PETER J. MCELLIGOTT

Attorney, Shareholder



Pete McElligott's competitive spirit drives him to take on big challenges.

From individuals to small businesses to large corporations, Pete collaborates with his clients as a team to develop an efficient, effective, legal strategy tailored to meet his clients' goals. He stands ready to tackle his clients' problems at any stage in any capacity. Clients rely on Pete for his common-sense approach. They trust him in critical moments from serving as first or second chair in a jury trial or arbitration, to cross-examining difficult witnesses, leading settlement negotiations, taking or defending depositions, and briefing or arguing motions. His experience includes fiduciary duty and business ownership disputes, financial services litigation, contract disputes, non-compete and trade secret claims, and many other business torts.

Before law school, Pete taught elementary school in Baltimore City Public Schools while a Corps Member with Teach For America. While overcoming challenges to close the achievement gap, Pete honed his ability to act decisively and to deliver strong, concise messages to a targeted audience. He utilizes those skills in his legal practice in communicating with clients, courts, and opposing counsel.

CONTACT

D 612-492-8233
pmcelligott@anthonyostlund.com
Legal Administrative Assistant:
Laura D. Wilhelm
O 612-349-6969
lwilhelm@anthonyostlund.com

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Minnesota Law School
Residential Teaching Certificate, Johns Hopkins University
B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

AWARDS & HONORS

- Recognized by The Best Lawyers in America, 2027
- 2022 Minnesota Lawyer Attorney of the Year Honoree
- Selected to the "Minnesota Rising Stars" list by Super Lawyers, 2020–2026
- North Star Lawyer, 2016–2022

ADMISSIONS

State of Minnesota
U.S. District of Minnesota

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Hennepin County Bar Association
- Member, Minnesota State Bar Association
- Member, Federal Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Graduation Coach, Achieve MPLS

PUBLICATIONS

TREATISES:

- Contributing Author to the Business Disputes: Claims and Remedies Deskbook, 3rd Edition, published by the Minnesota CLE
- Contributor to Chapter on Fiduciary Duty Litigation, Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts, (Thomson Reuters 5th ed.)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

- The Buss Family Feud over the Lakers: Minnesota – Style, Minnesota Lawyer & Finance & Commerce – Partner Content, October 2026

- The New Frontier in Post-Employment Disputes, Minnesota Lawyer & Finance & Commerce – Partner Content, October 2025
- Want to limit fiduciary duties in a Minnesota LLC? Not if the limitations are manifestly unreasonable, Minnesota Lawyer & Finance & Commerce – Partner Content, November 2024
- Lying, Cheating, & Stealing: A Tale As Old As Time , Minnesota Lawyer & Finance & Commerce – Partner Content, November 2022
- Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors: An Award-Winning Strategy , Minnesota Lawyer & Finance & Commerce – Partner Content, November 2021
- The Minnesota Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act: The Litigator's Underutilized Yet Versatile Tool, Minnesota Lawyer and Finance & Commerce – Partner Content, November 2020
- Minnesota Lawyer and Finance & Commerce 10/5/2020 – Peter McElligott was featured in article "Anthony Ostlund has a passion for pro bono work."
- The Ten Commandments of Cross-Examination in FINRA Hearings, Minnesota Lawyer and Finance & Commerce – Partner Content, November 2019
- What Gets Decided First: Motion to Compel Arbitration or Motion to Dismiss?, Minnesota Lawyer Partner Content, December 2018
- The Short Life of the Fiduciary Duty Rule, Attorney At Law Magazine, Minnesota Edition, May 2018
- Informing the Court of Settlement Does Not Always Mean the Case is Settled, Attorney At Law Magazine, Minnesota Edition, June 2017
- Bar Talk: Pro Bono Spotlight, Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, December 2015
- The Supreme Court Tips Its Hat to Employers – or Does It? Vicarious Liability After Vance v. Ball State University, Attorney At Law Magazine, Minnesota Edition, August 2013

RESULTS

Anthony Ostlund represented a financial institution in a complicated multi-year, multi-million-dollar lending dispute. Following our team's successful motion to dismiss the defendant's counterclaims,

PETE DEPOSED THE DEFENDANT AND WITHIN A FEW HOURS THE DEFENDANT GAVE-IN.
By the end of the day, the defendant admitted liability and signed a judgment for the full loan amount—plus interest, attorney's fees, and costs—exceeding $3.6 million. A great outcome for our client.

PETE FIRST CHAIRED A FINRA ARBITRATION LOCATED IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS AND OBTAINED A COMPLETE DEFENSE AWARD ON BEHALF OF AN INDEPENDENT BROKER-DEALER.
The claimant asserted multiple claims of fraud, violations of state and federal securities laws, breach of contract and lack of supervision, related to investments in bonds. After the arbitration hearing, the FINRA panel denied the claims in their entirety.

DURING A FOUR-DAY TRIAL, PETE SUCCESSFULLY ENFORCED AN ORAL PROMISE AMONGST TWO BUSINESS PEOPLE TO SPLIT THE PROFITS OF A STORM RESTORATION BUSINESS.
After winning a jury verdict that awarded full damages and ultimately led to a judgment in excess of $1 million, Anthony Ostlund successfully defeated the defendants' attempt to overturn the verdict on appeal.

AS LEAD LAWYER, PETE REPRESENTED AN EQUIPMENT FINANCING COMPANY WITH A $1 MILLION BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIM AGAINST A MAJOR HOSPITAL SYSTEM.
With Pete serving as the lead negotiator, the client was able to obtain a significant settlement payment to resolve the lawsuit.

PETE REPRESENTED AN ASSIGNEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF CREDITORS OF A COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING.
Just days after being retained, the client obtained an ex parte temporary restraining order against the defendants. Later, the court granted the client's affirmative motion for summary judgment finding the defendants liable for breach contract, civil theft, unjust enrichment, and fraud. Before a trial on damages, defendants stipulated to entry of judgment against them in the amount of $1.450 million.

After a client started his own business and was sued by his former employer for misappropriation of trade secrets, Pete helped guide the client through the litigation and turned up the pressure by asserting claims

against the former employer (including a claim for punitive damages). When the Court granted his client a favorable summary judgment ruling, the parties agreed to walk away just days before trial allowing the client to focus on his new business.

Pete successfully briefed, argued, and obtained an ex parte temporary restraining order on behalf of a group of real estate investors to prevent misappropriation of corporate assets, breach of fiduciary duties, and dilution of the investors' membership interests.

As part of a team of Anthony Ostlund attorneys, Pete successfully defended a Fortune 20 company in a lawsuit against a private equity firm claiming losses over $30 million. A federal court in Minnesota granted the client's motion to dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice.

Pete successfully defended a claim by an individual investor against an independent broker-dealer alleging in excess of $1 million in damages. The investor alleged that several real estate related investments, which later failed, were misrepresented to him and were unsuitable. After a three-day hearing before a FINRA arbitration panel, the claims were denied in their entirety.

SPEAKING

- Fiduciary Duties in Closely Held MN Companies, Advising the Closely Held Business, Minnesota CLE, October 2026
- 6 Hypotheticals to Illustrate Fiduciary Duties in LLCs, The Minnesota LLC Toolkit, Minnesota CLE, November 2025
- Stealing Secrets – The New Frontier in Post-Employment Disputes, Lying, Cheating & Stealing Seminar 2025, October 2025
- Operating Agreements from a Litigator's Perspective, 2025 Business Law Institute, Minnesota CLE, May 2025
- Moderator of In-House Panel: Protecting the Business: Approaches and Expectations from Corporate Counsel, Lying, Cheating & Stealing Seminar 2024
- *Drafting the LLC Operating Agreement,* 2024 Business Law Institute, Minnesota CLE, May 2024
- *When Civil Litigation and Criminal Investigations Collide for Liars, Cheaters, and Stealers,* Lying, Cheating & Stealing Seminar 2023, October 2023
- Show Me the Money: Lying Financial Advisors and Broker-Dealers, Lying, Cheating & Stealing Seminar 2022, October 2022
- 9 Key Strategies for Litigating Shareholder Disputes, Minnesota CLE, January 2021
- Litigating and Managing Fiduciary Duty Disputes: 5 Key Lessons, Minnesota CLE, December 2017