

Nicole Engisch

Partner

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Minneapolis – 612.492.5231



Nicole advises and represents clients in government enforcement actions, internal investigations, corporate compliance, white-collar crime, and complex civil litigation.

An accomplished leader, strategic problem solver, Co-Chair of the Higher Education and Academic Research practice group, Co-Chair of the Government Solutions and Investigations practice group, and NACUA member, Nicole brings over 30 years of legal experience as a state court trial judge, federal prosecutor, and civil litigator to help clients with their most difficult and high stakes problems, such as responding to government subpoenas, search warrants, and investigative demands and inquiries. She conducts internal corporate investigations and represents clients in cases involving the False Claims Act (FCA), the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), health care fraud, tax fraud, securities fraud, and other financial fraud.

As a state court trial judge, Nicole presided over thousands of cases, including noteworthy criminal jury trials and evidentiary hearings. As a federal prosecutor, Nicole successfully investigated, prosecuted and tried some of the largest and highest profile white collar crime cases filed in federal court in Minnesota. She has significant trial and appellate experience.

Nicole has extensive experience leading and managing teams and in effective crisis management. At the Department of Justice (DOJ), she served as the First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Chief of the Criminal Division, and Counsel to the U.S. Attorney.

Prior to her DOJ service, Nicole practiced civil litigation in a large law firm, representing clients in intellectual property and complex civil matters.

Select Experience

Nicole's government enforcement background includes extensive experience investigating and prosecuting complex federal criminal cases. Representative matters

Education

- University of Minnesota Law School (J.D., 1990)
 - *cum laude*; Note & Comment Editor, *Minnesota Law Review*
- Rutgers University (B.A., 1987)
 - Political Science Honors

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota

include:

- Investigated and prosecuted an \$80 million financial services fraud and bankruptcy fraud case involving a prominent auto dealer. The high-profile case was the largest bankruptcy fraud case ever prosecuted in Minnesota.
- Investigated and prosecuted a \$41 million corporate bribery, conspiracy, money laundering, and tax fraud case involving a scheme to defraud the IRS and a top Fortune 500 specialty retail company. All three co-defendants were convicted, and millions of dollars of luxury vehicles and other assets were forfeited.
- Investigated and prosecuted health care fraud-related claims that resulted in one of the first convictions nationwide of an illegal online pharmacy operator. Five co-defendants were convicted, and millions of dollars in assets were forfeited.
- Investigated and prosecuted one of the District of Minnesota's largest corporate fraud cases, resulting in convictions of the corporate defendant and six officers, along with millions of dollars in fines, civil fraud penalties, and court-ordered restitution.

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Minnesota District Judges Association Criminal Jury Instructions Committee (2019-2022)
- Eighth Circuit Model Criminal Jury Instructions Subcommittee (2008-2013)
- District of Minnesota Electronic Court File Sealed Document Committee (2011-2013)
- University of St. Thomas School of Law Adjunct Law Professor, Evidence (2020-2022)
- Hamline University School of Law Adjunct Professor, Unfair Competition and Predatory Practices (2001)

Accolades

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2025-2026
- *Minnesota Lawyer*, Legal 250, 2026
- *Minnesota Monthly*, Top Lawyer, 2024
- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2023-2025
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- *Twin Cities Business*, Notable Partner in Law, 2025
- National Association of Former United States Attorneys' Exceptional Service Award, 2013
- National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association Investigation of the Year Award, 2007
- Food and Drug Administration's Director's Award, 2007
- FBI Director Commendation, 2007

Select Speaking Engagements

- Co-Presenter, Preparing for and Handling Worst-Case Scenarios for In-House

Counsel Seminar: "A New Relationship with the United States – Risk, Opportunity, and Interacting with the Second Trump Administration," Minnesota CLE (April 28, 2025)

- Speaker, "Ethics, DEI & Privilege Update: Understanding Privilege Issues in Litigation and Investigations," Dorsey & Whitney (April 10, 2024)
- Speaker, "Parallel Proceedings: Navigating the Intersection of Civil, Criminal, and Administrative Enforcement," Federal Bar Association, Minnesota Chapter (November 30, 2023)
- Speaker, Corporate Counsel Symposium: "The Government Expects Me to Do What?! Managing Business Data in the Era of Messaging Apps, Remote Work, and BYOD," Dorsey & Whitney (November 14, 2023)
- Speaker, False Claims Act Forum: "FCA Investigations: The Players and the Means," Dorsey & Whitney (October 18, 2023)

Insights

January 20, 2026

DOJ Sues Minnesota Over Affirmative Action, Certifies Case for Early SCOTUS Fight on Title VII Precedent

December 30, 2025

Justice Department Eliminates Disparate-Impact Liability Under Title VI

November 25, 2025

Department of Education Announces Six New Interagency Partnerships Aimed at “Breaking Up the Federal Education Bureaucracy”

September 12, 2025

DOJ Signals Civil, Criminal Enforcement of “Parental Rights” in Education

August 8, 2025

DOJ’s New Anti-Discrimination Guidance: Pushing the Legal Envelope?

June 24, 2025

DOJ’s Civil Division Prioritizes Investigations and Enforcement Actions Targeting DEI, Immigration, and Gender-Affirming Health Care

May 15, 2025

DOJ’s Criminal Division Turns a “New Page” on White Collar & Corporate Enforcement and Announces Changes in Self-Reporting, Monitorships, and Whistleblowers

April 25, 2025

President Trump on Campus: New Higher Education Executive Orders

March 21, 2025

EEOC and DOJ Issue Joint Press Release and Technical Assistance Documents on “Unlawful DEI-Related Discrimination”

March 17, 2025

U.S. Department of Education Announces Investigations Demonstrating Continued Scrutiny of DEI-Related Title VI Issues

March 13, 2025

Partner Nicole Engisch Featured in Minnesota Lawyer on DEI Legal Risks

March 4, 2025

U.S. Department of Education’s Guidance Clarifies Discriminatory Activities Subject to Investigation and Funding Consequences

February 19, 2025

U.S. Department of Education To Step Up Scrutiny of Any Educational Institution’s Programs Deemed “DEI”

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”

November 26, 2024

DOJ Antitrust Division Issues Updated Guidance on Evaluating Corporate Compliance Programs