



## DOUGLAS P. DEHLER

Shareholder

## O'NEIL CANNON HOLLMAN DEJONG & LAING S.C.

Wisconsin's Premier Lawyers & Litigators

### CONTACT

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Doug Dehler is a shareholder with the law firm of O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing S.C., where he is the leader of the firm's Class Action and False Claims Act practice group. Mr. Dehler's legal practice involves complex litigation, including class action litigation and whistleblower (*qui tam*) lawsuits. Mr. Dehler also represents clients in insurance matters, including insurance bad faith litigation.

### PRACTICE GROUP

- Litigation

Mr. Dehler has been selected for inclusion in Wisconsin Super Lawyers each year from 2014 through 2020 in the category of Mass Torts and Class Actions. He has served on the Legal Assistance Committee, a standing committee of the Wisconsin State Bar Association. He also serves as a board member for the Friends of the Remington Center at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

### Doug Assists Clients With

- Class Action Litigation
- False Claims Act Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Health Care Litigation
- Fiduciary Duty Litigation
- Risk Management Counseling
- Insurance Coverage Litigation
- Arbitration
- Appellate Services
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

### Experience/Representative Client Work

- Successfully represented whistleblower in litigation alleging that the False Claims Act protects federal funds distributed to schools and libraries under the federal E-Rate Program, *U.S. ex rel Heath v. Wisconsin Bell, Inc.*, 111 F. Supp. 3d 923 (E.D. Wis. 2015)
- Successfully argued before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in *U.S. ex rel. Heath v. Wisconsin Bell, Inc.*, 760 F.3d 688 (7th Cir. 2014), an appeal involving application of the "public disclosure bar" in *qui tam* cases filed by whistleblowers under the False Claims Act
- Successfully argued before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals in *ProHealth Care, Inc. v. HealthEOS By Multiplan, Inc.*, 2014 WL 440663 (February 5, 2014), a case involving application of the voluntary payment doctrine to a breach of contract claim
- Successfully litigated and obtained jury verdict in favor of client in the District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, *Cousins Submarines, Inc. v. Federal Ins. Co.*, 2013 WL 2898774 (E.D. Wis. June 13, 2013)

- Successfully argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *MBS-Certified Public Accountants, LLC v. Wisconsin Bell, Inc.*, 2012 WI 15, 338 Wis. 2d 647, 809 N.W.2d 859, obtaining a favorable decision that clarified the scope of the voluntary payment doctrine in Wisconsin, particularly with regard to statutory claims
- Successfully argued before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and obtained a favorable appellate decision in an ERISA breach of fiduciary duty case in *Smith v. Medical Benefit Administrators Group*, 639 F.3d 277 (7th Cir. 2011)
- Successfully argued before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and obtained the leading appellate decision interpreting Wisconsin's secret warranty statute in *Cuellar v. Ford Motor Co.*, 2006 WI App 210, 296 Wis. 2d 545, 732 N.W.2d 747

### Class Action Case Experience

- Successfully represented clients in certified class action alleging that health plan administrators breached fiduciary duties by failing to administer health claims in a manner consistent with employee health plan language covering “usual, customary and reasonable” charges for out-of-network services in *George v. CNH Health & Wealth Benefit Plan, et al.*, No 16-CV-1678-JPS
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving allegations that 401k service provider improperly benefited from revenue sharing payments and violated duties owed under ERISA in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut in *Healthcare Strategies, Inc., et al. v. ING Life Insurance & Annuity Co.*, 3:11-cv-00282 (WGY)
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving alleged violations of the Wisconsin Consumer Act in *Setzer vs. Festiva Development Group LLC*, Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Case No. 11-CV-6252
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving allegations that a title insurance company collected certain fees from consumers in violation of Wisconsin law in *Gary Gevaart et al. vs. Knight Barry Title Inc.*, Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Case No. 10-CV-11972
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving alleged violations of COBRA, 29 U.S.C. § 1161, et seq. in *Gagliano v. Medical Staffing Network, Inc.*, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Civil Action No. 06-80642
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving allegations of illegal revenue sharing by 401k plan administrators in *Phones Plus, Inc. v. Hartford Life Insurance Company and Neuberger Berman Management, LLC*, United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, Civil Action No. 3:06-CV-1835 (AVC)
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving allegations that newspaper publisher falsely inflated circulation figures in an effort to boost advertising revenue in *Shorewest Realtors, Inc. v. Journal Sentinel, Inc.*, Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Case No. 05-CV-003716
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving allegations that auto manufacturer violated Wisconsin’s secret warranty law, Wis. Stat. § 218.0172 in *Cuellar and McVicker v. Ford Motor Co.*, Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Case No. 04-CV-009309
- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving allegations that title insurer collected fees from consumers in violation of Wisconsin law in *Tagatz v. Land Title Services, Inc.*, Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Case No. 06-CV-007371

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- Successfully represented clients in certified class action involving allegations that Milwaukee landlord routinely failed to correct building code violations, illegally collected rent at buildings with outstanding code violations, and improperly retained tenant security deposits in *Wineberg v. Brophy*, Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Case No. 06-CV-003064

**Professional Associations & Affiliations**

- Board Member, Friends of the Remington Center at the University of Wisconsin Law School

**Court Admissions**

- Wisconsin Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

**Awards/Distinctions**

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®—Litigation-Insurance in 2018–2022
- Selected for inclusion in Wisconsin Super Lawyers from 2014 to 2020 in the category of Mass Torts and Class Actions, *Law & Politics* and *Milwaukee Magazine*
- Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rating™—AV, reflecting an attorney who has reached the height of professional excellence and is recognized for the highest levels of skill and integrity

**Community Involvement**

- Leadership Board, Galilee Lutheran Church in Pewaukee (2014–2018)
- Board Member and Treasurer, Pewaukee Youth Baseball (2013–2017)

**Education**

- Washington University (B.S.B.A.)
- University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D.)