

Elizabeth A. Houlding

Partner

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Practices

Employment Law and
Litigation

Premises Liability and Tort
Defense

Bar Admissions

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

United States Court of Appeals
for the First Circuit

United States District Court for
the District of Massachusetts

United States Supreme Court

Education

Northeastern University School
of Law, J.D., 2000

Columbia University, Ph.D.,
1991; M.A., 1987

Queen's University (Canada),
B.A., *with honors*, 1983

Overview

Elizabeth is a versatile and skilled trial attorney who has focused on civil litigation at Peabody & Arnold since law school. She represents businesses and employers of all sizes in state and federal courts and administrative agencies in Massachusetts. Her experience includes significant first chair trial experience in several areas of the law, including the successful defense of employment discrimination and premises liability trials. Always practical and engaged, Elizabeth works as a team with her clients — giving straightforward advice in clear language — to reach successful outcomes from pre-suit advice through every stage of litigation. Her clients rely on her judgment and acumen to assist them throughout the litigation process, while opposing counsel appreciate her professionalism. In addition to her trial work, Elizabeth has appellate experience in both state and federal courts.

Affiliations

- Boston Bar Association
- Massachusetts Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Lecturer, Boston University School of Law (2002)
- Firm Captain, Greater Boston Legal Services' Associates Drive (2005-2007)
- Co-Chair, Professional Liability Committee, Litigation Section, Boston Bar Association (2008-2010)
- Ethics Committee Member, Boston Bar Association (2015-2019)
- Hearing Committee Member, Board of Bar Overseers (2014-2019)
- Ethics Committee, Co-Chair, Boston Bar Association (2019-2021)

Articles & Seminars

- Panelist, Ethics Presentation, Practicing with Professionalism Course, Boston Bar Association (Various Dates).
- Co-Author, “Using Joint Defense Privilege Agreements in Parallel Civil and Criminal Proceedings,” *Defense Counsel Journal* (October 2001).
- Co-Author, “Recent Developments Affecting the Liability of Professionals, Officers, and Directors,” 38 *Tort, Trial & Ins. L.J.* 585 (2003).

Representative Cases

- *Leary v. Archstone North Point, LLC*, Middlesex Super. Ct. Civ. A. No. 2011-02495 (January 2016) (obtained defense verdict on negligent security claim in 7-day jury trial).
- *Dumeus v. Newton-Wellesley Hospital*, Middlesex Super. Ct. Civ. A. No. 2012-4633 (June 2015) (obtained defense verdict on national origin discrimination, hostile work environment, retaliation claims in 8-day jury trial). This verdict was upheld on appeal. *Dumeus v. Newton-Wellesley Hospital*, 92 Mass. App. Ct. 1103 (2017) (Rule 1:28 Disposition).
- *Nystedt v. Nigro*, 700 F.3d 25 (1st Cir. 2012)(affirming dismissal of claims against court-appointed discovery master on qualified immunity grounds).
- *O'Donnell v. Boggs*, 611 F.3d 50 (1st Cir. 2010)(affirming summary judgment for employer on grounds that state law tortious interference claim completely preempted by Labor Management Relations Act).
- *One to One Interactive, LLC v. Landrith*, 76 Mass. App. Ct. 142 (2010)(reversing multi-million-dollar jury verdict against two individual company founders/clients on tortious interference claim, and remanding for new trial).
- *Pansé v. Massachusetts, et al.*, 129 S. Ct. 912 (2009), 2009 WL 56231 (Mem.) (Jan. 12, 2009)(denial by U.S. Supreme Court of plaintiff's petition for writ of certiorari where First Circuit had affirmed dismissal of all of plaintiff's claims against multiple defendants for alleged civil rights violations, including ex-wife's divorce attorneys).
- *Rodi v. Southern New England School of Law*, 532 F.3d 11 (1st Cir. 2008)(affirming summary judgment for law school on claims by graduate of fraudulent misrepresentation regarding accreditation).

Awards

- Martindale Hubbell AV (preeminent) Rating
- “Rising Star,” *Super Lawyers* (2005-2008)



Interests

Before practicing law, Elizabeth was a competitive figure skater in Canada, a professional ice show skater in Europe, and a college professor of French language and literature with an interest in women writers and the Occupation of France during the Second World War. She is fluent in French and still loves to travel.