

Sam A. Limentato

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Professor/Litigation Attorney/Former Circuit Judge

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(217) 621-1244 • Champaign, Illinois

Qualifications Summary

- Over 30 years of litigation and proven leadership experience, as a professor, judge, candidate, and attorney, specializing in effective administration, litigation, and client advisory services with proven record in high-stakes legal negotiations and courtroom litigation, coupled with strategic legal planning expertise to mitigate risks, with that experience now conveyed effectively to the next generations of attorneys.
- Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from ABA-accredited law school with active law licenses and member in good standing of bar in multiple states (Illinois and Florida) with successful history of overseeing and adjudicating complex cases, ensuring adherence to legal standards, and optimizing case outcomes.

Career Experience

University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, IL

August 2023 – Present

Full-Time Professor

Lecturer in Law

Associate Director, Kimball R. and Karen Gatsis Anderson Center for Advocacy and Professionalism

Former Adjunct Professor

Facilitate dynamic Trial Advocacy Workshops at prestigious law school, imparting expertise in case presentation, direct and cross-examination, and effective communication with jury. Design comprehensive curriculum that encompasses practical elements of trial proceedings, from opening to closing arguments. Mentor students in the art of persuasive legal argumentation and strategic use of exhibits in courtroom and guide aspiring lawyers in mastering procedural aspects and motion practice.

- Developed and introduced new course offerings, reflecting advanced instructional capabilities and curriculum design.
- Teaching Complex Litigation, Basic Trial Advocacy, Advanced Commercial Litigation Advocacy, Mediation, and Depositions.
- Guest lecturer and speaker for multiple decades in various undergraduate and graduate classes and organizations.

Meyer Capel, P.C., Champaign, IL

February 2023 – Present

Attorney | Senior Counsel & Mediator | Former Shareholder

Lead attorney in managing complex litigation, including class actions and bad faith claims. Provide legal counsel to clients and collaborate with outside counsel, focusing on litigation, dispute resolution, and client advisory. Lead successful negotiations and managed complex claims, ensuring favorable outcomes for clients. Develop litigation budgets and provided trial reports to business units and law department management. Function as mediator for diverse civil disputes, with focus on family law and financial issues, bringing forth expedient and equitable resolutions. Manage discovery processes, including responding to interrogatories, document requests, and defending depositions of corporate representatives.

- Formulated litigation strategies for high-profile cases, resulting in favorable outcomes and reduced legal risks for clients through client collaboration to analyze legal problems, interpret laws and regulations, and provide sound legal advice.
- Successfully handled transactions and litigation cases with over \$5 - \$10 million in potential value or exposure, demonstrating exceptional legal acumen and strategic negotiation skills.
- Managed and resolved high-stakes civil litigation and family law disputes, contributing to significant increase in client revenue and pending case closures through expert legal guidance.

Sixth Judicial Circuit State of Illinois, Champaign County – Champaign, IL
Circuit Judge

August 2020 – December 2022

Presided over high-volume family law docket, ensuring fair and impartial administration of justice for all without fear or favor. Managed court proceedings with efficiency, maintaining high standards of integrity and legal ability. Applied financial expertise and CPA qualifications to oversee fiscal aspects of case management. Collaborated effectively with judicial peers, contributing to harmonious and productive court environment. Developed and enforced administrative protocols to streamline operations.

- Oversaw and adjudicated wide range of cases, including family law, criminal matters, and juvenile issues, contributing to efficient operation of judicial system and deliver fair and just outcomes.

- Developed administrative protocols and led stakeholder meetings, enhancing case management efficiency and reducing processing times by 20%.
- Received near-perfect Illinois State Bar Association ratings across eight categories, reflecting exceptional judicial performance achieving exemplary appellate court record with minimal challenges.
- Assessed more search and arrest warrants than nearly all other judges in the county combined.

Limentato Law, P.C. – Champaign, IL
Trial Attorney | Founder

July 2019 – July 2020

Managed and grew successful legal practice, overseeing operations and leading team while advocating for clients in personal injury litigation across over thirty counties. Collaborated with insurance companies and provided legal counsel to clients. Negotiated and resolved complex cases for both plaintiffs and defendants, ensuring fair representation and upholding legal standards. Handled transactional matters including real estate for individuals and corporations, applying keen understanding of legal and financial principles. Maintained meticulous records and managed financial aspects of practice with precision. Provided expert legal advice on range of issues, including personal injury, property damage, and insurance disputes.

- Expertly navigated real estate transactions and managed claims in collaboration with insurers, providing comprehensive legal services to individual and corporate clients.
- Demonstrated leadership and legal acumen by managing team of 12 legal professionals and supporting staff while operating successful practice.

Additional Experience

Torricelli & Limentato, P.C. – Champaign, Illinois
Trial Attorney | Managing Partner

Launched and developed successful legal practice, leading team of five attorneys and support staff in dynamic litigation environment. Maintained financial oversight of firm, combining legal acumen with financial expertise to ensure operational excellence. Balanced responsibilities between managing firm, court appearances, and case preparations to deliver effective legal solutions. Successfully litigated numerous personal injury cases to verdict, showcasing expertise in trial advocacy and legal strategy.

- Appointed as Administrative Law Judge to adjudicate Nursing Home CNA Disciplinary Matters for Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Acted as primary outside counsel for two leading national insurance companies, evidencing trust and reliability in legal representation.

Further experience as Associate Attorney at Hinshaw & Culbertson (Champaign, IL) and Craig & Craig (Mattoon, IL).

Education

Juris Doctor in Law
University of Illinois College of Law | Champaign, IL

Licenses & Certifications

Licensed Attorney | State Bar of Illinois and State Bar of Florida
Certified Mediator | Champaign County Circuit Court
Successfully Completed the Certified Public Accountant Exam | Illinois Board of Examiners

Affiliations

Committee Member – Bench and Bar Section Council Current Chair | Illinois State Bar Association | Present
Member | Illinois Judges Association | Present
Member | Champaign County Bar Association | Present
Member | Florida State Bar Association | Present