

Kirk Schuler

Partner

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Whatever dispute he is handling, Kirk believes the key to its resolution is hard work, attention to detail, and a relationship built on trust with his clients.

Kirk's practice is devoted to dispute resolution. He focuses on two types—civil disputes between businesses and individuals, and government disputes with civil or criminal consequences. For those individual and organizational clients with commercial disputes, Kirk regularly provides advice on their legal options, negotiates solutions with opposing counsel and mediators, and advocates for his clients' rights and their "day in court" before arbitrators, judges, and juries. For his clients facing disputes involving the government—such as criminal and white-collar investigations and prosecutions, False Claims Act and civil enforcement actions, and government contract and public procurement disputes—Kirk utilizes his experience as a former federal prosecutor to communicate effectively with the government and defend and protect his client's rights.

Kirk begins every new engagement with a conversation with his clients to define what "success" means to them. From there, he maps their way to success, advocating fiercely on their behalf each step of the way.

Post-Pandemic Practice: During and immediately after the pandemic, Kirk tailored a portion of his practice to provide advice to businesses involved in government assistance programs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). Kirk continues to provide such advice post-pandemic, particularly to help borrowers and lenders navigate government investigations into alleged fraud in the Paycheck Protection Program.

Kirk also serves as Dorsey's Co-Pro Bono Partner, supporting the Firm's commitment to providing quality legal services to those most in need. He previously served as the Des Moines Pro Bono Office Leader from 2023 to 2026.

Education

- Drake University Law School (J.D., 2006)
 - High Honors with Certificates in Litigation/Dispute Resolution and Legislative Practice; Law Review; Moot Court; and Student Bar Association
- Drake University (B.A., 2003)
 - *magna cum laude*, Academic All-American (Men's Tennis)

Bar Admissions

- Iowa

Select Experience

Kirk has resolved a wide variety of disputes with nearly two decades of experience as a current private practitioner and former federal prosecutor. But the variety of cases, including the more recent matters listed below, is always balanced with one trait that is constant: great advocacy for his clients.

- *Business Disputes*, including commercial litigation of a wide-range of business disputes involving claims of breach of contract, misrepresentation, fraud, negligence, strict liability, unlawful discrimination, breach of fiduciary duty, products liability, wrongful death, intellectual property rights, and much more.
- *Restrictive Covenant (Noncompetes and Nonsolicits) Enforcement and Defense*, including litigation in and outside of Iowa to protect employers' and former employees' rights.
- *Class Action Cases*, including the defense and prosecution of class claims.
- *Employment Discrimination Litigation*, including complete summary judgment in favor of an employer for defense of FLMA and Iowa worker compensation claims, and defense of employers before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands
- U.S. District Court for the District of Guam
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Criminal Justice Act Panel for Des Moines
- Member, Commercial Litigation Practice Group
- Member, Government Enforcement & Corporate Investigations Group
- Former Editor of FCA Now, Dorsey & Whitney's False Claims Act blog
- Past-President, Dallas County Bar Association
- Member, Polk County Bar Association and Membership Committee
- Member, Iowa State Bar Association and Federal Practice Committee
- Co-Founder and Director of icare, a 501(c)(3) Iowa Non-Profit, and co-organizer of the EAT-A-THON
- Former Member, Advisory Board for Can Play, a 501(c)(3) Iowa Non-Profit
- Former Member, Festival Committee for the Drake Relays
- Former Member, Board of Directors for Seeds of Faith Early Learning Center in Clive, Iowa
- "Spotlight on Service" Honoree, The Iowa Lawyer magazine, November 2017
- Vision Soccer Academy

- Board Member, 2026-present
- Parent Volunteer and Staff Coach for Boys and Girls teams, 2018-present

Clerkships

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, Chief Judge Mark W. Bennett, 2007–2008
- Iowa Supreme Court, Justice Mark S. Cady, 2006–2007

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: General Commercial, Iowa, 2023-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2026
- *Best Lawyers*® *Ones to Watch* in America, 2022-2025
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Pro Bono Award Recipient, 2021, 2023, 2025

Select Presentations

- "Civil Law Breakout: Eighth Circuit Civil Case Law Update," presented at the Iowa State Bar Association's Federal Practice Seminar, December 12, 2025
- Moderator for panel discussion with the Southern and Northern District of Iowa's United States District Court Judges at the Iowa State Bar Association's Federal Practice Seminar, December 13, 2024
- "Preparing for Corporate Representative Depositions", presented at the Iowa State Bar Association's Corporate Counsel and Trade Regulation Seminar, September 27, 2024
- "The Paycheck Protection Program: What's in Store for 2024? (Part Two)," webinar presentation, July 17, 2024
- "The Paycheck Protection Program: What's in Store for 2024? (Part One)," webinar presentation, April 24, 2024
- "Approaching the Categorical: A Panel Discussion on the Categorical Approach," presented at the Iowa State Bar Association's Federal Practice Seminar, December 15, 2023
- "False Claims Act: A Year In Review," presented at Dorsey's False Claims Act Forum, October 18, 2023
- "The Corporate Representative Deposition," presented at the Iowa State Bar Association's Annual Seminar, June 21, 2023
- "Responding to Government Investigations," Association of Corporate Counsel – Iowa Chapter, Drake University Law School, May 20, 2022
- "Keeping Your Organization Calm, Cool, And Collected When The Government Brings the Heat: How To Effectively Manage Government Enforcement Efforts," Association of Corporate Counsel – Iowa Chapter, Fall Symposium, Elm Crest Country Club in Cedar Rapids, October 6, 2017.
- "Best Practices: Records Retention & Preparing for Litigation," Association of Corporate Counsel – Iowa Chapter, Fall Symposium, Elm Crest Country Club in Cedar Rapids, November 11, 2016
- "Avoiding Litigation Pitfalls in P3 Projects: Understand What to Include in P3 Contracts to Mitigate Litigation Risks," Dorsey's Annual Symposium, Des Moines Botanical Gardens, October 27, 2016

- "What to do when your company is served with a federal subpoena," Association of Corporate Counsel – Iowa Chapter, CLE Luncheon, August 20, 2015

Insights

November 1, 2025

"What's left? Universal injunctions against state actors after Trump v. Casa," The Iowa Lawyer, November 2025

February 10, 2025

What Companies and Higher Education Institutions Need to Know Regarding DOJ's New Memoranda to Enforce the Administration's Directive to "End Illegal DEI" Practices and for the "Total Elimination of Cartels and Transnational Criminal Organizations"

March 13, 2024

Civil Investigative Demands: What Are They and How Does a Recipient Respond?

November 29, 2022

Iowa Federal Practice: Pro tips for pro hac

September 26, 2022

DOJ Announces First-In-The-Nation False Claims Act Settlement with PPP Lender

July 11, 2022

Hontos, Schuler Discuss PPP Fraud

Last Updated September 26, 2022

False Claims Act Case Tracker for Paycheck Protection Program Fraud

August 4, 2021

Deferment Period Extended for PPP Borrowers that Appeal Adverse Forgiveness Decisions

August 3, 2021

Time Period Extended for Paying Back PPP Loans

May 3, 2021

What to do if your PPP loan isn't forgiven

January 14, 2021

Borrowers & Banks Beware: The New Year Brings the Nation's First False Claims Act Settlement for Paycheck Protection Program Fraud

November 12, 2020

Can I please go to work yet?

August 11, 2020

SF 2338: A Proposed Fix for "Pexa" and the Pandemic

July 23, 2020

**Minnesota Businesses Must Require Workers, Customers, and Visitors to Wear
Masks**

June 16, 2020

**The Convergence: Feds Level First Hybrid Healthcare- and Securities-fraud
Charges Arising from COVID-19 Marketing and Sales**