

Michelle M. Kohut



*“The civility
and collegiality
Michelle
consistently
exercises are
unfortunately
unique traits
that are not
exercised by all
members of
the bar.”*

Age: 32

Specialty: Personal Injury

Law School: Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Corboy & Demetrio, P.C.

33 North Dearborn, Suite 2100 * Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 346-3191 * mmk@corboydemetrio.com

Though she's only 32, Michelle Kohut has already tried eight cases to verdict and obtained more than \$22 million in settlements alone.

To say that Kohut, a personal-injury specialist at Chicago's Corboy & Demetrio, is a rising star, then, would seem to be an understatement.

Her early trial success has certainly caught the attention of her peers.

“Michelle's courtroom demeanor and litigation skills are something to be admired,” said Steven Jambois, with the Chicago law firm of Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz. “She clearly has the talents to succeed as a trial attorney.”

Kohut has already earned a host of significant results for her clients. In one memorable case, Kohut represented a 17-year-old who had her leg amputated after a collision with a tanker truck. Her peers say that Kohut took the case to heart, putting herself in the place of a high-school junior whose life had been completely changed. Kohut's obvious passion for her client's plight, along with her hard work during the trial, resulted in a \$10 million settlement shortly before the case reached trial.

That case represents just one of Kohut's victories. In *McClain v. Various Defendants* Kohut earned a \$10 million settlement for her client. In *Yelizarova v. Schlossberg*, she gained a \$5 million settlement for her client.

Kohut's fellow attorneys point to her work ethic, legal skill, knowledge and courtroom demeanor as reasons for her already glittering record.

“Michelle has what it takes to be a great trial lawyer,” said William Maddux, presiding judge with the Circuit Court of Cook County. “She is both likable and intelligent. The civility

and collegiality Michelle consistently exercises are unfortunately unique traits that are not exercised by all members of the bar. She treats those she encounters with respect, dignity and fairness. Clerks, sheriffs, judges, attorneys are all treated to a level of respect that contributes to the legal system and our profession as lawyers. The approach is constant, and seems to hold true whether she is winning or losing, advocating or criticizing.”

Of course, being a successful lawyer is more than just obtaining positive verdicts and settlements. Kohut also argues motions that many attorneys would not expend their energy on. She is often successful at this, convincing judges to view cases in new ways and always to the benefit of her clients.

Kohut is also a believer in the power of community service. She organized and spoke at an ABA seminar encouraging law students to consider judicial internships. She has spent her Saturdays and free time judging ATLA moot court, and currently serves as co-chairman of the Civil Litigation Committee of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois where she has also been named to the Board of Directors. She is an investigator for the Chicago Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee, where she is able to use her experience as a former judicial clerk and a current practitioner to help evaluate judicial candidates.

“During the entire time that I have known her, Michelle has been utterly committed to seeing the practice of law not simply as her profession, but as an integral part of American society,” said Kathy Byrne, with the Chicago law offices of Cooney & Conway. “Her devotion to her clients is matched only by her efforts through several bar associations to ensure that justice is attainable for all.”