



THOMAS G. CANNON

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Of Counsel

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Thomas G. Cannon is Of Counsel to the law firm of O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, Dejong & Laing S.C.

Experience/Representative Client Work

Cannon has been recognized as one of Wisconsin's most prominent trial and appellate attorneys for more than four decades. Career highlights include:

- A *Wisconsin Law Journal* article portraying Cannon as a modest “superhero” for his legal work on behalf of Milwaukee’s poor and disabled. (August 30, 2006)
- A *Milwaukee Journal* account of a highly-publicized jury trial describing Cannon as “a bulldog attorney” for his cross-examination of a powerful corporate executive, noting that, “as Cannon sharply interrogated [the witness], the normally articulate business wizard was reduced to stammering.” (December 22, 1994)
- A *Milwaukee Magazine* feature on another of Cannon’s celebrated trials praised his “skilled lawyer’s dispassionate” handling of “the biggest Wisconsin civil case of the decade.” (The five-and-a-half-month trial involved a successful struggle for control of the world’s largest religious foundation. (October 1993)
- A *Milwaukee Sentinel* profile likened Cannon’s courtroom presence to “a low-key lightning bolt.” The article highlighted Cannon’s receipt —just five years out of law school—of his first Lawyer of the Year award. (April 16, 1976)
- In 1998, the Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed Cannon to represent a Circuit Court judge in a case concerning the legal authority of judges to impose sanctions on attorneys. *Anderson v. Circuit Court*, 219 Wis.2d 1, 578 N.W.2d 633. (1998)
- In 1997, a panel of senior judges selected Cannon to represent the state’s 250 Circuit Court judges in a Wisconsin Supreme Court case defining the constitutional power of trial judges. *Barland v. Eau Claire County*, 216 Wis.2d 559, 575 N.W.2d 691. (1998)
- The Chief Judge of Milwaukee County appointed Cannon to represent all Milwaukee judges in complex litigation involving under-funding of the judicial branch of government. “Lawyer says courts can order funds” in *Milwaukee Sentinel*. (February 4, 1991)
- Cannon served as a professor of constitutional law and legal ethics at Marquette University Law School. (1981–1985)
- Cannon has held the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*’s highest peer-reviewed rating for legal ability and ethical behavior since 1980.

Awards/Distinctions

- Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Heffernan described a brief written by Cannon as “the best brief I’ve ever read.” *Remarks to Milwaukee Bar Association Annual Dinner*. (1991)
- Chief Judge Patrick Sheedy characterized the same Cannon brief as “an absolutely superb job.” (*Milwaukee Sentinel*, February 4, 1991)

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- Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund. (2011)
- Leader in the Law Award by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. (2010)
- Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rating™—AV Preeminent, reflecting an attorney who has reached the height of professional excellence and is recognized for the highest levels of skill and integrity.
- Selected for inclusion in Wisconsin Super Lawyers. (2007)
- Outstanding Lawyers of America. (2003)
- Leading Wisconsin Lawyer. (2000)
- Lawyer of the Year by the Milwaukee Bar Association. (1991)
- One of *Milwaukee Magazine's* Top Lawyers. (1990)
- *Milwaukee Magazine* named Cannon one of the city's "most interesting people." (January 1989)

THOMAS G. CANNON

PAGE 2

Articles/Presentations

- Author of "Equal Justice: A History of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee" (Marquette University Press, 2010), 440 pages
- Quoted as a legal authority in such publications as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post*, and *National Law Journal*
- Board of Editors, *American Journal of Comparative Law* (1982–1985)
- Contributing Editor, *Preview of U.S. Supreme Court Cases* (American Bar Association, 1983–1985)
- Presenter at numerous Judicial Education and Legal Education seminars

Community Involvement

- In 1999, the Milwaukee County Sheriff cited Cannon "for heroic action" in saving the lives of ten passengers when he grabbed the wheel of an out-of-control bus as it careened off the freeway and crashed through a traffic sign at 60 m.p.h. One passenger told reporters, "That was a pretty brave thing to do." Local news anchor Kathy Mykleby said of Cannon's actions: "Wow! That was a phenomenal thing that he did. He is a hero." (WISN-TV, April 8, 1999)
- President, Wisconsin Coalition Against the Death Penalty (2004–present)
- President, Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee (2004–2005)
- President, Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin (2000–2002)
- President, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee (1995–2003)
- President, Milwaukee Montessori School (1982–1983)
- Pro Bono Publico Award from the Posner Foundation for his legal work with the homeless (1991)
- Member, City of Milwaukee Ethics Board (1979–1980)
- Cannon served as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam in 1968–1969. His decorations include the Combat Action Ribbon for "satisfactory performance under enemy fire" and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Ribbon for "valorous combat achievement."

Education

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