

## James L. Komie

### SHAREHOLDER

A litigator and counselor, James Komie specializes in securities law and in commercial and employment matters. During his nearly 20 years at Schuyler, Roche & Crisham, Jim has built a solid reputation for his careful and sophisticated handling of litigation and counseling matters.

Jim is a Chicago native whose family has lived in the area for more than a century. He is a third-generation attorney—his father and cousin are well-known members of the Chicago Bar.

Jim's practice began at a midsize firm in Washington, D.C. In 1991 Jim returned to Chicago to join Schuyler, Roche & Crisham as an associate, attracted by our national reputation for securities and commodities litigation.

Jim is a frequent author and speaker on employment and restrictive covenant/trade secret matters, as well as legal issues in the securities industry. He is a Contributing Legal Editor of the *Securities Litigation Commentator*, a widely read industry publication.



### CONTACT INFO

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### PRACTICE AREAS

Securities and Commodities Litigation  
Commercial and Employment Litigation



## AREAS OF PRACTICE

In addition to representing securities firms and brokers, Jim serves a wide variety of business entities, large and small, regarding employment-related issues. His representation includes, but is not limited to:

- appearing in federal and state court on a wide variety of litigation matters, including at bench and jury trials
- appearing before arbitration panels of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (or FINRA) in cases regarding recruiting, employment and sales practices
- meeting with state agencies on employment discrimination matters
- advising corporations about various employment matters, particularly restrictive covenant agreements and other steps necessary to protect proprietary business information
- helping to draft employment agreements, including restrictive covenant provisions.

## EXPERIENCE

Schuyler, Roche & Crisham, P.C.  
Chicago, Illinois

*President*

2007 to Present

*Member*

Board of Directors  
2007 to Present

*Shareholder*

1999 to Present

*Partner*

1997 to 1999

*Associate*

1991 to 1997

Ginsburg, Feldman & Bress  
Washington, D.C.

*Associate*

1987 to 1991

Mayer, Brown & Platt  
Chicago, Illinois

*Summer Associate*

1985

## EDUCATION AND DISTINCTIONS

J.D., Cum Laude, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1987.

B.A., High Distinction and High Honors,  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan,  
1984.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

For many years, Jim has worked closely with the law department of a major securities brokerage firm, helping to plan and implement its nationwide strategy regarding restrictive covenant and trade secret litigation. In addition to counseling this brokerage firm, he has appeared in court and in arbitration representing its interests in numerous matters involving brokers. Jim also has:

- successfully defended employers in a variety of employment discrimination cases involving discrimination against age, sex and mental handicap
- successfully defended a startup company in an arbitration brought by its former vice president of sales, defeating his claims for unpaid compensation and obtaining an order nullifying his stock rights—later successfully opposing the former employee’s attempt to vacate the arbitration award in federal court
- obtained summary judgment on behalf of a corporate trustee, defeating the trust beneficiary’s attempt to dissolve the trust and gain access to the trust’s assets—a victory later affirmed by the Illinois appellate court
- successfully defended an individual trustee at a bench trial lasting several weeks in the Circuit Court of Cook County against an accounting claim brought by one of the trust’s beneficiaries
- probated the will of a doctor who had disappeared and was presumed dead and successfully defended the subsequent will contest brought by the doctor’s brother in the Circuit Court of Cook County
- obtained a highly satisfactory settlement in a court-appointed case in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for a prisoner who had been sexually assaulted by his cellmate.

Jim—who has helped maintain our loyal clientele through his substantial experience in serving securities brokerage firms and various other businesses—welcomes your call.

## PEER RECOGNITION

Illinois Super Lawyers, *Law & Politics*, since 2005.

Leading Lawyers Network, *Law Bulletin Publishing Company*, 2006.

Martindale-Hubbell, “peer review rated for ethical standards and legal ability,” since 2005.

## LECTURES

“Recruiting in the Financial Services Industry - Legal Perspectives from Opposite Sides of Counsel’s Table,” Chicago Bar Association, October 2010

“Keeping It Under Lock and Key: Restrictive Covenants, Trade Secrets and Employee Duty of Loyalty,” the Plaza Club, 2006.

“Protecting What’s Yours: Restrictive Covenants, Trade Secrets and Employee Duty of Loyalty,” Lorman Education Services, 2006.

“Restrictive Covenants: Law and Practice,” presented at the 32nd Annual Institute on Employment Law, Practising Law Institute, 2003.

“Examining Recent Raising Claims in Arbitration and the Ramifications of the Outcomes,” fourth annual conference Raising on Wall Street, Institute for International Research, 2001.

“Business Tort Update,” Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, 2001.

“Discrimination from A to Z,” Illinois Chamber of Commerce, 1995.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Co-author, "The Protocol After Five Years." Practising Law Institute's August 2009 coursebook for its annual Securities Arbitration program.

Co-author, "Porzig v Dresdner, Kleinwort, Benson North America LLC - Has a "Perfect Storm" Caused a Sea Change in Judicial Review of Arbitration Awards?" (*Bloomberg Law Reports*, Vol. 1, No. 47, November 2007)

Co-author, "Vacating an Award Based on Arbitrator Misclassification: What Are the Pitfalls and Hurdles?" (*Bloomberg Law Reports*, Volume 2, Number 6, July 2006).

"Defending Your Business from Ex-Employees: An Employer's Guide" (Schuyler, Roche & Crisham Views, Volume 1, Issue 1, Summer 2006).

*Securities Litigation Commentator*, Contributing Legal Editor, 2005-Present

**BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

Illinois, 1987

District of Columbia, 1989

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; General Bar, 1991; Trial Bar, 1997

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

Chicago Bar Association (Financial and Investment Services Committee)

Illinois State Bar Association

American Bar Association

**CIVIC AFFILIATIONS**

Park District of Northbrook, youth soccer and basketball coach, 2000 to 2005.