



INDUSTRIAL, PROCESS & POWER PIPING – INSTRUMENTATION – BOILER MAINTENANCE & REPAIR
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KAREN P. LAYNG

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Education

- University of Illinois College of Law, J.D., 1987
- University of Illinois, B.A., 1984
- University of Bourgogne, Dijon, 1982

Karen P. Layng, Chief Strategic Officer and General Counsel of Scheck Industries, a full-service national industrial piping and mechanical construction contractor. As CSO, Karen is focused on strategic growth of the companies, enterprise risk management, financial reporting, insurance and bonding, treasury, lender and borrower relations, and project development opportunities. In her role as the GC, she advises the Scheck companies on governance standards, regulatory compliance, and serves as the corporate Secretary to the Boards of all the operating companies. She is a recognized thought leader on business initiatives and corporate restructuring.

Before joining Scheck Industries in 2013, Karen was a shareholder and senior management Board member and team leader at Vedder Price, responsible for chairing the Firm's Compensation Committee and the Litigation Practice Area, as well as forming, and then building, the Firm's Construction Law Group to a national leading practice, recognized by Chambers and Legal 500.

Karen has almost three decades of service as a trusted member of, and advisor to, executive teams and boards of directors and significant experience in manufacturing,

construction and distribution on the contract drafting and deal due diligence transactional side, as well as litigating complex matters in state and federal courts. She has an exceptional record of dispute resolution, both as an advocate and serving as a neutral for the AAA, and in private party arbitrations and mediations.

Her construction experience includes successfully representing major in complex litigation and business matters and she has arbitrated or mediated over 50 cases ranging in the \$100s of millions of dollars in disputes. As early as 1999, Karen was recognized by the National Association of Women Business Owners as a Corporate Woman of Achievement. She is a member of the Leading Lawyers Network Advisory Board. She served on the 2012 Illinois Super Lawyers Blue Ribbon Panel for selection of the Super Lawyers. She has been selected by her peers as a Leading Lawyer in the areas of construction law and commercial litigation from 2004 to 2014. She was included on the Leading Lawyers Network's "Top Ten Real Estate-



Related Lawyers" list in 2012, the "Top 50 Real Estate-Related Women Lawyers" list from 2009 to 2013 and the "Top 100 Women Business Lawyers" list from 2008 to 2010. She was also featured in the Real Estate, Construction & Environmental Edition of *Leading Lawyers Magazine* in 2010, as well as the Women's Edition in 2009.

While in private practice, Karen was ranked in in *Chambers USA* in the Illinois Construction category and has been recommended in the *Legal 500 United States*. She has received the "AV Preeminent" peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell, which also selected her for inclusion in its 2012 *Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers*. Karen has been named an Illinois Super Lawyer from 2009 to 2013 and was included on the list of the "Top 50 Women Illinois Super Lawyers" in 2011 and 2012, and the "Top Women Attorneys in Illinois" in 2013 and featured in the 2009 edition of PLC's *Construction and Projects Handbook* as one of the top 10 lawyers in Chicago. She served as the first woman president of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association in its then-51-year history and as secretary of the organization for four years. In 2012, she was elected as a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Karen serves as President and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts Council of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. She is a past co-president of the Parent Organization at St. Ignatius College Prep and served on its Strategic Property Planning Committee and was a Co-Chair of its Facilities Management search. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Association for six years, during which she served as the Association president and Chair of the Alumni Council. She received the

University's Distinguished Service Award. Additionally, she served on the Village of Riverside Plan Commission for eight years (six as Chair), assisting in the rewrite of the community's historic, award-winning planning and zoning code.

A frequent speaker and writer, she served as a faculty member for all three of the preeminent ABA's 2012, 2013 and 2015 Forum on the Construction Industry Trial Academies.

Bar Admissions

Illinois, 1987

Court Admissions (among others)

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 1987 (Trial Bar, 1991)
- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, 1989

Affiliations

Member of both the Economic and the Executives Clubs of the City of Chicago.

Co-Vice Chair of the American Bar Association Construction Litigation Committee and member of the Construction Forum

Past President, former Secretary and current member of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association

President and Board Chair, Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Girl Scouts Council

7th Circuit Pattern Civil Jury Instructions Committee 4/14 – present.

Recent Speaking Engagements

Panelist: "Ethics in Alternative Dispute Resolution" Construction Super Conference December 7, 2015

Panelist, ABA Section Annual Conference April 16, 2015, "A Litigator's Guide to Arbitration"

Panelist: "Pitfalls of Electronic Communication" Construction Super Conference December 3, 2014

Panelist (with Marathon Petroleum), "Ethical and Other Considerations Relating to Electronic Discovery," ILTA Annual Conference, June 2, 2014

Panelist, "Ethical Lapses and criminality in Construction Procurement and Staffing," Construction Super Conference, December 12, 2013

Panelist, "Negotiating Effectively and Ethically: The "How-To" of Civil Settlements and Criminal Plea Bargains," Seventh Circuit Bar Association & Judicial Conference of the Seventh Circuit, May 6, 2013