



**Melissa L. Pagel Ryczek**  
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## EDUCATION

**Western New England School of Law, Springfield, MA**

*Juris Doctor*, May 2002

*Activities:* American Bar Association Law School Division: Member of the Litigation Section; Commencement Committee

**Merrimack College, North Andover, MA**

*Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Cum Laude*, May 1999

*Honors:* Dean's List; Michael Macklin Scholarship; Thomas P. O'Neill Scholarship; Friends of Merrimack Scholarship; President's Cup Scholarship

*Activities:* Women's Varsity Softball Team; College Young Democrats; Volunteer in area mayoral campaigns

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**BRODEUR-MCGAN, P.C., Springfield, MA**

*Attorney*, March 2008 to present

Civil litigation practice with a focus on employment law and discrimination, tort, wrongful death, professional malpractice, municipal liability, insurance, and federal and state civil rights law.

**LAW OFFICES OF STEPHEN W. SUTTON, P.C., Braintree, MA**

*Attorney*, April 2003 – March 2008

Civil litigation practice with a focus on insurance defense. Litigation experience included construction law, personal injury, workers' compensation and products liability representing insurers, general contractors, sub-contractors and large corporations. Researched complex legal issues, drafted motions and legal memoranda, prepared and answered discovery documents, depositions, investigations, advisory and litigation reports, reviewed contracts, subcontracts and insurance documents. Argued motion hearings and participated in mediations and settlement negotiations. Trial experience included preparing jury instructions, motions, opening statements, closing arguments, cross examinations and trial exhibits as well as preparing witnesses (including experts) for testimony. Additional responsibilities included hiring and managing law clerks.

**GREEN, MILES, LIPTON, WHITE & FITZ-GIBBON**, Northampton, MA  
*Law Clerk*, January 2002 – February 2003

Assisted senior partner in researching issues with a focus on employment, discrimination, and civil rights cases. Primary responsibilities included writing legal memorandum in regards to these issues, as well as client contact.

**MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**, Springfield, MA  
*Student Attorney*, August 2001 – December 2001

Participated in Western New England College School of Law Legal Service Clinic for a semester. As a student attorney in the Anti-discrimination clinic I participated in the litigation process of current cases. Duties included: meeting with/interviewing clients, taking/defending depositions, status conferences, negotiating settlements, hearing preparation: opening/closing arguments, direct/cross examinations, and interviewing witnesses.

**TRUMBULL SERVICES COMPANY**, Windsor, CT  
*Bankruptcy Assistant*, June 1999 – March 2003

Assisted in the management and administration of large national bankruptcy cases, including quality assurance and docket acquisitions. In support of a joint venture with Bid4Assets.com, analyzed a variety of nationally recognized bankruptcy cases and have assisted with online bankruptcy claims trading.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**, Boston, MA  
*Intern/Deputy Clerk*, January 1998 – April 1998

Interned in the Civil Clerk's Office, Jury Office, and Records Office. Assisted Senior Judge Arthur Garrity with personal records of Boston School Desegregation Case.

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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

Massachusetts Bar (December 2002)  
U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts (June 2004)  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (April 2004)  
Massachusetts Bar Association, *Member*  
Attended MCLE Trial Advocacy Workshop, July 2007.