

William J. Miller

Partner

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Des Moines – 515.699.3281



Bill partners with clients to solve problems from the board room to the court room.

A strong believer that close relationships drive successful outcomes, Bill cultivates connections within and outside the legal field to benefit his clients and community. Combining these relationships with legal skill, Bill is an effective advocate in complex business matters, employment disputes and claims, and personal injury defense for clients in industries at the center of the modern economy including government, healthcare, and financial services.

Bill handles matters through all aspects of litigation, including pre-suit investigation and negotiation, administrative proceedings, arbitration, and trial and appeal in state and federal court. His experience includes litigation in probate and bankruptcy courts. Bill also has been entrusted with internal investigations and policy and procedure reviews in employment and other contexts.

Select Experience

Bill is a trial lawyer and has litigated several matters through trial and appeal. Other successes have resulted in client victories without trial. Examples of his work include:

- Defense of municipal client, including through certified questions, in litigation of water service territory dispute (S.D. Iowa and Iowa Supreme Court)
- Trial and appeal in multiple lawsuits against an independent living facility client alleging breach of fiduciary duty and other theories (Polk County and Iowa Supreme Court)
- Defense of municipal client through trial in breach of contract action related to economic development agreement (Polk County)
- Defense from administrative level through trial in arbitration and state and federal courts of numerous employment law matters

Education

- Drake University Law School
 - With Highest Honors; Order of the Coif; Iowa State Bar Association Graduating Senior Award; H.G. Cartwright Law Review Award
- Augustana College
 - *cum laude*; Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

- Iowa

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Courts and Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Polk County Bar Association
 - Recipient, Award of Merit
 - Past President
 - Chair, Judicial Retention Committee
 - Member, Bench & Bar Committee
 - Past Member, Board of Governors
 - Past Member, Ethics Committee
 - Past Member, Public Relations Committee
- Member, Iowa State Bar Association
 - Member, Future Needs Task Force
 - Member and Past Chair, Litigation Section Council
 - Member, Judicial Administration Committee
 - Member, Appellate Practice Committee
 - Past Member, Board of Governors
 - Past Member, Independence of the Judiciary/Fair Courts Committee
 - Past Member and Chair, Young Lawyers Division Services to the Elderly Committee
- Life Fellow, Iowa State Bar Foundation
- Member, Iowa Municipal Attorneys Association
- Member, Iowa Society of Healthcare Attorneys
- Past Member, Iowa Supreme Court Jumpstart Jury Trials Task Force
- Past Member and Co-Chair, Iowa Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure
- Past Member, Iowa Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education
- Past Member, PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project Board of Directors
- Past Member, American Judicature Society, National Advisory Council

Clerkships

- Iowa Supreme Court, Justice Mark S. Cady

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Drake Law School, Board of Counselors
 - Past President
- Des Moines Business Record's Forty Under 40, 2014
- Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, 2008

- Past Member, Augustana College, President's Advisory Council
- Past Member, Holy Trinity Church and School, Facilities Committee
- Past Member, Amanda the Panda Board of Directors
- Past President, Beaverdale Neighborhood Association

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*
 - Litigation: General Commercial, Iowa, 2018-2026
 - Labor & Employment, Iowa, 2025-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2016-2026
- *Great Plains Super Lawyers*®, 2021-2026
- Benchmark Litigation, "Future Star", 2015-2016, 2021-2022, 2024
- Recipient of Polk County Bar Association Award of Merit in recognition of "outstanding service and dedication to the association and its members," 2024
- Benchmark Litigation, "Labor & Employment Star – Iowa", 2021-2022
- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Team Award (Dr. Conaway Disability Rights Team), 2021
- *Best Lawyers in America*® Employment Law Issue, 2021
- Benchmark Litigation, Under 40 Hot List, 2016-2018
- *Chambers USA*, "Up and Coming", Litigation: General Commercial, 2015-2017
- Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®
- *Great Plains Super Lawyers*®, "Rising Stars," 2013-2017
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program

Select Presentations

Bill has presented on topics including appellate law and practice, professional responsibility, and elder law for organizations including the Association of Corporate Counsel - Iowa Chapter, Iowa Hospital Association, Iowa Judicial Institute, Iowa Defense Counsel Association and Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations.

Insights

December 11, 2025

Reputation is Everything: Iowa Supreme Court Clarifies Use of Closed Session Job Interviews

April 11, 2024

What Employers Need to Know about Iowa's Religious Freedom Restoration Act

January 17, 2024

Workplace Drug Testing: New Iowa Court of Appeals Ruling Signals Best Practices for Employers

November 1, 2021

Iowa Passes New Law Related to COVID-19 Vaccination Mandates by Employers and Unemployment Insurance

July 7, 2021

Iowa Supreme Court Narrowly Upholds Portion of Waterloo, Iowa's "Ban the Box" Ordinance: What Does It Mean for Other Iowa Municipalities?

June 1, 2021

No Vaccine Passports in Iowa

August 11, 2020

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

August 28, 2017

New Eighth Circuit Opinion Likely to Increase Summary Judgments in Noncompete Litigation

December 2016

Dorsey Partner William Miller argues Acciona Windpower v. City of West Branch

Part 3: Best Practices of a Governmental Body To Protect Itself in Challenges Under the Open Meetings Law After Hutchison v. Shull