



**James L.
Byrne**
PARTNER

Chicago, IL
P: 312-782-9920
F: 312-782-9965
jlbyrne@kopkalaw.com



Practice Areas

- Arbitration
- Automobile Accident Defense
- Commercial Lines (Premises Liability)
- Fire and Explosion Litigation
- Mediation
- Personal Lines (Premises Liability)
- Transportation Defense
- UM/UIM
- Wrongful Death Defense

For more than 35 years, James L. Byrne has built his career around a simple philosophy: the cornerstone of practicing law is helping people.

While much of his work involves collaborating with insurance professionals and developing litigation strategy, he finds the greatest satisfaction comes from working directly with the individuals whose lives have been interrupted by a lawsuit or investigation. Speaking with them, helping them process what can be an upsetting or confusing experience, and offering clarity on the entire legal process, those conversations are just as important as the outcome of the case.

Throughout his career, James has represented clients in complex civil litigation, spending many years as in-house counsel for a respected insurance carrier after serving as General Counsel for the Chicago Fraternal Order of Police. His experience in the courtroom, at the negotiating table, and in advising clients has shaped a practical, thoughtful approach to resolving disputes.

The high quality of practice at the Kopka Law Group offers James an opportunity to continue doing the work he truly enjoys alongside attorneys who energize him, and who value collaboration, professionalism, and lifelong learning. He offers a seasoned

perspective earned through decades of practice while embracing opportunities to learn from those around him, continuing to grow as both an attorney and a person.

Away from the office, James takes great joy in simply being outside. He enjoys sailing, cycling, hiking, and traveling; activities that satisfy his natural curiosity and appreciation for the sense of freedom that the outdoors provides. His very large family is spread throughout the country and the world, and he values maintaining close relationships with friends made as long ago as grade school. He and his wife, Nicola, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and are proud parents of their daughter, Ciara, who is their greatest joy. Their Portuguese Water Dog, Izzy, keeps life entertaining despite having little interest in the water.

Memberships

- Illinois State Bar Association

Admissions

- Illinois

Education

- John Marshall Law School
- St. Mary's University of Minnesota