

Untress Quinn joined Sandberg Phoenix in 2016 and splits his time between the O'Fallon, Edwardsville and St. Louis Offices. He focuses his legal practice on labor and employment, commercial and medical malpractice litigation. He has defended multiple catastrophic and complex litigation cases involving civil rights, labor and employment, product liability and medical malpractice cases which included neurologic, obstetric, neonatal, pediatric, cardio-thoracic and other traumatic injuries.



“Having worked with several Sandberg Phoenix attorneys in the past, I knew the high standard of quality the firm demands of its members,” Untress says.

As a Registered Nurse with experience in direct patient care, Untress understands the complex issues at play in medical malpractice litigation, which helps him better guide his clients through difficult legal issues.

“All of my past experiences, the military, a nurse providing direct care, an administrator and manager, and being a minority in civil litigation, give me a unique perspective that I put to work for my clients to ensure they are properly served and represented,” says Untress.

Outside the office, he enjoys playing golf and spending time mentoring youth, including his own. Untress also plays trumpet for local blues and jazz bands and enjoys writing, exercise training, cycling and photography.

### **Background**

Earning his Juris Doctor from the Saint Louis University School of Law, Untress also received a Health Law Certificate from the school's Health Law program. Prior to his legal career, Untress served as a director of medical-surgical services, as well as a supervisor of interventional radiology and healthcare administrator, totaling more than ten years of experience in the healthcare field. Untress has also served his country as a member of the United States Air Force Reserves for 13 years, where he achieved the rank of First Lieutenant and was awarded the Meritorious Service Award. He was an honor graduate at the 3790th Medical Service Squadron for Medical Service Specialists at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in 1990.

Untress is a current member of the St. Clair County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, The American Bar Association and the National Bar Association.

He currently serves as a member of the Hearing Board for the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois, the Board of St. Clair County Illinois Child Advocacy Center, the Board of Directors for the Illinois Center for Autism in Fairview Heights, Illinois, and as a board member for the Student Nurse Achievement Program (S.N.A.P.) at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois. Untress has also

served as a member of the Office of the Inspector General / Illinois Department of Human Services Quality Care Board since 2012.

Because of his outstanding work in the service of his clients, Untress was selected as The National Black Lawyers Top 100 since 2015. He has also received the NAACP's 54th Freedom Fund Awards for excellence in law, and was recognized as a Leading Lawyer in the categories of Employment Law: Management; Medical Malpractice Defense Law; and Personal Injury Defense Law: General. He served as a member of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois' Merit Retention Panel.

Untress is licensed to practice law in the states of Illinois and Missouri.

## Successes

### Representative Experience

Secured defense verdict in a jury trial involving an orthopedic surgeon. Plaintiff claimed the physician failed to diagnose a left ankle infection which resulted in a below the knee amputation. Plaintiff sought approximately a half million dollars in damages. Co-chair. (St. Clair County, Illinois)

Secured defense verdict in a jury trial involving a general surgeon. The plaintiff claimed the surgeon violated the standard of care in the performance of an inguinal hernia surgery. The plaintiff claimed he sustained permanent damage as a result of the surgery. The plaintiff sought over 2 million dollars in damages. Co-chair. (St. Clair County, Illinois)

Secured defense verdict in a three-week jury trial in a case involving a family practice physician. Claims included alleged failure to diagnose and treat infective endocarditis and plaintiff sought more than \$1 million in damages. Co-chair. (St. Clair County, Illinois)

Successfully briefed and argued an appellate case involving questions of subject matter jurisdiction in a dispute that arose under a collective bargaining agreement subject to the Illinois State Labor Relations Board. (5th District Appellate Court of Illinois)

Secured defense verdict in a jury trial in a liability case following an automobile accident where plaintiff sought more than \$100,000 in damages. (St. Clair County, Illinois)

### Presentations

"Ethics - It's Legal, But is it Right?" National Business Institute seminar, "Applying the Rules of Evidence: What Every Attorney Needs to Know," Collinsville, Illinois, June 2013.

"Ethics - It's Legal, But is it Right?" National Business Institute seminar, "Dirty Litigation Tactics: How to Deal with the 'Rambo' Litigator," Fairview Heights, Illinois, May 2012.

"Writing and Maintaining Government Contracts," "A Current Look at Police Liability" and "Election Law Basics," National Business Institute seminar "State and Local Government Law: A Look at Hot Topics and Current Issues," Fairview Heights, Illinois, June 2011.

“The Best Defense is a Good Documentation Offense,” Touchette Regional Hospital, Centerville, Illinois, January 2009.

“Where the Future Begins, Striving to Set and Meet Goals,” Illinois State Senator James F. Clayborne, Jr.'s (D–57th District) Mentor Program, Belleville, Illinois 2007.

“Legal Aspects of Medical Documentation,” Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital, East St. Louis, Illinois, 2004.

Co-Presenter, “Illinois Work Product and Attorney-Client Rules and Practice Recommendations,” Sandberg Phoenix Professional Development Series

### **Publications**

“The Invisible Child: Disparities in the Mental Health Treatment of the African American Male in the Juvenile Justice System,” Children’s Legal Rights Journal, Volume 28, Number 1, Spring 2008.