SHANNON M. AWSUMB

Attorney, Shareholder



Shannon M. Awsumb has successfully represented local and national clients in a wide range of business disputes in state and federal courts across the country. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation (including business torts, breach of contract claims, and ownership and governance matters) and insurance coverage disputes involving commercial property, fidelity, and professional liability claims.

Shannon was appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court to serve a second three-year term on the Advisory Committee on the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure through 2022. Shannon has also presented CLEs relating to the Rules of Civil Procedure and business governance issues.

Prior to joining the firm, Shannon completed clerkships for the Honorable David G. Campbell, District of Arizona (2003–2004) and for the Honorable John S.W. Lim, Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals (2001–2002).

EDUCATION

J.D., with distinction, University of Iowa College of Law
B.A., cum laude, Miami University

ADMISSIONS

State of Minnesota
State of Arizona
State of Illinois
State of Iowa
U.S. District of Minnesota
U.S. District of Arizona
U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeals

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court to serve on the Civil Rules Advisory Committee, 2017 to present
- Editorial Board Member, International Risk Management Institute, Inc.'s (IRMI) CGL Reporter, 2014
- Appointee, Professional Ethics Committee, Federal Bar Association, 2011–2014
- Committee Member, Minnesota E-Discovery Working Group 1, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2013–2014
- Member, American Bar Association

PUBLICATIONS

- An Electronic Discovery Primer, co-authored with the Minnesota E-Discovery Working Group 1, 40 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 427, 2014
- The Intersection of Online Communications and Legal Ethics, co-authored with Magistrate Judge Karen Roby from the E.D. La., Federal Lawyer, August 2012
- Now You See It, Now You Don't: Disclosure Without Waiver of Privilege Under Rule 502(d), Bench & Bar of Minnesota, April 2012
- Drafted monthly summaries of coverage decisions involving general liability and other business-related policies that were published in the International Risk Management Institute, Inc.'s (IRMI) CGL Reporter

CONTACT

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AWARDS & HONORS

2022 Minnesota Lawyer Attorney of the Year Honoree

Selected to "Minnesota Super Lawyers" list by Super Lawyers, 2020–Present

Selected to the "Minnesota Rising Stars" list by Super Lawyers, 2010–2016

- Social Networking Sites: The Next E-Discovery Frontier, The Computer & Internet J., April 2010, at 16–20
- Social Networking Sites: The Next E-Discovery Frontier , Bench & Bar of Minnesota, November 2009, at 22–26
- Avoid Entanglement in Common E-Discovery Pitfalls, The Computer & Internet J., February 2009, at 27–31
- Navigating E-Discovery: How to Avoid Common Pitfalls, Bench & Bar of Minnesota, October 2008
- Avoiding a Career-Ending Mistake: The Line Between Witness Preparation and Coaching, The Hennepin Lawyer, March 2007
- Idea Theft Claims Post-Grosso, Entertainment and Sports Lawyer Journal, Vol. 24/No. 3, Fall 2006
- Copyright Battles Over Yoga's 5,000-Year-Old Tradition, Entertainment and Sports Lawyer Journal, Vol. 23/No. 2, Summer 2005

RESULTS

EXPERIENCE

SUCCESSFUL COURT OF APPEALS PETITION RESULTS IN PUBLISHED OPINION ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUE OF FIRST IMPRESSION

Successfully petitioned the Court of Appeals to engage in infrequently exercised discretionary review of a trial court privilege order and to grant a writ of prohibition in favor of our client in December 2020. This resulted in a published opinion on a significant issue of first impression under Minnesota law involving attorney-client privilege held by joint clients, see In re Lawrence, 954 N.W.2d 597 (Minn. Ct. App. 2020), review denied (Minn. Mar. 16, 2021).

ANTHONY OSTLUND CLIENT IS AWARDED $12 MILLION IN BREACH OF CONTRACT DISPUTE.

Following a ten-day jury trial in July 2021, a Hennepin County jury unanimously awarded our client $12 million on breach of contract and duty of good faith and fair dealing claims. Following a ten-day jury trial in July 2021, a Hennepin County jury unanimously awarded our client $12 million on breach of contract and duty of good faith and fair dealing claims. In May 2022, the Hennepin County District Court awarded our client a $58.5 million buy-out in two closely held companies, which appears to be the largest shareholder buy-out in Minnesota history. See https://www.startribune.com/court-battle-over-koch-trucking-ends-as-judge-upholds-jurys-12-million-award-58-million-buyout/600172008/

ANTHONY OSTLUND CLIENT KIM LUND IS "PREVAILING PARTY" AND IS AWARDED $45.2 MILLION IN OWNERSHIP BUYOUT DISPUTE.

Following a five-day trial, Hennepin County District Court Chief Judge Ivy Bernhardson ruled that Kim Lund was the "prevailing party" against her brother, Tres Lund, and various Lund entities, in a lengthy legal battle centered on the value of Kim Lund's ownership interests and Tres Lund's exercise of power and control over Kim's interests. In the court's 54-page opinion concluding this complex shareholder dispute, the court awarded Kim $45,225,000, which means that the Lund companies must buy Kim Lund out over time for that price. The court also awarded Kim Lund her court costs.

SIGNIFICANT FRAUD LOSS INSURANCE CLAIM LITIGATION

Represented a national bank and its holding company in a coverage litigation in Arizona involving a $15 million financial institution bond claim relating to a $26 million fraud loss and successfully resolved the claim.

$73 MILLION RECOVERY

Represented a California business that led to a total recovery of over $73 million for our client in California. The case involved alleged financial self-dealing by the developer of a large residential complex in California.

BREACH OF CONTRACT UNANIMOUS JURY VERDICT

Represented a Minnesota businessman in a breach of contract action that resulted in a unanimous $878,000 jury verdict in favor of our client after an eight-day jury trial. The case involved a claim by our client that his partners had breached a contract to work cooperatively to acquire and develop certain property on the North Shore of Lake Superior and that the breach had caused damages.

SPEAKING

- Presented CLE with Janel Dressen, “7 Litigated Owner Disputes and What the Courts Have Decided” for Minnesota CLE, August 16, 2022
- Presented CLE with Janel Dressen, “7 Litigated Owner Disputes and What the Courts Have Decided” as part of Minnesota CLE, 2022 Business Law Institute, May 2022
- Presented CLE with Janel Dressen, “6 ‘Business Divorce’ Cases Everyone Should Know” as part of Minnesota CLE’s live seminar “Shareholder Disputes in Closely-Held Businesses” on January 21, 2021
- Presented CLE with Judge Mary Mahler, “Discovery and Civil Justice Reform—Are We Reformed Yet?” as part of Minnesota CLE’s live seminar “2020 Civil Litigator Update” on January 30, 2020
- Presented CLE with David Herr, Judge Eric Hylden, and Peter Gregory, “New Rules Civil Rules Amendments—July 1, 2018” as part of Minnesota CLE’s webcast on June 21, 2018
- Presented CLE with David Herr, Justice Barry Anderson, and Roshan Rajkumar, “New Rules Civil Rules Amendments—July 1, 2018” as part of Minnesota CLE’s webcast on July 26, 2018