

Deborah Autrey

Associate

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Minneapolis – 612.492.5408



Deborah is adept at navigating complex legal situations to help executives, human resource leaders, and in-house legal teams minimize legal risks and create compliant, inclusive workplaces.

Deborah defends employers against various Title VII, ADA, and FMLA claims, including discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, representing them in litigation and before government agencies and state labor departments. Deborah also provides strategic guidance on DEI initiatives, high-risk discipline and termination decisions, and wage and hour issues.

Beyond litigation and defense, Deborah conducts high-stakes, confidential internal investigations with a strategic focus on mitigating risks and fostering a legally compliant, functionally sound workplace.

Deborah's experience in public and private sectors allows her to understand clients' concerns, having been in their shoes. This perspective enables her to provide unique solutions and impart knowledge clearly and effectively.

Court Admissions

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

Professional Affiliations

- Minnesota Women Lawyers (MWL) (2019-present)
 - Board Director (2020-present)
 - Former Diversity & Inclusion Co-Chair (2020-2024)
 - Former Publications Co-Chair & Editor (2020-2022)

Education

- University of Arkansas School of Law (J.D., 2018)
 - Dean's List
- University of Arkansas (B.A., English, Minor in Legal Studies, 2015)

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota

- Black Women Attorneys Founder & Co-Chair (2023-present)
- Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) – Member (2019-present)

Clerkships

- Hennepin County District Court, Honorable Julie E. Allyn, 2020–2021

Accolades

- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2025
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey’s Pro Bono program
- Service to MWL Award: In recognition of leadership to advance the mission of Minnesota Women Lawyers, 2023

Additional Information

- Author, “Navigating Leave for Legal Professionals with Disabilities.” *Hennepin Lawyer*, Vol. 2024–2025, No. 32, Feb. 24, 2025.
- Contributing Author, Internal Employment Investigations Handbook (*Minnesota Continuing Legal Education*, 2nd Edition, 2025).
- Author, “Success from the Bottom: A New Lawyer’s Perspective.” *Bench & Bar Minnesota*, LXXVI, 2019, at 10-11.
- Author, “A Spa Day for Your Brain.” *With Equal Right*, LXXII, no. III, 20 Apr. 2022.
- Author, “MWL Member Spotlight: Deborah Autrey.” *With Equal Right*, LXX, no. III, 2020.
- Contributor, “Regulating Wage Theft.” *94 Wash. L. Rev.* 759 (2019).

Select Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, Recent Executive Orders: Navigating Legal Practice Through the Lens of Humanity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Presenter, Navigating Leave for Legal Professionals with Disabilities
- Presenter, Access, Advocacy, and Affinity: Tools for Developing Disability-Inclusive Practices
- Presenter, Inclusive Language Matters: Exploring the Power of Our Words
- Contributor, The Crown Act: Impact in the Workplace