

## **WILLIAM M. GUSTAVSON**

### **EDUCATION**

University of Cincinnati  
Bachelor of Arts Degree  
1974

Northern Kentucky University  
Salmon P. Chase College of Law  
Juris Doctor Degree  
1978



**William M. Gustavson**  
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### **LICENSING**

State of Ohio  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit  
U.S. Supreme Court

### **LITIGATION PRACTICE**

Mr. Gustavson has been engaged full-time in litigation since 1978, with the exception of his time as Safety Director for the city of Cincinnati as detailed below. The practice is concentrated in the areas of government abuse; wrongful death, including medical malpractice, product liability and personal injury; gun issues and the rights of firearms owners; business litigation; construction disputes; and intentional torts.

### **PROFESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE**

Mr. Gustavson is a 1974 graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a 1978 graduate of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law with a Juris Doctor Degree. He joined the staff of prosecutor's office of the city of Cincinnati in 1978 where he served as a trial attorney. In 1981, he was promoted to the civil division of the Cincinnati solicitor's office where his duties included general civil litigation. In 1984, he was promoted to senior assistant city solicitor. In 1986, he was promoted to chief trial counsel for the City of Cincinnati. As chief trial counsel, his duties included supervision and responsibility for all City civil litigation attorneys, as well as responsibility for monitoring an average of more than 400 active cases seeking recovery of in excess of one billion dollars. Mr. Gustavson's trial practice primarily involved police misconduct

cases, with an emphasis on police shooting cases, government abuse of citizen's rights, injury cases, contract litigation, and construction law and litigation. In 1991, he was promoted to deputy city solicitor, courts division. That position involved the supervision and responsibility for the staff of the city prosecutor's office, as well as the city's civil litigation attorneys. The supervisory role involved a staff of more than 50 persons, including 25 litigation attorneys. In 1992, he was appointed safety director for the city. The safety director administered the Safety Department and was the administrative supervisor of the Cincinnati Police Division and the Cincinnati Fire Division, with direct supervisory responsibility for the Cincinnati Police Chief and the Cincinnati Fire Chief. The Safety Department was the largest city department with more than 2,200 employees and a budget in excess of \$140 million. At the end of 1995, Mr. Gustavson ended his career in public service to devote his time to litigation matters, primarily on behalf of plaintiffs.

As examples of skills, duties, and responsibilities in government service, Mr. Gustavson: Selected the Police Chief and Fire Chief of the city of Cincinnati; Prepared and negotiated collective bargaining agreements with the police and fire unions; Was the administrator of all contract issues in his department with the police union, fire union and AFSCME, including grievances and discipline; Responsible for budget development, presentation, approval, and monitoring; Developed a departmental medical separation and ADA policy that was adopted as the city model; Proposed, negotiated and implemented the first alcohol free Riverfest Celebration; Responsible for administration and implementation of consent decree hiring and promotions of police and fire personnel; Responsible for development and negotiation of the cable franchise renewal with Warner Cable; Responsible for development and implementation of Cincinnati's Emergency Operation Plan, including developing and implementing city-wide training; and he served as a representative to the Police Technical Advisory Committee as a part of the International City Managers Association's national benchmarking project.

Since leaving government service, Mr. Gustavson has been involved in litigation and union representation. The litigation includes police misconduct, medical malpractice, wrongful death, personal injury, business litigation, city employee promotional and administrative disputes, and intentional torts. Since 2004, Mr. Gustavson has achieved punitive damage jury verdicts in three cases, including a defamation case with a jury verdict in excess of \$1.1 million. The union representation has included contract negotiation, discipline and grievance arbitrations.

Mr. Gustavson has been involved in litigation in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, New York, Florida, Arizona and California.

## **EXAMPLES OF PAST APPOINTMENTS AND VOLUNTEER WORK**

- Member of the Regional Computer Center Control Board
- Member of the Central Warrant ID Board
- Chairman of the Cincinnati Boxing and Wrestling Commission
- Member of the Mayor's Commission on Youth Violence
- Member of the Cincinnati MIS Steering Committee
- Member of the Cincinnati Board of Health Advisory Council for Reshaping Youth Priorities
- Member of the International City Managers Association's Police Technical Advisory Committee for national benchmarking of police services
- Member of the Hamilton County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Member of the Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Graffiti Task Force

## **CURRENT APPOINTMENTS AND VOLUNTEER WORK**

- Volunteer lawyer representing clients in civil litigation for the Legal Aid Society Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Adjunct and part-time faculty at the Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University

## **EXAMPLES OF AWARDS**

1993-The Cincinnati Coalition on Domestic Violence Award for outstanding service and dedication in the area of criminal justice

1993-Human Involvement Project Hipzen Award for promoting youth violence prevention

2002-Bill of Rights Award from the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms for service to the preservation of the Second Amendment right

## **EXPERT WITNESS**

Mr. Gustavson has served as an expert witness in cases involving the value of attorney services in litigation and in issues involved in the dissolution of a law firm.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

1992 Final Report-Ad Hoc Committee on Youth Violence, William M. Gustavson, William Spillers, Cincinnati, Ohio

2006 Guns In The Workplace: A Manual For Private Sector Employers and Employees, Chuck Klein, Edited by William M. Gustavson, Merril Press

## **MISCELLANEOUS AND EXAMPLES OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

1987-Local and national television appearances to discuss pit bulls and the constitutionality of pit bull bans

1989-Panelist discussion with Ohio Supreme Court Justices Andrew Douglas and Herbert Brown concerning public records issues before the Associated Press Society of Ohio

2000, 2001, 2002-Taking and Defending Effective Depositions in Ohio for Lorman Education Services

2001-Contemporary Issues in Healthcare Litigation for the Cincinnati Bar Association

2000, 2001-Construction Contracting for Public Entities in Ohio: Public Bidding for Lorman Education Services

2002-Discovery in Civil Rights Litigation for the Cincinnati Bar Association

2003-Detention, Arrest, Search & Seizure for the Cincinnati Bar Association

On April 22, 2003, the successful handling of the appeal of *Klein v. Leis* in the First District Court of Appeals striking down Ohio's prohibition on the carrying of concealed firearms was chosen by the National Law Journal as the Decision of the Week in the Litigation Week section.

Teaching of pretrial litigation techniques at Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University

Judge, Chase College of Law Center for Excellence in Advocacy Second Annual Closing Argument Competition, 2011

Coach, Chase College of Law National Trial Teams, 2011-2017: 2011, Regional National Trial Competition champion; April 2012, South Texas Mock Trial Challenge finalists and April 2013, octo-finalists

Selected as an Ohio Super Lawyer, 2012-2017

Selected by Best Lawyers in America, Plaintiff's Personal Injury

Selected by Expertise.com as one of the top 18 Litigation law firms in Cincinnati, 2016