

UP AND COMING LAWYERS

MICHELLE D. JOHNSON



LAW SCHOOL

University of Wisconsin, 2003

EMPLOYMENT

Simpson & Deardorff SC

■ Who is your favorite Supreme Court justice of all time?

Sandra Day O'Connor

■ What is your favorite U.S. Supreme Court opinion?

Schenck v. United States,
249 US 47 (1919)

■ If you hadn't become a lawyer, what would you have done?

I might have been a political lobbyist

■ What do you consider to be the most overrated virtue?

Patience

■ What is your favorite thing to do in Wisconsin?

Sailing on Lake Michigan

■ What is the first CD you bought with your own money?

R.E.M. "Out of Time"

■ Who are your favorite writers?

James Patterson, Kate White, Dr. Seuss

■ What word in the English language do you wish you had invented?

Grace

■ What is your favorite quote?

"If your life is free of failures, you're not taking enough risks." — unknown

Doing insurance defense work, Michelle Johnson observes, "People think that you work for a big, bad insurance company."

But Johnson notes that the insureds are frequently people who believe they have done nothing wrong, but are sued only because they have lots of insurance.

In Johnson's last trial, the defendant was a 17-year-old girl sued after she was rear-ended in a three-car collision. The plaintiff sought more than a million dollars, but the jury found her client zero percent at fault.

Johnson has worked for the firm since graduating in 2003, and last year, was named a partner.

In addition to extensive trial work, Johnson has also written the briefs in several cases before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, including *Sukala v. Heritage Mut. Ins. Co.*, 2005 WI 83, in which the court upheld the validity of a reducing clause in an automobile insurance policy.



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