GREENE ESPEL PLLP

Katherine M. Swenson Attorney



I forge creative strategies to serve our clients in complex, high-profile situations and execute those strategies with excellence and efficiency.

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OVERVIEW

Kate Swenson champions clients in the public and private sectors through all stages of dispute resolution, including trial and appeals.

Kate focuses her practice in the areas of government and constitutional litigation and appellate law. She has significant experience representing public entities, including cities, counties, and educational institutions. Formerly legal counsel to the Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel, Kate brings the problem-solving skills honed in that role and government experience to bear in her work for clients.

Kate has successfully argued before the Eighth Circuit, the Minnesota Court of Appeals, federal and state district courts, and administrative bodies. She has also tried cases and briefed appeals in federal and state courts, including several amicus briefs to the United States Supreme Court.

Kate brings practicality and an ability to synthesize information to solve complex problems for clients. Kate provides clients with in-depth analysis of their legal issues and sees around corners to avoid surprises in the midst of litigation. Clients particularly appreciate her forthright case assessments, her efficient and incisive brief-writing abilities, and her formidable courtroom advocacy.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Minnesota Law School, *magna cum laude*; Managing Editor, *Minnesota Journal of International Law*
- B.A., University of Minnesota, *magna cum laude*

EXPERIENCE

- Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel, Legal Counsel
- Minnesota Court of Appeals, Law Clerk
- University of Minnesota Office of the General Counsel, Legal Project Assistant
- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, The Honorable David S. Doty, Judicial Extern

ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota

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- State Bar of Minnesota

AFFILIATIONS

- Eighth Circuit Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Minnesota State Bar Association
    - Public Law Section Council (2017-present)

RECOGNITION

- Listed in *Chambers USA*, *America's Leading Lawyers for Business-The Client's Guide* (2022-2026)
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* (2027)
- Selected to Minnesota Super Lawyers list (2022-2026)
- 2022 Amicus Service Award, International Municipal Lawyers Association
- Recognized as Minnesota State Bar Association North Star Lawyer for pro bono service (2013-2014, 2016-2021, 2023)
- Appointed to a Merit Selection Panel by Chief Judge John R. Tunheim to advise the U.S. District Court of the District of Minnesota on the reappointment of U.S. Magistrate Judge Steven E. Rau (May 2018)
- Selected to Rising Stars list, *Minnesota Super Lawyers* (2015-2018)
- Recognized as Up and Coming Attorney, *Minnesota Lawyer* (2018)
- Robert A. Stein Endowment Scholarship, University of Minnesota Law School

COMMUNITY

- Minnesota Justice Foundation, Board Member (2014-present)
- The Appellate Project, Volunteer Mentor (2020-2021)
- The Advocates for Human Rights, pro bono work on asylum cases (2014-present)
- AchieveMpls, Graduation Coach (2013-2014)

NEWS & UPDATES

- **August 20, 2026** Greene Espel Attorneys Recognized on the 2027 Best Lawyers and Ones to Watch Lists
- **July 15, 2026** Greene Espel Attorneys Recognized on the 2026 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
- **June 4, 2026** Chambers USA Recognizes Greene Espel for Commercial Litigation and Labor & Employment in Minnesota; Jeanette Bazis, Sybil Dunlop, Jenny Gassman-Pines, Kate Swenson, and X. Kevin Zhao Ranked Lawyers
- **July 15, 2025** Greene Espel Attorneys Recognized on the 2025 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
- **June 6, 2025** Chambers USA Recognizes Greene Espel for Litigation and Labor & Employment in Minnesota; Jeanette Bazis, Sybil Dunlop, Jenny Gassman-Pines, Surya Saxena, Kate Swenson, and X. Kevin Zhao Ranked Lawyers
- **July 15, 2024** Greene Espel Attorneys Recognized on the 2024 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
- **June 6, 2024** *Chambers USA* Recognizes Greene Espel for Litigation in Minnesota; Jeanette Bazis, Sybil Dunlop, Surya Saxena, Kate Swenson, and X. Kevin Zhao Named Notable Practitioners
- **June 4, 2024** John Baker and Kate Swenson Receive 2024 Amicus Service Award from International Municipal Lawyers Association
- **July 18, 2023** *16 Greene Espel Attorneys Recognized on the Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists*
- **June 2, 2023** *Chambers USA* 2023 Recognizes Greene Espel for Litigation in Minnesota; Jeanette Bazis, Sybil Dunlop, and Kate Swenson Named Notable Practitioners
- **July 18, 2022** 16 Greene Espel Attorneys Recognized on the Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
- **June 6, 2022** *Chambers USA* Recognizes Greene Espel for Litigation in Minnesota; Jeanette Bazis, Sybil Dunlop, and Kate Swenson Named Notable Practitioners

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- **April 13, 2022** John Baker and Kate Swenson Receive Amicus Service Award from International Municipal Lawyers Association
- **July 9, 2020** Client Win: United States Supreme Court Upholds Federal Ban on Most Robocalls, as Urged in Greene Espel Pro Bono Amicus Brief
- **June 10, 2020** Award: 13 Greene Espel Attorneys Named North Star Lawyers for Pro Bono Service
- **June 10, 2019** Eight Greene Espel Attorneys Named North Star Lawyers for Pro Bono Service
- **March 29, 2019** John Baker Receives Award from International Municipal Lawyers Association
- **July 5, 2018** Greene Espel Lawyers Receive Recognition in 2018 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
- **June 21, 2018** Kate Swenson and Kevin Zhao Named Up and Coming Lawyers by Minnesota Lawyer
- **June 20, 2018** The Minnesota Supreme Court Issues Opinion in Favor of Client, City of Rochester
- **June 19, 2018** Nine Greene Espel Attorneys Named North Star Lawyers for Pro Bono Service
- **March 28, 2018** The Women Attorneys of Greene Espel Reflect on Key Lessons
- **September 26, 2017** Greene Espel Attorneys Secure Court of Appeals Victory
- **July 5, 2017** Super Lawyers Recognizes Thirteen Greene Espel Lawyers in 2017
- **May 18, 2017** Six Greene Espel Attorneys Named North Star Lawyers for Pro Bono Service
- **July 5, 2016** Super Lawyers 2016 Recognizes Sixteen Greene Espel Attorneys
- **May 8, 2016** Seven Greene Espel Attorneys named North Star Lawyers for pro bono services in 2015
- **July 30, 2015** Greene Espel client Anoka-Hennepin School District wins appellate victory
- **July 7, 2015** Super Lawyers 2015 recognizes fifteen Greene Espel attorneys for honors
- **June 12, 2015** Seven Greene Espel attorneys named North Star Lawyers for pro bono service
- **January 22, 2015** Baker, Greene, and Swenson speak at the 2015 Midwest Conference on Land Use and Eminent Domain
- **November 14, 2013** Baker and Swenson teach American Planning Association webinar
- **June 14, 2013** Greene Espel client City of Red Wing wins at Minnesota Supreme Court
- **May 23, 2013** Baker and Swenson co-author article in leading zoning law journal
- **November 30, 2012** Dunlop and Swenson teach search and seizure CLE
- **October 10, 2012** Greene Espel welcomes new colleagues
- **May 8, 2012** Kate Swenson joins firm

EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- **September 26, 2025** John Baker and Kate Swenson to Present at Minnesota CLE's 2025 Government Law Institute
- **August 18, 2025** Kate Swenson to Present on U.S. Supreme Court Rulings Civil Rights and Constitutional Freedoms for Minnesota CLE
- **August 15, 2024** Kate Swenson to Present at Minnesota CLE's 2024 U.S. Supreme Court Update
- **February 20, 2024** Kate Swenson to Present on Pre-Trial Preparation for Minnesota CLE
- **July 1, 2021** *Civil Litigation A to Z: Getting Started – Minnesota State Court Practice Essentials*, Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, Panelist (April 2019, July 2021)
- **July 1, 2021** Event (7/1/2021): Kate Swenson to Present on Minnesota State Court Practice Essentials for Minnesota CLE
- **December 1, 2020** *Constitutional Law: Voting and Election Law 2020*, Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, Panelist
- **December 1, 2019** *How to Litigate a Civil Case in Minnesota – Pretrial Preparations*, Minnesota Continuing Legal Education
- **April 9, 2019** Kate Swenson to Present on Minnesota State Court Practice Essentials
- **February 1, 2019** *Panhandling – Constitutional Considerations*, Minnesota Association of City Attorneys Conference
- **November 6, 2018** Kate Hibbard Speaks at the Leadership Summit on Gender Equity in the Law
- **August 1, 2018** *Voting Law and Today's U.S. Supreme Court – T-Shirts, Gerrymandering, and Voter Rolls, 2018 U.S. Supreme Court Update*, Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, Moderator

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- **May 1, 2018** *Successful Brief Writing Strategies and Skills*, Minnesota Attorney General's Office: Mastering Appellate Practice, Panelist
- **May 1, 2018** *Litigation Topics: Appellate Advocacy*, Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, Panelist
- **September 1, 2017** *The Use of Rule 68 Offers as an Effective Strategy in Federal and State Proceedings*, League of Minnesota Cities, Panelist
- **February 1, 2017** *Mentors and Sponsors: Distinctions, Similarities, and Why You Need Both, University of Minnesota Law School*, Panelist
- **January 1, 2017** *Explanation or Promotion? Effective Presentation of Levy Ballot Questions, Minnesota School Boards Association 2017 Leadership Conference*, Panelist
- **February 1, 2015** *Cutting Edge of Land Use Topics*, The 2015 Minnesota Conference on Land Use and Eminent Domain, Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, Panelist
- **November 1, 2013** *Holiday Decorations, Public Property, and the Law*, American Planning Association Webinar, Panelist
- **November 1, 2012** *Search and Seizure: Recent Federal and State Cases Every Practitioner Should Know*, Recent Trends Involving the Law of Arrest, Search and Seizure in Minnesota, Lorman Education Services, Panelist

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

- **December 31, 2023** Co-Author of an Eighth Circuit blog on Law.com (2019-present)
- **October 21, 2020** No Clearly Established Due Process Right to Informational Privacy, Says Eighth Circuit
- **June 17, 2020** Decision To Remove Children From Father's Custody Not Unlawful Given Compelling Interest in Protecting Minors
- **May 18, 2020** Eighth Circuit Decision Demonstrates Conflicting Views on Use of Deadly Force
- **March 11, 2020** Eighth Circuit Affirms Preliminary Injunction Against Enforcement of Arkansas 'Blackout' Periods for Campaign Contributions
- **December 18, 2019** Eighth Circuit Joins Those Invalidating Traditional Panhandling Laws, While Some Newer Approaches Are Upheld
- **November 18, 2019** Eighth Circuit Flips Invalidation of Engagement-letter Arbitration Clause
- **January 1, 2018** Co-Author of Chapter 16: *Pretrial Preparation, in MINNESOTA STATE DISTRICT COURT CIVIL PRACTICE DESKBOOK* (2d ed. 2018)
- **May 1, 2013** Co-Author of *Koontz v. St. Johns River Water Management District: Trudging Through a Florida Wetland with Nine U.S. Supreme Court Justices*, 36 ZONING & PLANNING L. REP., May 2013, at 1, available at 36 No. 5 ZPLR 1
- **January 1, 2007** *Sticks, Carrots, Donkey Votes, and True Choice: A Rationale for Abolishing Compulsory Voting in Australia*, 16 MINN. J. INT'L L. 525

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