

Aaron P. Knoll *Attorney*



A decisive and empathetic advocate to help you realize your highest potential.

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Overview

Aaron Knoll represents clients in high-stakes business litigation, clean-energy and environmental disputes, and matters involving governments and politics.

Aaron has experience fighting for businesses of all sizes in a wide range of commercial, consumer, and class-action disputes. He frequently advocates for developers in regulatory and litigation matters in the thriving renewable-energy industry. He defends governments and political actors against challenges to the integrity of their decisions and elections. And he conducts internal and agency investigations concerning FCPA and whistleblower risks.

To provide his clients with exceptional value and strategic counsel, Aaron actively listens to his clients to understand what matters to them and their businesses. He then analyzes their potential options and gives clear and practical advice on what to do moving forward. One client shared: "What sets Aaron apart is his ability to leverage his substantive expertise in ways that consistently account for his clients' larger business goals."

Aaron's genuine empathy and client-first approach get results. He has a track record of finding early solutions that avoid costly litigation, taking depositions that drive favorable outcomes, and crafting themes from complicated issues that persuade all audiences. Clients particularly turn to Aaron when they need a competitive advantage through the use of emotional intelligence or probability-based risk assessments.

Finally, Aaron has a passion for education and community service. He teaches legal writing at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. He is often invited to present at companies and CLEs on various topics, such as the evolving landscape of personal jurisdiction and the power behind weighted-risk analysis, and he co-chairs the FBA's Legal Education Committee. He also volunteers at AchieveMpls and serves as a trusted mentor to law students as they embark on their future endeavors.

Education

J.D., University of St. Thomas School of Law, *summa cum laude*; Articles Editor, St. Thomas Law Review

B.A., University of Minnesota, History and Geography, *with Distinction, magna cum laude*

Experience

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, Associate

U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, Judge Paul A. Magnuson, Law Clerk

Minnesota Supreme Court, Justice Christopher J. Dietzen, Law Clerk

Representative Experience

BUSINESS LITIGATION

Aaron has defended companies in complex and high-value commercial, consumer, and class-action litigation in federal and state courts:

- Pursuing claims on behalf of a global grain exporter for damages caused by the effective closure of the Chinese market to U.S. corn exports following the commercialization of certain GMO corn
- Won dismissal of Section 20A claims against several defendants in a securities-fraud class action in the Southern District of New York
- Defeated claims of whistleblower retaliation, tortious interference, and assault and battery against a large composites company in arbitration
- Won dismissal of statutory and common law consumer-fraud claims against Fortune 500 company in putative nationwide class action involving dental products
- Won summary judgment for Fortune 500 company against claims of product defects in fall-protection equipment
- Successfully defended Fortune 500 company against allegations of breach of license agreement, fraud, and anti-competitive conduct
- Successfully defended national creditor against statutory-fraud and business-tort claims and guided the client through system-wide risk-mitigation improvements
- Compelled arbitration on behalf of major retail finance company after a bench trial
- Obtained favorable settlement for national tile retailer in securities class action
- Compelled arbitration in many putative consumer-protection class actions on behalf of financial institutions and retailers
- Defeated or resolved in amicable settlement several opt-out cases pursuing Telephone Consumer Protection Act claims

CLEAN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Aaron has represented energy developers in navigating regulatory issues or litigating commercial and environmental disputes:

- Successfully helped several developers of community solar gardens respond to and defeat co-location notices and other objections from Xcel Energy
- Successfully defended solar-garden developer in litigation over post-acquisition contract and fraud claims
- Counseled Fortune 500 company in adapting to changed circumstances impacting renewable energy purchase agreements
- Representing developer of Minnesota's first copper-nickel mine in challenges to various permits for the NorthMet project

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Aaron has helped local and state governments and political actors defeat obstructions to public actions and elections:

- Won summary judgment for regional utilities commission against claims by withdrawn member seeking the commission's assets
- Defending cities against lawsuits seeking to overturn land-use and zoning decisions

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Aaron has handled anti-corruption and other investigations for businesses faced with whistleblower allegations, regulatory action, and auditor scrutiny:

- Represented filtration company to investigate allegations of accounting irregularities in Belgium
- Represented large industrial client to investigate allegations of FCPA violations in China
- Represented agricultural processor to investigate allegations of unsafe food handling practices
- Represented commercial dairy producer to investigate allegations of FCPA violations in Mexico
- Represented healthcare technology management organization to investigate allegations of FCPA violations in India

PRO BONO

Lastly, Aaron maintains an active pro bono practice:

- Defended a death-row inmate in Alabama state and federal post-conviction proceedings
- Argued a criminal appeal on Fourth Amendment grounds in Minnesota state court
- Sought expungements of criminal records for clients across Minnesota
- Representing a client from Honduras seeking asylum in the United States based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- State of Minnesota

Professional & Community Affiliations

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Federal Bar Association, Legal Education Committee Co-Chair (2020-2022), Golf Tournament Committee Chair (2018-2020)
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- American Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- University of St. Thomas School of Law Mentor Program, Mentor (2015-present)

- AchieveMpls, Volunteer (2020-present)
- American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition, Coach (2013-2015)

Thought Leadership

PUBLICATIONS

- Residential- and Commercial-Scale Distributed Wind Energy in North Dakota, USA, Co-Author, *Renewable Energy* (2009)

TEACHING AND LECTURING

Teaching

- University of St. Thomas School of Law, Adjunct Professor (2014-present)

Lecturing

- *Top 10 Tips for Better Using Legal Research in Writing and Oral Argument*, Co-Presenter, Minnesota CLE (February 16, 2022)
- *Candid Advice in the Year of Pandemic and Protests*, Minnesota CLE (January 22, 2021)
- *MSBA practicelaw Conference: How to Leverage Risk Analysis and Quantitative Data to Gain the Upper Hand in Litigation*, Minnesota State Bar Association (October 21, 2020)
- *MSBA practicelaw Conference: How to Make Your Research Count in Your Writing*, Minnesota State Bar Association (October 14, 2020)
- *Ethics in the Time of COVID-19*, Minnesota CLE (May 15, 2020; December 4, 2020; February 4, 2021)
- *How to Make Your Research Count in Your Writing*, Legal Research Day at the MSBA, Minnesota State Bar Association (September 16, 2019)
- *Quick-Draw Litigation—Strategies for Winning Injunctions and Other Threshold Motions*, Minnesota CLE (March 2019)
- *It Just Got Personal: Recent Developments in Personal Jurisdiction*, Co-Presenter, Minnesota CLE (May 2018)
- *Two's Company, Three's a Crowd: Privilege and Confidentiality Issues for Lawyers Representing Multiple Parties*, Co-Presenter with Cliff Greene, Minnesota CLE (2017)
- *Significant New Civil Procedure Cases in 2016*, Co-Presenter, Minnesota CLE (2017)
- *Effective and Efficient Written Discovery*, Minnesota CLE (2016)
- *Significant New Civil Procedure Cases in 2015*, Co-Presenter, Minnesota CLE (2016)

Recognition

- Listed in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch (2021-2022)
- Up and Coming Attorney, *Minnesota Lawyer* (2020)
- Rising Star, Minnesota Super Lawyers (2019-2021)
- Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching, University of St. Thomas School of Law (2019)
- North Star Lawyer for pro bono service, Minnesota State Bar Association (2016-2017)

- Judge Earl R. Larson Law Student Award, Federal Bar Association (2012)
- Mission Award for Excellence in Professional Preparation, University of St. Thomas School of Law (2010)