

STEPHANIE ZIMDAHL

Member

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PRIMARY PRACTICE

Commercial and Business Litigation

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Administrative Law
Appellate Advocacy
Business Executive Defense
Business Owner Disputes
Business Torts
Civil Investigations
Contract and Partnership Disputes
Corporate Investigations
Criminal Defense
Criminal Investigations
Employee Member Wrongdoing
Employment Litigation
Fraud, Waste and Abuse Claims
Government Investigations
Human Resources Investigations
Malpractice and Professional Liability Defense

Companies and executives turn to **Stephanie Zimdahl** when the stakes are high and the path forward is not clear. She represents clients facing government investigations, regulatory scrutiny, and complex disputes, particularly where legal, operational, and reputational risks are all in play.

Stephanie is a seasoned trial attorney with extensive jury trial experience who brings unparalleled confidence and success in a courtroom, focusing her practice on white collar defense, internal investigations, and high-stakes litigation. She works with clients at critical inflection points, often before a matter becomes public or formalized, helping them assess exposure, respond strategically, and move forward with confidence. When matters escalate, her experience as a seasoned trial attorney with extensive jury trial work strengthens both strategy and outcomes. She guides organizations through government inquiries, leads internal investigations, and defends claims involving employment, professional liability, and complex business disputes.

What sets Stephanie apart is her ability to anticipate how enforcement decisions are made. She spent nearly 17 years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois and the Western District of Kentucky, including eight years as Deputy Criminal Chief of the Economic, Cyber, and

Municipal Liability

Product Liability Litigation

Professional Liability Defense

Public Sector Liability

Regulatory & Licensing Issues

U.S. Department of Labor Investigations

ADMISSIONS

Kentucky, 2026

Illinois, 2005

U.S. District Court Northern District of Illinois, 2005

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals

CLERKSHIPS

The Honorable Frank Easterbrook, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, August 2005 - August 2006

EDUCATION

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, J.D., 2005

- Honors: summa cum laude; Northwestern Law Review, Senior Articles Editor

Publications:

- *The Supreme Court and Foreign Sources of Law: Two Hundred Years of Practice & the Juvenile Death Penalty Decision*, 47 Wm. & Mary L. Rev. 743 (with Steven Calabresi)
- *Comment: A Celebrity Balancing Act: An Analysis of Celebrity Trademark Protection Under the Lanham Act and the First Amendment Artistic Expression Defense*, 99 Nw.

Healthcare Fraud Section, where she led complex investigations involving financial crimes, healthcare fraud, and cyber-related offenses.

That experience shapes how she advises clients today. Stephanie understands how matters are evaluated behind the scenes, what drives enforcement decisions, and where risk can escalate. She uses that insight to help clients make informed decisions early, control outcomes where possible, and position matters for efficient resolution.

Clients rely on Stephanie for:

- Government and internal investigations
- White collar and criminal defense
- Healthcare fraud and regulatory enforcement
- Employment-related investigations and disputes
- Professional liability and malpractice defense
- Complex business and commercial litigation

She is known for bringing clarity and focus to high-pressure situations, helping clients navigate uncertainty with a steady, strategic approach.

Kentucky Leader

Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky, 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, Louisville, KY, Board Member (January 2018 -January 2025)

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Frankfort, KY, Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund, Advisory Board Member, (March 2022 - present)

U.L. Rev. 1817

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, B.S. 2002

- Major: Information & Decision Sciences
- Honors: summa cum laude, Christ College Interdisciplinary Honors College Scholar

News

IN THE MEDIA - McBrayer Member Stephanie Zimdahl chosen as one of Louisville Business First's "20 People to Know in Law" for 2026
October 14, 2026

McBrayer Member Stephanie Zimdahl Joins Leadership Louisville Class of 2027
August 25, 2026

Litigator and Former Federal Prosecutor Stephanie Zimdahl Joins McBrayer as Member
April 16, 2026

Seminars & Speaking Engagements

McBrayer Team Attends "Business Women First" Event
May 12, 2026