MEAGHER+GEER®

Besse H. McDonald

Partner

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Minneapolis

Overview

Besse is a health care litigator who defends health care providers and organizations in malpractice cases in both state and federal courts in Minnesota and North Dakota. She also represents clients in proceedings before licensing boards.

Clients turn to Besse for:

- Defense of medical malpractice claims
- Representation in licensing board matters

1. Pre-suit claim assessments and internal investigations

Besse earned her J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she served as Senior Articles Editor for the *Denver University Law Review*.

Prior to law school, she spent six years working in advertising, bringing a unique perspective on client communication and strategy to her legal practice.

Outside the office, Besse enjoys spending time with her family, running around Lake Harriet, and volunteering at her daughters' school. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society and previously held the role of Chair.

Education

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

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

Experience

Professional Affiliations

- Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, Board of Directors, Former Chair
- Minnesota Women Lawyers
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Medical Professional Liability Association

Notable

Accolades

- Selected for inclusion in the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in the area of Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, 2024-2027
- 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), 2022-2026

Speaking Engagements and Publications

- Co-presenter, From Associate to Partner: Navigating the Next Levels in Practice, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Rising Leader Summit (September 3, 2026)
- 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)