music, good food and great company. It is our honor to help share the beauty and joy that comes from spending time on the grounds of the gardens. [Read more...](#)



We are proud to continue our partnership with Wesley Willows for its *Box Office Benefit*. On July 8, guests will be entertained with the live performance of *Shrek! The Musical*. This event supports the Good Samaritan Fund, which provides charity care for Wesley Willow residents who outlive their financial resources. [Read more...](#)

The Rockford Symphony Orchestra 2018/2019 season is just around the corner! We hope you will join us in supporting one of the region's leading



cultural organizations. [Read more...](#)



This month we supported the Discovery Center Museum's new fundraising event, *A Marvel-ous Magical Evening*. Proceeds benefited the museum's exhibits and educational programs for children across the region, in addition to helping provide free field trips, memberships, and visits for children in need. [Read more...](#)

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