



Partner

Sharon F. Iskra

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“Ms. Iskra quite simply moved a very difficult case over several years and achieved an excellent result for her client at a jury trial. She achieved complete success...She fought valiantly for several years and then prevailed, despite rigorous opposition from two respected law firms.”

From the opinion written by Chief Judge Haden of the Southern District of West Virginia in *Lack v. Walmart Inc.*

Sharon Iskra is a partner and leads the firm's Institutional Abuse and Neglect team. Sharon lives a unified mission: personally and professionally, she *helps*. A nationally recognized advocate and voice for the vulnerable, she litigates cases for children, individuals with special needs, and others who have been abused, neglected, or exploited in institutions such as group homes, rehabilitation centers, universities, hotels, foster care facilities, and other settings. Sharon is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) representing children in abuse and neglect cases, and she makes frequent presentations on the subject. She applies equal dedication to the employment matters, product liability claims, and other serious injury and wrongful death cases she handles. Most recently, Sharon won a historic multi-million-dollar verdict on behalf of two disabled and non-verbal minors who were seriously abused by staff at a care facility.

Sharon’s natural talent in the courtroom is recognized by judges and colleagues. Chief Judge Haden of the Southern District of West Virginia said of her, “Ms. Iskra quite simply moved a very difficult case over several years and achieved an excellent result for her client at a jury trial. She achieved complete success...She fought valiantly for several years and then prevailed, despite rigorous opposition from two respected law firms.” *Lack v. Walmart Inc.*, 56 F.Supp.2d 674, 678-79 (S.D.W. Va. 1999).

Sharon connects deeply first with her clients and then with her juries. Both relatable and relentless, she pursues the higher goal of bettering society as she brings closure to each client's case. This tenacity has served clients well when battling large companies such as Walmart Inc., Pittston Coal, Champion Traps and Targets (Federal Cartridge Company), Hooters, Health Insurance Innovations, and nationally known universities.

Sharon's personal passion to serve is also unique: in 2004, she paused her successful legal career for nine years to direct children's and urban ministries at a local church. In addition to her caseload and CASA work, Sharon continues her volunteerism with afterschool programs for inner-city children and has served on missions to orphanages in Haiti and Africa in 2014, 2016, and 2019. She plans to continue her lifestyle of personal and professional missions effecting positive change at home and abroad for many years to come.

Webinar: Not In My House: Keeping Children and Teens Safe From Online Predators

Navigating Foster Care Misconduct

Clerkships

Law Clerk, Hon. Mary E. Stanley, US District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia (2004 - 2006)

Practice Areas

Appellate and Supreme Court Practice

Automotive

Catastrophic Personal Injury

Institutional Abuse & Neglect

Labor & Employment

Medical Malpractice

Product Liability

Sexual Abuse & Harassment

Education

J.D., Wake Forest University School of Law, 1994, Best Trial Advocate Award, Moot Court

B.A., Baylor University, 1991

Admissions

West Virginia

US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

US District Court, Northern District of West Virginia

US District Court, Southern District of West Virginia

Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

Representative Matters

- *L.K. and D.S. v. Potomac Center, Inc.* (West Virginia): Lead counsel securing \$3.5 million verdict for two mentally disabled youths abused and neglected at a residential group home; this case was complicated by the fact that neither child could speak to describe their experience. This is the largest verdict on record in Hardy County, West Virginia
- *Doe v. Yeshiva University et al.*, (New York): Lead counsel representing an adult abused by clergy under the New York Child Victims Act and state human rights laws
- *R.S. and K.S. v. Kanawha County Board of Education et al.*, representing parents on behalf of nonverbal child abused by teacher in special needs classroom
- *Willis v. Walmart Inc.*, (West Virginia): Lead counsel pioneering the first case of same-gender sexual harassment under the West Virginia Human Rights Act, winning the then-novel cause of action for client both at trial and on argument to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals
- *Mey v. Travel Options, Inc.* (West Virginia): Lead counsel attaining one of the largest individual judgments under the West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act (WVCCPA), in excess of \$460,000
- Consulting counsel for WVUBelieveThem, an advocacy and assistance group for sexual violence victims at West Virginia University

News & Insights

West Virginia Jury Awards \$17 Million in Medical Malpractice Verdict, Holding Doctor Accountable for Reckless Shortcuts
03.26.2022

Bailey Glasser Announces Partner Elevations for 2022
01.05.2022

Not In My House: Keeping Children and Teens Safe From Online Predators
03.25.2021

Is Your Child Safe on A School-Issued Computer?
01.15.2021

Antibiotic Overuse in Children
01.08.2021

East Carolina University Agrees to Reinstate Women's Swimming, Diving & Tennis; Develop Gender Equity Plan; and Comply with Title IX
01.07.2021

William & Mary University Agrees to Reinstate Women's Gymnastics, Swimming and Volleyball; Comply Fully with Title IX in Two Years to Avoid Suit
10.19.2020

Bailey Glasser Welcomes Star Summer Associates
05.18.2020

Bouncing Back From COVID-19: Rights and Accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act
05.14.2020

Community and Professional Activities

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Western Regional CASA
PRO-Kids, Inc. (Afterschool Program, 50 At-Risk Elementary Children)

- Board of Directors, 2008-2020
- Fundraising Chairman, 2012-2015
- Led weekly faith lessons, 2008-2020

Director of Children's and Urban Ministries, Charleston Baptist Temple, 2006-2016

Mission Work in Haiti and Africa, 2014, 2016, 2019

American Association of Justice

- Litigation groups: Anti-Human Trafficking, Child Sex Abuse, Sexual Assault

West Virginia Child Advocate Network - Handle With Care WV

West Virginia Women Attorneys

Active in River Ridge Church and Christ Church United Methodist Communities