

Vanessa J. Szalapski

Partner

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Minneapolis – 612.492.6743



No matter the challenge, clients depend on Vanessa to quickly understand the issues and tenaciously advocate on their behalf to successfully resolve their disputes.

Vanessa is a partner in Dorsey's Health Litigation Group. Her practice focuses on litigation in the healthcare industry, including general commercial, medical malpractice, ERISA, and civil rights litigation. Vanessa also has significant experience advising and running internal and external fraud investigations in the financial services sector, as well as experience in general commercial, shareholder, and trust litigation in state and federal courts across the country.

Vanessa also maintains an active pro bono practice representing healthcare and other non-profits in litigation and 501(c)(3) applications as well as assisting low-income individuals with expungement applications.

Select Experience

Healthcare Litigation

- Won full defense verdict for Mayo Clinic after just 19 minutes of jury deliberations following a week-long medical malpractice trial.
- Achieved order denying class-certification on behalf of pharmacy benefit manager in ERISA putative class-action alleging breaches of fiduciary duty related to certain high priced drugs.
- Won summary judgment on behalf of third-party administrator in ERISA claim for benefits case and established for the first time that Minn. Stat. § 62Q.107 does not apply to self-funded ERISA healthcare plans.
- Represent insurers in ERISA and breach of contract putative class actions.

Court Admissions

- District of Minnesota

Education

- Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law (J.D., 2014)
 - *magna cum laude*; Order of the Coif
- Dartmouth College (B.A., French and English, 2010)
 - *cum laude*; with honors; Lawrence and Sheila Harvey Prize for outstanding growth in French language and literature; James O. Freedman Presidential Scholar; Inducted into the Wearers of the Green, Dartmouth College Athletic Hall of Fame

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Dorsey & Whitney Minneapolis Recruiting Committee
- Co-chair of Digital Communications Committee and Member, Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
- Member, Minnesota Bar Association, Healthcare Section
- Member, Minnesota Women Lawyers

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Gold Test Figure Skating Judge
- President and Executive Board Member, Dartmouth Alumni Club of the Midwest
- President and Board Member, Minnesota Figure Skating Scholarship Committee

Accolades

- *Best Lawyers® Ones to Watch in America*, 2026
- *Minnesota Super Lawyers®*, "Rising Stars," 2022-2026
- *Minnesota Super Lawyers®*, "Rising Stars," Women's Edition, 2023-2024
- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2015-2018, 2020, 2024-2025
- Minnesota Lawyer, Up & Coming Attorney, 2021

Languages

- French

Additional Information

- Note, *Losing Our Innocence: The Illinois Successive Postconviction Actual Innocence Standard after People v. Edwards*, 104.1 J. CRIM. L. & CRIMINOLOGY 195 (2014).

Dorsey Health Law

August 25, 2020

DOJ Demonstrates Continued Focus on Opioid Crisis with \$600 Million Criminal and Civil Settlement Against Indivior Solutions, Indivior Inc., and Indivior plc

March 23, 2020

Supreme Court holds "actual knowledge" in ERISA statute means "what it says"

Insights

July 16, 2021

Up & Coming Attorneys, Unsung Legal Heroes Announced

January 24, 2018

"Hot issues from Minnesota and 8th Circuit," Minnesota Lawyer