







Besse H. McDonald

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Overview

Besse McDonald is an attorney in our professional liability – health care practice group. Besse’s experience includes defending medical professional clients in all phases of litigation, through trial, in both state and federal court. In addition to litigation defense, Besse provides legal representation to healthcare providers before their respective licensing boards. Before joining the firm, Besse was an associate at Holland & Hart LLP in Denver.

She is a 2015 graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she was the Senior Articles Editor for the Denver University Law Review. She also completed a year-long clinic representing clients seeking civil protection orders and eviction proceedings. As part of this clinic, Besse received the Outstanding Student Lawyer Award for the Civil Litigation Clinic. Prior to going to law school, Besse worked in advertising for six years.

Outside of the office, Besse enjoys running, reading, and spending time with her family.

Education

- ◆ University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., 2015
- ◆ University of Colorado School of Journalism and Mass Communication, B.S., 2006



Experience

Professional Affiliations

- ◆ Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, Board of Directors, Vice-Chair

Services

- ◆ Professional Liability - Health Care

State Bar Admissions

- ◆ Minnesota, 2016
- ◆ Arizona, 2018
- ◆ Colorado, 2016
- ◆ North Dakota, 2018
- ◆ Wyoming, 2016

Federal Court Admissions

- ◆ United States Supreme Court, 2024
- ◆ United States District Court, District of Minnesota, 2017
- ◆ United States District Court, District of Colorado, 2016
- ◆ United States District Court, District of North Dakota, 2019

- ◆ Warren E. Burger Inn of Court member
- ◆ Minnesota Women Lawyers
- ◆ Minnesota State Bar Association
- ◆ Hennepin County Bar Association

Notable

Accolades

- ◆ Selected for inclusion in the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in the area of Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, 2024, 2025
- ◆ Selected for inclusion in the Minnesota Rising Stars list in the area of Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice Defense, Thomson Reuters, (Only 2.5 percent of the Minnesota attorneys are given this honor), 2022-2025

Speaking Engagements and Publications

- ◆ Moderator, [Meet the New Appellate Judiciary \(2021\)](#), Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society CLE presentation (April 28, 2021)
- ◆ Co-author, [Redefining hospital malpractice: Expanded liability for independent contractors](#), *Minnesota Physician* (September 2020)