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FORTY



Discovering Overseas Litigation

Sandra A. Frantzen

Class of 2014

- Frantzen is an immigrant from the Middle East
- She is a big fan of the show “Survivor”
- She broke her leg while in Germany and spent a week recovering in a German hospital

After 20 years as an attorney in the intellectual property field, Sandra A. Frantzen has expanded her footprint globally.

In the last five years, Frantzen, a shareholder at McAndrews, Held & Malloy Ltd., has handled multiple cases in Europe, specifically Germany.

“So much has become global,” she said. “It used to be that you could sit in your office and file cases in federal court in Illinois.”

Frantzen said one of the biggest differences between courts in the United States and Germany is the amount of discovery.

She said in Germany issues can be decided in a hearing-type setting without witnesses and as quickly as six months’ time. For that reason, Frantzen said some global companies are turning to foreign resolution because you can get a quicker result.

While sometimes expediency is a good thing, Frantzen said she appreciates the U.S. system’s reliance on the importance of digging up facts and having witnesses explain things.

While in court in Germany, Frantzen was given a headset

where she could listen to the proceedings be interpreted to English in real time.

“The interpretation was so good that you could really provide input as an American attorney as things were happening as opposed to being behind,” she said.

In addition to her work in the courtroom Frantzen is finishing up her two-year term as president of the Arab American Bar Association of Illinois.

Since joining the organization when she graduated law school in 1999, she said the group has grown significantly. The organization has become involved in the alliance of bar associations involved in reviewing Cook County judges and expanded their presence in the legal field overall.

“We’ve made a lot of strides in going from a small, niche organization with a few folks to really having a strong presence in the legal community,” she said.

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