

Kathryn N. Hibbard *Attorney*



"Kate is the full package: wicked smart, pragmatic, and candid. . . . And, clients love her. Not just the in-house attorneys, but the actual client—the business teams who actually benefit from the strength of her counsel and strategy."
Corporate Counsel to Greene Espel Client

612.373.8346 *Direct*

khibbard@greeneespel.com

Jennifer M. Onsgard, *Assistant*

612.373.8334

Overview

Kate Hibbard is a trial lawyer who has achieved extraordinary results for her clients both in and out of the courtroom.

Her approach is distinguished by both her will to win and a remarkable capacity to identify strategic advantages in both the human and legal aspects of a case. Kate takes her clients' matters personally because she knows her clients do, and she appreciates the long and lasting relationships she develops with her clients.

In the courtroom, an arbitration, or a deposition, Kate's approach is marked by her command of facts, her focused presentation, and her calm yet determined demeanor. Having represented both plaintiffs and defendants, Kate understands both sides of a case and uses her knowledge to craft aggressive and winning strategies for her clients. Clients applaud Kate's witness examination skills, and they have entrusted her to first chair trials, arbitrate multimillion dollar disputes, and take and defend depositions around the world, including depositions of C-suite executives of large, multinational companies. Her strategic focus extends into all aspects of litigation—she routinely works with and against financial and technical experts, for example, and masters the numbers and science behind each case.

Kate has earned the trust of her clients, colleagues, and co-counsel in a broad range of disputes. She is currently representing one of the world's largest companies in a mass tort dispute with cases located across the country. She has represented clients in class-action lawsuits, actions involving personal injuries and wrongful death claims, as well as litigation

involving shareholder and intellectual property disputes, antitrust and employment claims, special litigation committees, and business torts. Kate has also represented clients facing governmental investigations involving the Federal Trade Commission, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Kate is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas School of Law, where she currently serves on the Board of Governors. Kate joined Greene Espel after clerking for the Honorable Wilhelmina M. Wright, then of the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Education

J.D., University of St. Thomas School of Law, *magna cum laude* (2006)

B.S., Northwestern University (2002)

Experience

Minnesota Court of Appeals, The Honorable Wilhelmina M. Wright, Law Clerk (2006-2007)

Representative Experience

- Arbitrated a confidential contract dispute regarding allegations that product defects resulted in over \$30 million in damages. Arbitrator denied all of the opponent's claims and entered a \$0 award entirely in favor of the client after a two-week arbitration
- First chaired a seven-day jury trial involving personal injury negligence claims, as well as third-party claims and cross claims for contribution, indemnity, and subrogation, which were resolved in the client's favor through a six-figure settlement
- Arbitrated an antitrust whistleblower dispute, and secured a complete victory on all claims against the client
- Represented securities lending participants in a federal action alleging, among other claims, that the defendant bank breached its contractual and fiduciary obligations by investing in unsuitable investments
- Represented a product manufacturer asserting claims for breach of contract and intellectual property violations against domestic and international defendants, and defended that client against monopolization and tortious interference counterclaims. Secured a permanent injunction and damages judgment of more than \$20 million

against one of the defendants

- Defended a client located in Italy against claims for breach of a design agreement, and pursued counterclaims for copyright infringement, unfair competition, and deceptive trade practices
- Represented a client in a lawsuit seeking to enjoin the client's plans to construct a fiber network, and secured an order dismissing the lawsuit that was affirmed on appeal, as well as a seven-figure settlement in favor of the client, based on a bond order with which the opponent was required to comply in order to proceed with its injunction claim
- Represented a defendant in a securities fraud class action lawsuit venued in federal district court in Minnesota
- Represented a client facing a class action lawsuit involving more than 50,000 class members venued in federal district court in North Dakota

Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota
- State Bar of Minnesota

Professional & Community Affiliations

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Federal Practice Committee Member (2018-present), and Member of the Electronic Discovery Guide Subcommittee
- Federal Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Minnesota Women Lawyers

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- University of St. Thomas School of Law, Board of Governors, Former President of the Alumni Board of Directors, and Annual Fund Committee
- Minnesota Women Lawyers – Former Member Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Thought Leadership

PUBLICATIONS

- *Litigating Contract Disputes in Minnesota* (co-Author), LexisNexis (2017)
- Co-Author of "Wal-Mart (v. Dukes) Sells Rule 23's New Roadmap," *ABA Antitrust Business Torts & Civil RICO Committee*, Vol. 8, Issue 1 (Fall 2011)
- "Crisis Management" (Chapter 20), *Product Liability Litigation: Current Law, Strategies and Best Practices* (Practicing Law Institute 2009)

TEACHING AND LECTURING

- Gender Equity in the Law Leadership Summit, Minnesota Federal Bar Association (November 2018)
- *Practical Advice for Working with Outside Counsel*, HCBA Corporate Counsel & Civil Litigation Sections, Hennepin County Bar Association (May 2018)
- *Zero Tolerance – Creating Sexual Harassment Policies and Procedures*, 2018 Upper Midwest Employment Law Institute, Minnesota CLE (May 2018)
- *Excessive Force: Recent Federal and State Cases Every Practitioner Should Know*, Police Liability Seminar, Lorman Education Services (May 2013)
- *Experts for Impact: Presenting Expert Trial Testimony So That It Is Understandable, Interesting, and Persuasive*, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Trial Techniques Seminar (August 2010)

Recognition

- Selected to Super Lawyers list, *Minnesota Super Lawyers* (2018-2019)
- Selected to Rising Stars list, *Minnesota Super Lawyers* (2013-2016)
- Presidential Scholarship Recipient (full tuition), University of St. Thomas School of Law