

# Melissa N. Turk

## Associate

**Melissa (Missy) N. Turk** is an Associate in the Litigation group in Clark Hill's Chicago office. Missy focuses her practice on estate and trust litigation and administration, contested and routine guardianship matters, breach of fiduciary duty claims and fiduciary defense, and trust and estate related appellate work.

### Guardianship Litigation and Administration:

Missy routinely represents corporate and individual guardians throughout the phases of guardianship litigation and administration for disabled adults and minors. She has experience with the process required to create and amend estate plans for adults with disabilities, and her prior experience as an estate planner provides her with insight on safeguarding against future litigation. Missy both brings and defends sensitive matters involving financial exploitation and asset recovery, including filing and defending against citations to recover assets, claims, and mismanagement of assets. She also litigates cases involving the enforceability of powers of attorney and allegations of agent wrongdoings.

### Trust, Estate, and Fiduciary Litigation, Administration, and Appeals:

Missy also represents fiduciaries in their capacities as trustees, executors, and administrators as well as estate and trust beneficiaries in matters involving wrongful death and survival actions, undue influence, lack of capacity, fraud, duress, and breach of fiduciary duties. She has experience representing individuals in proof of will hearings, will contests, and trust disputes at the trial and appellate level. Missy is skilled at analyzing complex legal issues ripe for appeal and assisting in developing appellate strategy. She is often a primary brief drafter and second-chair in appellate oral arguments.

### Education and Background:

Missy received her law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, earning a certificate in Trial Advocacy. During law school, Missy advocated for victims in the Child Protection, Juvenile Justice, and Felony Trial Divisions of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Missy also worked as a legal fellow within the Illinois Framework for Healthcare and Human Services, reporting directly to the Governor's Office. In this role, she brainstormed draft legislation as part of a multi-agency collaboration effort to coordinate the use of technology and data across Illinois federally-funded healthcare transformation initiatives. At Loyola, she participated in Loyola's Honors Appellate Advocacy Program and served as Vice President of Loyola's Public Interest Law Society. Missy was the recipient of the Judge Thomas Mulroy Award for achieving the highest level of excellence in the field of Evidence and a recipient of the Loyola Leadership, Service, and Public Interest Recognition Award for her commitment to public service. Missy graduated with honors from Loyola University Chicago with a dual B.S. in Psychology and Human Services.

### Community Activities:

Missy is the current Vice-Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Probate Law Practice Committee. She routinely accepts pro bono guardianship cases from Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. Missy is a passionate and dedicated child welfare advocate and serves youth in foster care as Associate Board Vice President for Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization she has been involved in for nearly a decade. She is frequently a guest lecturer for Professor William X. Elward in the areas of Evidence and Advanced Evidence. She is also a certified Pure Barre instructor.

## Practices, Industries & Services

Litigation

## Areas of Emphasis

Guardianship & Conservatorship Administration  
Guardianship & Conservatorship Litigation  
Trust, Estate & Fiduciary Litigation



## Office

Chicago

130 E. Randolph St.  
Suite 3900  
Chicago, IL 60601

(312) 985-5549 (phone)  
(312) 517-7586 (fax)  
mturk@clarkhill.com

## Education

B.S., Loyola University-Chicago,  
Chicago, Illinois, Psychology and  
Human Services

J.D., Loyola University Chicago  
School of Law, Chicago, Illinois,  
Certificate in Trial Advocacy

## State Bar Licenses

Illinois

## Memberships

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- Chicago Bar Association, Probate Law Practice Committee, Vice Chair
  - Court Appointed Special Advocates, Associate Board Vice President