

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM NINETY-FIFTH

GOOD LUCK TO
ALL OUR
CLIENTS
RUNNING IN
TOMORROW'S
PRIMARY
ELECTION!



BE SURE TO
STREAM NBC
NEWS ON
ELECTION
NIGHT,
FEBRUARY 28,
BURT
ODELSON'S
EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
WITH ANCHOR'S
MARY ANN
AHERN &
MARION
BROOKS



Pictured are original bleacher seats from Wrigley Field on the patio outside Burt's office which overlooks 95th St.

WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER!

Odelson, Sterk, Murphey, Frazier, & McGrath, Ltd. is proud to introduce our inaugural quarterly newsletter, *News and Views from Ninety-Fifth*. With each newsletter we will highlight notable cases, introduce you to our employees, update you on any recent changes in legislature, and announce any upcoming events. We plan to publish *News and Views from Ninety-Fifth* quarterly, so look out for our next issue in March!

ODELSON • STERK • MURPHEY
FRAZIER • MCGRATH, LTD.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

Felicia Frazier - 12/14 - 21 years
Sean McGrath - 12/11 - 2 years

JANUARY

Burt Odelson - 1/1 - 50 years
Mark Sterk - 1/1 - 43 years
Natalie Pripusich - 1/3 - 1 year
Mike Hayes - 1/17 - 16 years
Jayman Avery - 1/21 - 4 years

FEBRUARY

Ann Lang - 2/1 - 11 years
Mike Stillman - 2/1 - 11 years
Amy Zale - 2/7 - 23 years
Ann Norris - 2/8 - 7 years
Mike Smith - 2/16 - 7 years

COMMUNITY CORNER

It's a girl!! Congratulations to the Odelson family on the birth of Eloise Sue Odelson born Friday, February 17th! Eloise Sue is the 9th grandchild of Founding Partner, Burt Odelson, & his wife Patti.



This quarter, our firm proudly partnered with State Rep. Fran Hurley and Ronald McDonald House Charities for a Donation Drive benefitting families of pediatric patients at Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn.



CASE DISMISSED

4600 Roosevelt, LLC v. Cook County
2021-L006547

Cook County appointed OSMFM, Ltd. attorneys, [Jayman Avery](#) and [Priscilla Centeno](#) as special state's attorneys to defend the case in Circuit Court. Attorneys Avery and Centeno filed a motion to dismiss based on Plaintiff failing to tender the property to Cook County which meant that a contract had not existed in the first place. Judge Mary Colleen Roberts granted the Motion to Dismiss.

THE FACTS: Plaintiff brought suit against Cook County for allegedly breaching a \$4 million lease contract. Cook County sought to lease property from Plaintiff for a new medical center. Throughout negotiations, Cook County sought landlord improvements for the property, which Cook County would help fund. Plaintiff never fully completed the improvements agreed to, nor tendered possession to the property, thus Cook County was left having to find another place for its medical center. Plaintiff then sued claiming Cook County was in breach of contract.

MOTION GRANTED

Paul Berge and Timothy Kreissler v. City of Kankakee et al.
2020-CV-2310

OSMFM, Ltd. attorneys, [Mike McGrath](#) and [Amy Zale](#) received a fantastic Order and Decision from Judge Collin Bruce in this suit brought by two plaintiffs alleging race discrimination. Judge Bruce accepted all our facts and legal reasonings and ruled in favor of our summary judgment.

THE FACTS: Plaintiffs brought suit against the City, the Police and Fire Commission, former Police Chief, Former Mayor, former Deputy Police Chief, and Nickey F. Yates alleging race discrimination in violation of their rights under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Specifically, one plaintiff alleged he was not promoted past the rank of lieutenant because he was white. The other plaintiff alleged he was terminated because he was white. Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment because Plaintiffs failed to produce evidence showing they were discriminated against in the promotional process or that the City had a custom practice of discriminating against white people.

ELECTION CASE WINS!

Alfano v. Cordova, et al. 2023MR000053

The circuit court upheld the electoral board's decision to keep our candidate on the upcoming election ballot in the Village of Villa Park, finding the candidate's nomination papers contained the minimum number of valid signatures. Attorney [Ross Secler](#) represented the candidate before both the electoral board and circuit court.

King v. Municipal Officers Electoral Board for the Village of Dolton, et al., 2023COEL000002

[Attorney Secler](#) also represented the Dolton Municipal Officers Electoral Board, which had its decision affirmed in. In *King*, the court found that the Electoral Board properly made factual findings and conducted a comprehensive hearing when it determined the candidate did not meet the residency requirements to seek elected office.

OSMFM, Ltd. Partner **John Murphey** received the Super Lawyer recognition which is given to the top 5% of attorneys in IL. Attorneys **Ross Secler** and **Sean McGrath** were recognized as Rising Stars, a recognition that is only given to the top 2.5% of attorneys in IL who are under 40 or have been in practice for less than 10 years. All three of these attorneys are well deserving of this recognition and we thank them for their continued dedication to our firm and our clients.



ELECTION NEWS: MAKING HISTORY!

Our firm was honored to help make history during the 2023 municipal election cycle in the City of Chicago and State of Illinois. For the first time ever, a candidate's name will appear on the ballot with a Chinese character that represents his last name, along with his name spelled in Latin lettering. The Candidate, Don Don 曾, is seeking election to the office of Alderperson in Chicago's new 11th Ward. This is a monumental moment in the history of the State of Illinois that shows how important even small gestures may be in promoting inclusivity and valuing different cultures and backgrounds.



A Message from our Founding Partner

Good luck, Fran! We are so sorry to say goodbye to **Fran Hurley**. Our favorite State Representative was just appointed to the Illinois Labor Relations Board by the Governor. The firm's loss is the State's gain! Always a spot for you, Fran. Come back when you're done. All the best!

Stop bad-mouthing township government!

In his latest Op-Ed, published in the Chicago Sun-Times, OSMFM, Ltd. attorney Ross Secler discusses the many programs and services township governments provide to their residents.

[Click here to read the full-article.](#)

MEET OUR STAFF

Q: What motivates you to come to work each day?

Felicia: Knowing that I will likely learn something new. No two days are the same.

Janice: I am always open to learning new things, performing at my level best and hearing about the next firm outing.

Q: Where is the one place you traveled to, that you would recommend to others?

Felicia: Arizona - I've traveled to several spots outside of the country and there is nothing quite like the red rock landscape in its natural beauty!

Janice: Disney World - I am a kid at heart.

Q: Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

Felicia: I LOVE horror movies! Even the cheesy ones.

Janice: I will never be a skier because I wiped out on the Bunny Hill.

Q: Who inspires you and why?

Felicia: My children are my inspiration. They make me want to be a better person and mother that they can be proud of.

Janice: My husband because he has a passion for helping the young people who are struggling with just trying to live.

Q: If you could have a career doing something other than what you are doing, what would it be?

Felicia: Veterinarian. I LOVE animals!

Janice: I would run a full-service beauty salon and spa for women of modest means.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Felicia: Traveling to my mountain home in Arizona for the winters!

Janice: Still co-running our non-profit performing arts campus for underprivileged youth.



ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT
Felicia Frazier, Managing Partner



STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Janice Hill, Senior Paralegal



IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Q: Who is a person in Black history that influenced or shaped your career/life or that particularly resonates with you?

Felicia: Daisy Bates - who I didn't learn about in school but from my mother. She was an unconventional heroine of the civil rights movement who led the charge to desegregate an all-white high school in Little Rock Arkansas. In 1957, she helped nine African American students become the first to attend the all-white high school and they became known as the Little Rock Nine. Her mother was sexually assaulted and murdered by three white men, her father left her and she was raised by friends. Nonetheless she went on to become not only an activist but also a publisher, journalist and president of the Arkansas chapter of the NAACP. She is a true example of how you are not your circumstances.

Janice: It's not just one person, but all of the people who saw things different and answered their calling to change the world with their curiosity and/or tenacity.