

## **Hollie Renee Birkholz, Esq.**

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### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

#### **Aurora City Attorney's Office - Civil Division, Aurora, Colorado**

*Deputy City Attorney – Litigation*, November, 2024 - Present

*Client Services Manager - Litigation*, May 2023 - November, 2024

- Directs and supervises of a team of attorneys and paralegals, both internal and outside counsel, handling tort and civil rights lawsuits brought against the City and its employees.
- Advise city council members on recommended case resolutions during Executive Session, providing analysis of relevant facts and law and responding to inquiries regarding the same.
- Vet proposed strategy on cases, motions and pleadings.
- Supervise case preparation and progress; give direction on legal analysis and writing.
- Optimize processes and procedures for efficiency; select and implement software programs for the team.
- Conduct training and weekly conversations on DEI topics on a weekly basis.
- CLE Presenter at the 2024 International Municipal Lawyers Association Seminar on Municipal Law on *the Color of Law Requirement in § 1983 Litigation*
- Oversee the selection of new talent, including review of credentials and conducting interviews for open positions within the office.
- Serve as lead counsel on tort and civil rights lawsuits brought against the City and its employees.
- Advise city council members during Executive Session, providing analysis of cases and responding to inquiries regarding the same.
- Provide advice to Risk Department on risk assessment, legitimacy of claims, and the legal provisions governing immunity to suit.

#### **Civil Litigation Section, Denver City Attorney's Office, Denver, Colorado**

*Senior Assistant City Attorney*, January 2015-May, 2023

- Served as lead counsel on tort and civil rights lawsuits brought against the City and its employees.
- Tried a three-week protest case filed against Denver in federal court which alleged violations of protestors' First and Fourth Amendment rights; first-chaired multiple jury trials stemming from auto accidents; handled a bench-tried declaratory judgment action resolving the City's obligations to defend and indemnify a former employee; and represented the City in several evidentiary hearings resolving issues of governmental immunity.
- Advised city council members on recommended settlements during Executive Session, providing analysis of relevant facts and law and responding to inquiries regarding the same.
- Resolved cases prior to trial where possible utilizing effective negotiation techniques independently and through mediation.
- Provided advice to claims adjusters on risk assessment, legitimacy of claims, and the legal provisions governing immunity to suit.

- Mentored and provided guidance to new colleagues, entry-level colleagues, fellows, and paralegals utilizing institutional knowledge; served as intern coordinator; supervised work product of colleagues on my assigned cases, providing feedback as needed to ensure appropriate case management.
- Conducted interviews for open positions, including for attorneys, paralegals, and claims adjusters.
- Prepared litigation budgets by estimating litigation costs based on prior similar cases, determining the number of depositions the case may require, expert fees, and other expected costs.
- CLE Presenter at the 2022 CML Annual Seminar on Municipal Law -- *Defense of Law Enforcement During Challenging Times*; conduct training segments at Denver's safety agency training academies; present on matters of interest to the City Attorney's Office, including Governmental Immunity, Medicare Secondary Payer Act, Medicaid, and HIPAA; provided training on incident documentation to mitigate litigation risks for city agencies.
- Drafted training bulletins for law enforcement agencies providing an analysis of new legislation and recent court decisions, discussing anticipated impacts and best practices in response.

**Bell and Pollock, PC, Denver, Colorado**

*Trial Attorney, January 2013-January 2015*

- Litigation practice representing plaintiffs in personal injury, premise and product liability cases.
- Successfully tried an auto accident trial in Denver District Court.
- Conducted mediations, negotiations, and settlement conferences to resolve cases prior to litigation when appropriate.
- Coordinated expert review and obtained expert opinions, when necessary.
- Thoroughly prepared clients for deposition and testimony.

**Early Career in Insurance Defense Litigation, St. Louis Metropolitan Area, Missouri/Illinois**

*Associate Attorney, September 2003-November 2012*

- Firms and tasks available upon request.

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**EDUCATION**

**University of Missouri School of Law, Columbia, Missouri**

Juris Doctor, Top Third of Class

**Missouri Valley College, Marshall, Missouri**

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice & Sociology; Biology Minor, Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

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**COURT ADMISSIONS**

State Courts of Colorado, U.S. District Court of the District of Colorado, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals

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