PATRICK F. GEARY

Of Counsel

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Practices

Commercial Litigation

Education

University of Notre Dame (B.A., with high honors, 1972). Phi Beta Kappa.

University of Michigan (J.D., with honors, 1975)

Admitted

Illinois State Bar, 1975

Michigan State Bar, 1991

Supreme Court of the United States

Various Federal Courts of Appeal and District Courts

Professional Affiliations

State Bar of Michigan

Fellow, American Bar Foundation, Michigan State Bar Foundation

Grand Rapids Bar Association (President, 2015-2016; Board of Trustees, 2010-2015; Business Court Mediation Advisory Committee)

Member, Circuit Court of Kent County Business Court Advisory Committee

Michigan Defense Trial Counsel

Attorney

Pat has over 45 years of experience as a respected trial attorney representing clients in and out of the courtroom in various business and corporate litigation disputes. He also advises businesses on matters such as risk management and contracts. Pat also represents insurance companies and businesses in the resolution of disputes concerning the existence and scope of insurance coverage.

Among other matters, Pat regularly assists his clients in the following:

- Acting as outside general counsel to businesses.
- Providing affirmative means of protection against liability through contract provisions such as limited warranties, insurance requirements, or indemnification that limit claims or divert them to others.
- Resolving commercial disputes and product liability claims through the litigation process when other forms of dispute resolution do not succeed.
- Managing claims against his clients brought in jurisdictions throughout the country.

Pat has a thorough understanding of the business ramifications that legal issues cause and concentrates on formulating legal solutions that will achieve his clients' business goals. In addition, the depth of his experience in business-related matters allows him to effectively counsel his clients by translating legal issues into common sense terms that apply directly to their businesses.

Following and building upon his longstanding practice in litigation, Pat has begun offering his services to parties as a mediator. This experience has led him to assist clients in diverse areas, including contract disputes, restrictive covenants and non-compete matters,

(President, 2000-2001)

Product Liability Advisory Council

Fellow, Legal Assistance Foundation

Life Member, Grand Rapids Justice Foundation

Qualified to mediate for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan

and product liability in state and federal courts. He also advises businesses and individuals on risk management and insurance coverage issues related to litigation.

Pat served as Chief Executive Officer of Smith Haughey from 2003 to 2009. He is admitted to practice before the United State Supreme Court and various federal courts of appeal and district courts. In addition to the Michigan State Courts, he is qualified to mediate in federal and state courts. In addition, Pat is also qualified to mediate for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan.

Pat is married to Patricia, and they have four children: Sean, Colleen, Brendan, and Ailis.