



Kirsten Atanasoff

ASSOCIATE

MADISON, WI

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OVERVIEW

Combining hands-on courtroom experience with scholarly knowledge of the law, Kirsten gives clients every advantage to achieve their legal objectives.

Kirsten's robust courtroom experience shapes her complex trial and appellate litigation practice. Representing clients ranging from local small businesses to Fortune 500 companies in contract, tort and property disputes, Kirsten has tried multiple cases to jury verdict in state and federal courts. Having also played a key role in many appellate teams, Kirsten guides clients through every phase of litigation.

Kirsten offers clients a unique perspective on administrative law issues. She has litigated disputes before administrative bodies, challenged administrative decisions in court and published scholarship on the subject. Her article in the *Wisconsin Law Review* has been cited numerous times in law journals, in an attorney general opinion and in multiple judicial opinions—including the Wisconsin Supreme Court's groundbreaking decision on administrative agency authority amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, *Legislature v. Palm*.

Before joining the firm, Kirsten served as a legal intern for the Office of the Wisconsin Solicitor General, where she assisted in representing the State of Wisconsin in high stakes appeals before both state and federal appellate courts. She also interned with a non-profit law firm devoted to helping trade groups and the business community at large understand, comply with and challenge state-level administrative regulation.

Services

- Appellate
- Class Action Defense
- Commercial Litigation
- Land Use
- Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Public Policy, Regulatory & Government Affairs
- State Attorneys General Practice

Kirsten serves as co-chair of the firm's Employee Resource Group HB ADAPTS (Able & Disabled Attorneys & Professionals Together for Success).

Case Study

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Husch Blackwell put together a coalition to help clarify CERCLA in an influential U.S. Supreme Court amicus brief.

Experience

- Second-chaired federal jury trial for Fortune 500 company involving contract and tort claims.
- Co-authored successful amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Guam v. United States*, 141 S. Ct. 1608 (2021), a case providing important guidance on the interpretation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund). Filed on behalf of politically and geographically diverse coalition of 26 states and territories in support of the prevailing party (Guam), the brief was discussed in detail at oral argument.
- Successfully challenged and defeated, before local zoning board, county's attempt to stop non-metallic mining company from engaging in mining operations on property.
- Obtained jury verdict in favor of residential landlord in eviction action, where tenant sought compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorney's fees for alleged violations of Wisconsin Deceptive Trade Practices Act.
- Represented the Wisconsin Legislature before the Wisconsin Supreme Court in case regarding legislation's impact on regulatory authority of state-level administrative agencies.
- Advised client on labeling for nationwide line of consumer products to minimize risk of future litigation and maximize product marketability.

Experience

- Drafted legislative proposal on behalf of client seeking changes to law governing interpretation of commercial general liability policies.
- Filed a petition for writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court on behalf of a Wisconsin mother after a county child welfare agency took away one of her children and, as the mother maintains, violated her constitutional rights in the process.

Recognition

- Wisconsin Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2023

Education

- J.D., University of Wisconsin Law School
 - *cum laude*
 - *Wisconsin Law Review*, Articles Editor
 - Order of the Coif
 - UW Law Federalist Society, President
- B.A., Baylor University
 - Political Science major; Philosophy minor
 - *magna cum laude*

Admissions

- Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

Community Leadership

Kirsten is a career volunteer leader for Young Life College ministries at UW Madison. There, she leads a small group of college girls, hosting a weekly Bible study and walking alongside them on their college journeys from freshman to senior year.



2024 Pro Bono Champion