



# 40<sup>under</sup>

F O R T Y 2011





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**B**eth A. Bauer, 36, is a partner at HeplerBroom LLC where she specializes in defending complex, multi-party civil cases and class actions, including all aspects of consumer fraud, personal injury, pharmaceutical and other product liability, and construction. At HeplerBroom, Bauer has served as the lead associate for thousands of pharmaceutical product liability cases pending in Illinois and Missouri state and federal courts. In addition to briefing numerous and complex arguments throughout those cases, she has managed and directed a team of associates to propound and answer discovery necessary for trial.

“Her ability to think clearly with superb analytical skills at all times is truly impressive. Even during times of extreme crisis in ‘bet-the-company’ cases, Ms. Bauer has used these skills to benefit her clients at both trial and appellate levels. Ms. Bauer’s level of clear thought and analytical abilities are seldom found in a young lawyer,” says the nominating attorney, who has been practicing law for more than 25 years and has followed Bauer’s work in Madison County, Illinois for more than 10 years. The attorney enjoys watching the progress of talented young lawyers like Bauer.

The nominating attorney pointed to one particular case involving the shipping of crude oil on a pipeline from the Gulf of Mexico to Patoka, Illinois. The case required review of hundreds of thousands of documents and contained difficult issues involving crude oil pipeline accounting. As the attorney recalls, Bauer learned the intricacies of crude oil delivery to the Midwest via pipeline, accounting principles, accounting methods for crude oil, and other complicated facts. She was co-lead counsel in preparing the case and worked extensively with key fact witnesses and consultants. “At trial, Ms. Bauer presented the defense’s key witness to the court, handled numerous complicated evidentiary issues, and briefed and argued the motions for directed verdict at the close of plaintiffs’ case and at the close of all evidence. The court ruled for HeplerBroom’s client on all counts and has affirmed that ruling by denying the plaintiffs’ motion to alter or amend the judgment.” The case is now before the Seventh Circuit. Lead trial attorney in the case, Larry E. Hepler, stated that “Ms. Bauer’s work in the pipeline case was not just good, it was extraordinary on all levels.” He further stated that “simply put Ms. Bauer is one of the finest young lawyers that I have had the privilege to work with in my long career.”

That case is one of many in which Bauer has made a real impact during her career. She also represents clients in major class action litigations, including one where the complaint alleged her client violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Adopting Bauer’s legal argument -- a novel theory under Missouri law -- the court struck the class allegations from the complaint.

Early in her career, Bauer briefed and argued a case in the Illinois Appellate Court for the Fifth District. The case regarded whether a local municipality acted arbitrarily in discharging a law enforcement officer for possessing a false government identification card and having sexual relations in a public place outside of the municipality he served; Bauer won the appeal in favor of the municipality. Since publication of the court’s opinion, for which Bauer petitioned, *Duncan v. City of Highland Bd. of Police and Fire Com’rs*, 338 Ill. App. 3d 731 (Ill. App. Ct. 5th Dist. 2003), has been cited numerous times throughout Illinois courts in opinions and memoranda. Bauer has since briefed and argued several cases before the Illinois Appellate Court for the Fifth District. Additionally, Bauer has drafted original actions filed in the Illinois Supreme Court and briefs for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh and Eighth Circuits.

Bauer attended Washington University in St. Louis for her undergraduate degree, majoring in English Literature and Secondary Education. She received her J.D. from St. Louis University School of Law and graduated cum laude. In law school, she was a member and Notes and Comments Editor for the *St. Louis University Public Law Review* and was a student editor of *Fidelity and Surety News*. She was also president of the Christian Legal Society and a member of the Law School Leadership Council. Bauer is a member of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IDC), Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association, the Madison County Bar Association, the State Bars of Missouri and Illinois, and the Christian Legal Society. She also is assistant editor and “Supreme Court Watch” columnist for *IDC Quarterly*. She recently participated with a team from her firm to author the Illinois chapter for the forthcoming *Defense Research Institute (DRI) Class Action Compendium*, which will cover topics regarding class action law in each state. She has been a volunteer oral argument judge at St. Louis University School of Law, has been a guest speaker for a high school law course, and has helped several Boy Scouts achieve a law merit badge.