



Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic

Partner in Charge of Milwaukee Office

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Tomislav Kuzmanovic is a trial lawyer with more than 25 years of trial experience both domestically and internationally. He has tried cases to verdict in state and federal courts in Wisconsin and handled appellate matters in the 7th, 9th, and 11th Circuit Courts of Appeal.

Tom handles a wide variety of business and commercial litigation and has extensive experience in class action and appellate matters. Cases he has handled have involved: complex business litigation, transportation, toxic torts, health, life, and long-term disability, long-term care, construction, hospitality, security, product and premises liability, employment/noncompete litigation, international and human rights law, and foreign/domestic investigations.

Tom joined Hinshaw in 1988. He is partner in charge of the Milwaukee Office and a former member of the firm's Executive Committee.

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
- Civil Trial Counsel of Wisconsin
- Conference of Freight Counsel
- Croatian American Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ADC-ICC)
 - Association of Defence Counsel
 - Executive Board, Vice President, 2009 – 2010
 - Disciplinary Board, 2014 – 2015
- Litigation Counsel of America
- Milwaukee Bar Association
 - Bench/Bar Civil Committee, 2005 – 2015
- State Bar of Wisconsin
 - International Practice Section, Board of Directors

Practices

- Commercial Litigation
- Labor & Employment
- White Collar Defense & Internal Investigations
- Regulatory Investigations and Compliance Counseling
- Consumer and Class Action Defense
- Life, Health, Disability & ERISA Litigation
- Complex Tort & General Casualty

Industries

- Transportation

Education

J.D., University of Wisconsin Law School, 1988

- Senior Managing Editor, *Wisconsin International Law Journal*

B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1985

- *The Daily Cardinal*, Reporter

Admissions

Wisconsin

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

U.S. District Court for the Districts of Eastern and Western Wisconsin



Honors & Awards

- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, 2022 – 2024; Transportation Law, 2023 – 2024
- Recognized on the Super Lawyers list by *Wisconsin Super Lawyers* magazine, 2005 – 2012, 2014 – 2023
- Croatian American Bar Association's (CABA) 2012 Vinodol Code Award, 2013
- Profiled in "A Small Part to Play," an article in *Super Lawyers* magazine describing his litigation practice and his human rights work on behalf of independent Croatia, 2006
- Awarded the Order of the Croatian "Pleter" by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, 1996
- Recognized by the City Council of the Croatian City of Slavonski Brod for his contributions to its defense, 1992
- Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Community, 1991
- Holds the AV® Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, its highest rating for ethics and legal ability
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow

Representative Matters

In May 2012, Tom argued the appeal of General Mladen Marka before the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, Netherlands. Gen. Marka was the Assistant Minister of Interior and Commander of Special Police (equivalent to Special Forces) in Croatia in 1995 who was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment by the ICTY's Trial Chamber for allegedly committing crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war from August to September 1995. Tom began his representation of Gen. Marka in 2007. The trial began in March 2008 and was completed in August 2010. Gen. Marka was acquitted on all charges when the Appeals verdict was rendered in November 2012.

Other representative examples of Tom's trial experience include:

- *Harvey v. Western Diversified*, Milwaukee County, Judge Michael Skwierawski. Insurance bad faith and toxic tort.
- *Pettit v. Vassos*, Kenosha County, Judge Michael Fisher. Professional liability/architect.
- *Pilkington-Theesfeld v. Bornstein*, Walworth County, Judge John Race. Premises liability/equine.
- *Prosecutor v. Delalic*, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Command responsibility.
- *Weimer v. Dynaweld*, Jefferson County, Judge William Hue. Product liability/trailer.
- *Zahrn v. Cleary*, Federal District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, Judge Robert Warren, Judge Charles Clevert. Breach of contract and fraud case.
- *H. K. Mallak, Inc. v. Fairfield FMC Corp.*, Federal District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, Judge Lynn Adelman. Premises liability/security.
- *Heritage v. Intermatic, Inc.*, Federal District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, Judge William Griesbach. Product liability/timer.
- *Schulz v. Grunau Project Development, Inc.*, Milwaukee County, Judge Daniel Noonan. Construction defect.
- *Jenkins v. American United Taxicab*, Milwaukee County, Judge David Hansher. Commercial vehicle.
- *Wells-Valentine v. Active Foam Products, Inc.*, Milwaukee County, Judge Jeffrey Kremers. Commercial vehicle.

Tom's appellate experience includes:

- *Briggs v. Farmers Ins. Exchange*, 2000 WI, 234 Wis. 2d 178.
- *H. K. Mallak, Inc. v. Fairfield FMC Corp.*, 209 F.3d 960 (7th Cir. 2000).
- *Malinowski v. DeLuca*, 177 F.3d 623 (7th Cir. 1999).
- *Carney v. White*, 843 F. Supp. 462 (E.D. Wis. 1994), *aff'd* 60 F.3d 1273 (7th Cir. 1995).



Presentations

Tom has appeared on "International Focus," a weekly television broadcast sponsored by the Institute of World Affairs at the University Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He an active speaker to professional and community groups around the country. His presentations include:

- "The Decisive Battle of the Croatian War of Independence: A Primer on the ICTY Appeals Judgment That Proved Operation Storm was a Lawful Military Operation," Crodiaspora Webinar, August 4, 2020
- "War Stories from a War Crimes Trial," Society of Trial Lawyers, Chicago, Illinois, September 2014
- "Foreign Corrupt Practices Act—What You Need to Know," presenter and co-panelist, 2013 Wisconsin Real Estate and Business Law Institute, Madison, Wisconsin, June 2013
- "The Role of International Criminal Courts and Tribunals; How Do We Measure Success?," Panelist, ABA Section of International Law, Paris, November 2010
- "Present and Future Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina," 39th National American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2007
- "National Leadership Conference of Bosnian and Croatian Americans," moderator, Chicago, Illinois, March 2006
- "Contract Law for Contractors," Project Manager / Project Executive Peer Group Meeting, Gilbane Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 2005

Community/Civic Activities

- Village of Greendale, Fire and Police Commission, 2012 – Present
- Croatian American Association, Board Member and Vice President, 1994 – 2002
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, National W Club