



Berens & Miller Attorneys

Our team of attorneys works collaboratively together to help our clients reach efficient, effective, and quite often creative solutions.

BARBARA BERENS—MANAGING PARTNER

Ms. Berens is the managing partner of our firm. Ms. Berens, a long time SuperLawyer and AV Preeminent rated attorney, has owned the Berens & Miller law firm since 2008. She advises for-profit and not-for-profit companies on various corporate matters, including board governance, regulatory matters, and other risks.

Ms. Berens also has extensive experience in a wide range of complex business matters, including reinsurance, regulatory actions involving banking, securities or insurance, antitrust, equipment leasing, federal and state securities laws, and business torts.

Ms. Berens graduated Magna Cum Laude and Order of the Coif from the University of Minnesota Law School. After graduation, Ms. Berens clerked for the Honorable David Doty, now Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court of Minnesota. In 1993, she was appointed as a special master in the antitrust litigation between the NFL and its players. She has also been an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, teaching Practice and Professionalism.

Prior to law school, Ms. Berens was a licensed securities professional for Merrill Lynch. Ms. Berens has extensive knowledge of, and experience in, the securities industry.

ERIN LISLE--PARTNER

Ms. Lisle has over 20 years of complex business litigation experience in the state and federal courts across the country, including jury trials, court trials, appeals and arbitrations. Ms. Lisle's litigation experience has helped her in advising for-profit and not-for-profit corporations regarding corporate governance and other business matters. Ms. Lisle has also volunteered her time to not-for-profit corporations, via the Lawyers Volunteer Network, to provide a top to bottom review of their governance documents, policies and practices and suggest ways in which they can improve their governance documents, policies and practices.

She is a 1993 graduate from the University of Minnesota Law School and is admitted to practice in state and federal courts of Minnesota and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Lisle clerked for the Minnesota State District Court Judge Gerald Ring and has substantial knowledge of the state and federal rules.

CARRIE ZOCHERT--PARTNER

Ms. Zochert is a Martindale-Hubbell®AV Preeminent rated attorney and is consistently recognized by her peers as a SuperLawyer.® She focuses her practice on complex business litigation covering a wide breadth of matters related to contracts, patent and trademark claims, securities sales, and various business torts. She also has extensive experience in management-side employment law representation. From investigation through litigation, Ms. Zochert has handled numerous disputes regarding noncompetition and other restrictive covenant claims, race, religious, age, gender, and disability discrimination claims, and retaliatory discharge, sexual harassment, and WARN Act claims. Ms. Zochert's practice covers the spectrum of litigation in both state and federal courts, as well as arbitrations and state/federal agencies. Ms. Zochert has significant employment law experience, representing, among others, U.S. Steel, Adecco Corporation, Multiband, and numerous mid-size entities throughout the United States.

Ms. Zochert earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, and clerked at the Minnesota Court of Appeals for the Honorable Randolph W. Peterson and the Honorable Sam Hanson. She is a frequent author of articles for various publications, and is also an author of the Minnesota State Bar Association's Contracts Deskbook. She presents at continuing legal education courses sponsored by the Minnesota Bar Association, and has served as an adjunct professor teaching Practice and Professionalism at the University of Minnesota Law School.

JOHN BESSLER—OF COUNSEL

John Bessler is of counsel at Berens & Miller. From 1998 to 2007, he worked as a complex business litigator with Barbara Berens, the law firm's managing partner. A former law firm partner, John renewed his association with the firm in 2016 by becoming of counsel. At the firm, Mr. Bessler has handled a wide variety of complex litigation matters and has appeared in federal and state courts and in administrative proceedings.

A 1991 *cum laude* graduate of Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington, Mr. Bessler was the Senior Managing Editor of the Indiana Law Journal, and was a law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. "Jack" Mason in the District of Minnesota.

Mr. Bessler has been a law professor since 1998. He teaches at the University of Baltimore School of Law and the Georgetown University Law Center, and previously taught at the University of Minnesota Law School, The George Washington University Law School, and Rutgers School of Law.

A two-time Minnesota Book Award finalist, Mr. Bessler is the author of six books and has won numerous awards for his writing. His book, *The Birth of American Law; An Italian Philosopher and the American Revolution* (2014), won the Scribes Book Award – an annual award given out since 1961 by The American Society of Legal Writers “for the best

work of legal scholarship published during the previous year.” More recently, Mr. Bessler edited Justice Stephen Breyer’s book, *Against the Death Penalty*, and authored *The Death Penalty as Torture: From the Dark Ages to Abolition*.

HEATHER PODLUCKY—ASSOCIATE

Ms. Podlucky is a 1999 graduate of the George Washington University School of Law in Washington, D.C. She focuses her practice on business litigation, and assists the firm on various commercial cases. She has significant experience assisting investigations on behalf of special litigation committees. At this time Ms. Podlucky is licensed to practice law in Virginia.