

Karolina M. Powalka

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Education:

Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, Michigan
Juris Doctor, May 2015

Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies, August 2012
GPA: 3.69/4.00 (Dean's List: Fall 2011 & Winter 2012)

Clinical Experience:

Wayne State University Law School, Business and Community Law Clinic, Detroit, Michigan
Guest speaker, Mock Client, and Mentor, January 2020-Present

- Initiated collaboration between Bodman PLC and clinic to establish mentorship program to provide students with access to additional resources and feedback from Bodman attorneys
- Invited as guest speaker at Mock Community Legal Workshops in Winter 2020, Winter 2021, and Fall 2021 to provide students with substantive feedback regarding presentation materials and content, as well as guidance on how to present complex legal matters in accessible terms to non-lawyers
- Served as Mock Client in Mock Interviews/Counseling sessions in Winter 2020, Winter 2021 and Fall 2021
- Guided students in preparation of client correspondence and deliverables in Winter 2020 and Winter 2021 to ensure the materials comply with applicable law and present legal issues clearly and succinctly
- Mentored students regarding life post-graduation and potential job opportunities

Wayne State University Law School, Business and Community Law Clinic, Detroit, Michigan
Student Attorney, January 2015 – May 2015

- Advised a New York corporation interested in expanding into Michigan. Conducted legal research and provide possible solutions for potential security and tax violations
- Drafted article explaining the Michigan MILE Act to small business owners and equity crowdfunding
- Represented a small business on formation issues, including corporate, tax, trademark and employment law

Wayne State University Law School's Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer, Detroit, Michigan
Student Attorney, August 2013 – December 2013

- Provided legal representation and counseling for low-income cancer patients at Karmanos Cancer Center involving issues related to: estate planning, applications for disability benefits and tax payment problems
- Collaborated with Karmanos Cancer Center social workers to identify and address the legal needs of clients
- Completed client intakes for potential clients
- Received the Warrior Pro Bono Certification for completing over 50 hours of pro bono service during the semester

Legal Experience:

Bodman PLC, Troy, Michigan

Staff Attorney, July 2018-Present

- Drafted and negotiated contracts across a broad spectrum of business relationships, including in the areas of: information technology, business process and technology outsourcing, cannabis, data privacy, banking, professional and consulting services, marketing engagements and sponsorships, transportation and logistics, equipment sales and leasing, real estate, treasury management and other vendor agreements procuring software, services and goods.
- Advised companies of all sizes, including start-ups and emerging companies on general business, intellectual property, data privacy and related issues in order to manage and mitigate risks
- Assisted clients with the development of corporate procurement and general contract negotiation process, which includes the development of contract playbooks, subject matter expert designation, template updates and approval process
- Regularly represented client on a pro bono basis in matters involving: general business issues, contract negotiation, immigration applications and criminal expungements
- Member of the firm's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee which focused on addressing issues related to diversity to improve firm culture

Ray M. Toma, P.C., Auburn Hills, Michigan

Associate Attorney, February 2016 – February 2018

- Collaborated closely with managing partner representing clients in matters involving both transactional work and civil litigation in the areas of real estate, business and construction
- Negotiated and drafted contracts including leases, purchase agreements, distributor agreements and operating agreements
- Drafted documents for all phases of civil litigation, including complaints, case evaluation summaries, motions, responses, discovery requests, discovery answers and settlement agreements
- Conducted legal research and analyzed legal issues in the areas of real estate, contracts, landlord-tenant and property law
- Took and defended depositions of key witnesses
- Attended and argued at motion hearings, eviction hearings and settlement conferences
- Communicated regularly with firm clients regarding the status of and current strategy of their matters

Denenberg Tuffley, PLLC, Southfield, Michigan

Law Clerk, May 2014 – July 2015

- Drafted pleadings including motions for summary judgment, motions in limine, complaints, jury instructions and verdict forms
- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda involving issues related to contract, tax, insurance subrogation, landlord-tenant, tort, and property law both in the United States and in countries around the world
- Collaborated with attorneys to discuss relevant law and litigation strategies
- Reviewed and summarized documents, such as depositions for use by attorneys at trial
- Maintained and updated firm's database of each state's common insurance subrogation issues

Wayne State Law School, Detroit, Michigan

Legal Research Assistant for Associate Dean Lance Gable, May 2013-December 2014

- Researched law review articles, state and federal statutes and case law related to public health law for use in scholarly articles and a public health textbook
- Researched Institute of Medicine and other U.S. scarce resource management plans to assist in the creation of a similar plan in the State of Michigan

Law Offices of Potter, DeAgostino, O'Dea and Patterson, Auburn Hills, Michigan

Law Clerk, February 2013 – March 2014

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda in connection with civil cases involving issues related to civil rights, cannabis, contracts, employment law, personal injury and criminal law
- Assisted attorneys during the discovery and trial phases of civil litigation by compiling documents and summarizing depositions, medical records and other records
- Organized and maintained client files

Professional Service:

FAR Therapeutic Arts and Recreation, Birmingham, Michigan

Chairman of Board of Directors, June 2019-Present

- Oversaw all Board and general organizational activities, including:
 - Organized and led annual new Board member orientation, annual Board retreat and monthly board meetings
 - Worked closely with organization's President in deciding critical day to day issues that arise
 - Regularly communicated with committee and workgroup chairs to ensure that each committee and workgroup actively worked toward goals set at the annual Board retreat
 - Worked with Policy and Procedure workgroup to ensure that the organization is in compliance with the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act
 - Communicated with advisory board regarding ad hoc needs and issues
- Led Executive Committee to address ad hoc issues which arose during the course of the fiscal year, including all issues which have arose as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Led Finance Committee which is responsible for developing and overseeing each year's budget
- Led a special committee to develop a 5 year strategic plan for the organization
- Organized events as part of the Young Professionals 4 FAR, which is focused on raising funds for staff expenses and raising awareness regarding FAR in the young professional community

Vice-Chairman of Board of Directors, September 2016 – June 2019

- Supported Chair of the Board of Directors in the oversight of Board committees and workgroups
- Managed the Policy and Procedure workgroup and worked with FAR's Chairman and President to draft policies and procedures for both at the Board of Directors and day-to-day organizational levels
- Assisted with fundraising efforts for FAR's programs

Law Firm Antiracism Alliance, Disability Working Group, Co-Chair (April 2021-Present)

Detroit Economic Club, Member – Young Leader (February 2020-Present)

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Committee of the State Bar of Michigan (September 2017 – May 2019)

Languages:

- Fluent in Polish

Certifications and Awards:

- Wayne State University: Blockchain Fundamentals and Applications (March 2020)
- Received Diversity Champion Award from the Community House in Birmingham, Michigan (Spring 2019)

Speaking Engagements:

- Institute for Supply Management Southeast Michigan: "Blockchain: What is it? How Can I Use It?" (February 2021)
- Ann Arbor Spark: "Contracting Lessons - Issues brought on by COVID-19" (July 2020)
- Institute for Supply Management Southeast Michigan: "Warranties, Indemnity and Limitations of Liability" (May 2019)

Bar Admissions:

Michigan