

# Alexander E. Blum

Associate, Mantese Honigman PC, Troy  
Wayne State University Law School, 2010

**Alex handles complex commercial litigation, minority oppression cases and appellate litigation. He has represented global, publicly traded companies and public figures, along with small business owners and class-action consumer groups. Alex contributes to a report on Michigan's business courts for the American Bar Association's annual Recent Developments in Business and Corporate Litigation. He served as a civil defense intern at the U.S. Justice Department and represented clients through the Wayne State Free Legal Aid Clinic.**

*What does practicing law mean to you personally and professionally?*

"Towards Versatility" — my practice of the law. The law is ultimately about the unique individuals and the vast assembly of interactions that compose their lives.

I have represented global, publicly traded companies and public figures in Michigan and across the country, as well as small business owners and class-action consumer groups, and while a thorough-going knowledge of the law is essential, a detailed attention to my clients and their personal histories is, invariably, the most vital piece of information in achieving a successful resolution.

In synthesizing the diverse aspects of litigation and life, I can implement the full force of the law in my advancement of my clients' interests. "An advocate should have the precision of a poet and the imagination of a scientist."

Thus, the track record of success that I have obtained has been the result of my ability, formed in the furnaces of my study of Critical Theory, to understand the contradictions inherent in litigation and to use my imaginative understanding of such complexities to outmaneuver my

opponent and maximize my clients' goals.

*Outside of family, who was an important mentor in your life and how did this person impact your career?*

Professor Malynne Sternstein, Slavic Department, University of Chicago. Ms. Sternstein was my advisor for my B.A. thesis, "Damn That Music: Toward a Theory of the Text." She introduced me to critical theory, Jacques Lacan, Slavoj Žižek, and the principle that interpretation is like the ouroboros swallowing its own tail. Those years of deconstructionist study provided me the analytical boldness and confidence to take each client and case on its own terms and to develop an audacious legal strategy that would likely be overlooked by a more traditional approach.

*What was your first job? What did you learn from the experience?*

After graduating from the University of Chicago with a degree in Russian literature and Critical Theory, my first job was as a copy editor for the St. Petersburg Times in St. Petersburg, Russia. I learned that we must often-times travel incredible distances and scan for the smallest details to recognize things as close to us as our own being.



*Name a big blue-sky goal that you would like to accomplish in your career.*

To continue to practice law with as much enthusiasm, artistry and joy as I do today.

*If you could not be a lawyer, what occupation would you choose?*  
Travel essayist.

*Everyone has a "guilty pleasure." What is yours?*  
Japanese (preferably Mitsubishi) pencils and Japanese pencil sharpeners. The smell of a freshly sharpened Japanese cedar pencil is inexpressibly sublime — as if the whole world were at peace.

*How would you describe yourself in one word?*  
Eclectic.