This list is excerpted from the 2021 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published since 1983, Best Lawyers® lists attorneys in 148 specialties, representing all 50 states, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation’s top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2021 Edition of *Best Lawyers* is based on more than 13 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled almost 40 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on the vote of their peers. Listings cannot be bought, and no purchase is required to be included. In this regard, *Best Lawyers* remains the gold standard of reliability and integrity in lawyer ratings.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed among “the best”: “If you had a close friend or relative who needed a real estate lawyer (for example), and you could not handle the case yourself, to whom would you refer them?” All votes and comments were solicited with a guarantee of confidentiality—a critical factor in the viability and validity of Best Lawyers’ surveys. To ensure the rigor of the selection process, lawyers were urged to use only their highest standards when voting, and to evaluate each nominee based only on his or her individual merits. The additional comments were used to make more accurate comparisons between voting patterns and weight votes accordingly. Best Lawyers uses various methodological tools to identify and correct for anomalies in both the nomination and voting process.

Recognition by Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch is based entirely on peer review and employs the same methodology that has made Best Lawyers the gold standard for legal rankings worldwide. These awards are recognitions given to attorneys who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States. Ones to Watch recipients typically have been in practice for 5-9 years.

For all these reasons, Best Lawyers lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate, and useful guide to the best lawyers in the country. *Minnesota Monthly* has teamed up with Best Lawyers to provide this resource for our readers. In the following pages, we highlight those lawyers awarded in Minnesota for 2021—an exceptional group of attorneys who go above and beyond for their clients.
THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch are published by BL Rankings, LLC, Augusta, GA. and can be ordered directly from the publisher. For information call 803-648-0300; write 801 Broad Street Suite 950, Augusta GA 30901; email info@bestlawyers.com; or visit bestlawyers.com. An online subscription to Best Lawyers® is available at bestlawyers.com. “The Best Lawyers in America,” “Ones to Watch,” and “Best Lawyers” are registered trademarks of BL Rankings, LLC.

BL Rankings, LLC has used its best efforts in assembling material for this list but does not warrant that the information contained herein is complete or accurate, and does not assume, and hereby disclaims, any liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions herein whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause. All listed attorneys have been verified as being members in good standing with their respective state bar associations as of July 1, 2020, where that information is publicly available. Consumers should contact their state bar association for verification and additional information prior to securing legal services of any attorney.

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Congratulations to Frances Baillon, Joni Thome, Chris Jozwiak and Shawn Wanta for being named to the list of Best Lawyers in America for 2021.

Frances, Joni and Chris were again named among the Best Lawyers in employment law, and Shawn joined the list of Best Lawyers in consumer law.

At Baillon Thome Jozwiak & Wanta LLP, we are committed to advancing the rights of employees in matters of discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblowing and retaliation.

Our lawyers include Super Lawyers, Board Certified Employment Law Specialists and serve on boards for the state and federal bar association sections and Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid.
Victoria Brenner  
**COLLINS, BUCKLEY, SAUNTRY & HAUGH, P.L.L.P.**

For more than 15 years, Victoria Brenner has provided support to clients and their dependents going through separations and divorces. As a family law attorney, she handles custody, parenting time, child support, orders for protection, alimony, divorce, and post-divorce in a wide spectrum of modest to high-asset cases. She also serves as a Rule 17 Guardian ad Litem.

Brenner is well-rounded in family law and is committed to offering her clients the highest level of compassion and professionalism while tailoring a specific strategy for each client. While Brenner has handled numerous litigation matters and been involved in highly contested trials, when litigation can be avoided, her approach includes mediation and/or collaboration to settle cases efficiently and cost-effectively.

Brenner is an active member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Minnesota chapter, whose mission is to minimize the negative impact of divorce and separation on the parties and their children. She is also an adjunct professor of family law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law and is the recent past president of the Warren E. Burger Inn of Court, which is affiliated with the college. She is also the recent past managing partner at CBSH. Brenner has written and presented continuing legal education courses on divorces involving closely held businesses, spousal maintenance, family law appeals, Guardian ad Litem appointments, and attorney ethics.

**CONCENTRATION:** Family Law & Attorney Professional Responsibility  
332 Minnesota St., W-1100, St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-227-0611 | vbrenner@cbsh.net | cbsh.net mtm-lawgroup.com

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Jeff Lindquist  
**GRIES LENHARDT ALLEN, P.L.L.P.**

With more than 30 years of extensive employment law experience, Jeff Lindquist has defended clients, large and small, in a wide array of civil litigation matters in Minnesota state, federal, and administrative courts. He has successfully represented a broad variety of clients, including personal injury cases, complex commercial disputes, and employment matters, such as wrongful termination and discrimination claims. Lindquist’s experience also covers a full range of employment-related legal services and consulting on policies and practices.

As an experienced appellate lawyer, Lindquist serves on the amicus committee of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association and has written numerous friend-of-the-court briefs on behalf of that organization. He is a recognized and respected workers’ compensation expert and a chapter author of the Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Desk Book.

Outside the office, Lindquist volunteers extensively in his home community of St. Michael, including many years of coaching youth sports, working with non-profit groups, promoting the arts, and music ministry at his church. Lindquist loves music, and moonlights as a singer-guitarist in a rock band on weekends.

**CONCENTRATION:** Workers’ Compensation & Employment Law  
12725 43rd St. NE, Suite 20, St. Michael, MN 55376  
763-497-3099 | jeff@glalawfirm.com | glalawfirm.com
Jeffrey S. Sheridan
SHERIDAN & DULAS, P.A.

Jeffrey S. Sheridan of Sheridan & Dulas, P.A., is one of the most recognized and respected criminal defense lawyers in Minnesota. His achievements include an impressive list of landmark federal and state Supreme Court decisions, resulting in the courts striking down major portions of DWI laws as unconstitutional. Throughout his 34-year career, Sheridan’s innovative arguments and tenacious nature have proven successful in trial courts, courts of appeal, and before the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to being included in *The Best Lawyers in America*® list every year since 2007, he was named the Best Lawyers DWI Defense “Lawyer of the Year” in Minneapolis in 2013 and 2019. He’s also been repeatedly recognized by Minnesota Super Lawyers and was named an Attorney of the Year three times by Minnesota Lawyer.

Sheridan believes that a good lawyer should not just stand next to you while you enter a plea, but their job is to fight to protect your rights and fight to win every time. His philosophy is simple: “I don’t judge you. I don’t lecture you. I defend you. Period.” If you’ve been stopped for DWI and had your license revoked, “See a lawyer immediately,” Sheridan counsels. “The worst thing you can do is wait until your first court appearance. Important rights that may determine the ultimate outcome of your case will disappear soon after your arrest.”

**CONCENTRATION:** Criminal Defense, DUI/DWI Defense
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Suite 320, Eagan, MN 55121
651-686-8800 | ssdpa.com

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Thomas Tuft, Susan Lach, John Jerabek, Dan O’Connell, Letty Van Ert, Lindsey O’Connell & Alexandra Connell
TUFT, LACH, JERABEK & O’CONNELL, P.L.L.C.

Experience, diligence, and creativity are required to effectively bring complex family law litigation and alternative dispute resolution matters to conclusion. Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O’Connell, P.L.L.C. has a team of accomplished and ethical family attorneys and mediators who possess those skills. The team is comprised of shareholder-attorneys and mediators Thomas Tuft, Susan Lach, John Jerabek, Dan O’Connell, Letty Van Ert, Lindsey O’Connell, Alexandra Connell, and associate attorney Allyson Kerr.

Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O’Connell, P.L.L.C. is well-respected in the family law legal community and its shareholders have been recognized for family law litigation as well as mediation. All of the shareholders were selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2021 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® for their work in family law. In Minneapolis, shareholder Dan O’Connell was honored as the Best Lawyers 2015 Family Law “Lawyer of the Year,” and the Best Lawyers 2016, 2018, and 2021 Family Law Mediation “Lawyer of the Year.” Thomas Tuft was also named the Best Lawyers 2017 Family Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Minneapolis.

The firm’s attorneys and mediators are deeply involved in the legal community, and Thomas Tuft, Susan Lach, and Dan O’Connell served as past presidents of the Minnesota chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**CONCENTRATION:** Family Law
2109 E. County Road D, Maplewood, MN 55109
651-771-0050 | info@tuftlaw.com | tuftlaw.com

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Left to right: Lindsey O’Connell, John Jerabek, Alexandra Connell, Susan Lach, Dan O’Connell, Thomas Tuft, Letty Van Ert
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Beth Bertelson
BERTELSON LAW OFFICES, P.A.

As an experienced employee rights advocate, Beth Bertelson understands that a job is more than just a paycheck. She has spent more than 30 years representing clients that have experienced physical, emotional, and financial conflicts in the workplace. She litigates discrimination, retaliation, and harassment issues, and also reviews and negotiates severance agreements. She is a MSBA Board Certified Employment Law Specialist, mediates and investigates employment disputes, and has been designated as a qualified neutral under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice for the District Courts.

She has garnered a long list of honors for her practice, including being named to U.S. News Best Lawyers and consistently nominated by her peers to the Super Lawyers list. In 2020, Super Lawyers included her in Minnesota’s Top 50 Women Lawyers list. Bertelson stays informed of current developments in her field through her active participation in the Minnesota State and Hennepin County bar associations, and the National Employment Lawyers Association.

CONCENTRATION: Litigation – Labor & Employment
612-278-9832 | beth@bertelsonlaw.com | bertelsonlaw.com

Lisa Lamm Bachman
FOLEY & MANSFIELD

Lisa Lamm Bachman’s practice is focused on employment law and litigation, handling matters involving sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation, whistleblowers, FMLA, ADA violations, misappropriation of trade secrets, and non-compete agreements. She has assisted clients in responding to charges of discrimination and retaliation filed with the EEOC, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, and the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights. In addition to her litigation practice, she routinely advises employers on a variety of employment issues, conducts outside investigations of employee workplace complaints, and provides employee and management training that helps businesses with efforts to minimize liability for discrimination and harassment claims.

Lamm Bachman always ensures effective communication through active listening and frequent updates so that her clients are always apprised of developments in the case and the law, which will ultimately affect their decision making and strategy.

CONCENTRATION: Litigation – Labor & Employment
612-338-8788 | info@foleymansfield.com | foleymansfield.com

Michael Madigan
MADIGAN DAHL & HARLAN, P.A.

Michael Madigan has more than 40 years of experience practicing in the areas of administrative, alcohol beverage, antitrust, business, commercial, distributor, dealer, franchise, construction, employment, and environmental law. He is the managing shareholder of Madigan, Dahl & Harlan, P.A., where the bulk of his practice involves representing clients in the alcohol beverage industry. For the last 22 years, he has served as an arbitrator and mediator on the Complex Commercial Panel of the American Arbitration Association and served as a neutral on the Minnesota ADR Neutrals Roster.

Madigan views the relationship between a lawyer and client as a very special one for several reasons. The issues that bring the two together are often of profound importance to the client. Resolving those issues requires candid and confidential discussions and collaboration. Madigan has developed a deep understanding of the law in the areas in which he practices and has honed his skills as a negotiator and litigator in achieving his clients’ goals.

CONCENTRATION: Commercial Litigation & Franchise Law
612-604-2000 | madigan@mdh-law.com | mdh-law.com
David L. Ayers
AYERS & RIEHM, P.A.

Dave Ayers has more than 40 years of criminal defense experience in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with a successful trial record in a wide range of cases, from misdemeanors to murders. For more than 15 years, he represented MPPOA police officers facing critical incidents and criminal charges. Ayers is one of only eight lawyers in Minnesota to be selected in three categories of the Minnesota Judges’ Choice Awards. Again in 2021, he was named the Best Lawyers Criminal Defense “Lawyer of the Year” in Minneapolis. Ayers has a reputation for focusing on details and getting results.

CONCENTRATION: Criminal Defense
651-552-8400
daveayers@ayersriehm.com
ayersriehm.com

Laura K. Fretland
DOVE FRETLAND, P.L.L.C.

Most divorces and custody disputes are settled out of court, yet there is no substitute for the insight an experienced family law attorney brings to each case. For more than 30 years, Laura Fretland has been helping people face divorce and other complex family law disputes. She provides careful guidance and quality legal representation customized to the unique needs of her clients, whether that means litigation, negotiated settlement, collaborative law, or mediation. Her goal is fair and efficient resolutions, but she’s a strong and effective litigator when necessary, working hard to safeguard the rights of her clients.

CONCENTRATION: Family Law
952-545-9000
lrfretland@dovefretlandlaw.com
familylawminn.com

Reena Desai
NICHOLS KASTER, P.L.L.P.

Reena Desai has dedicated the majority of her career to litigating class and collective actions and representing workers in several industries. From investigators to servers, Desai advocates for workers to combat wage theft and recover unpaid overtime, minimum wages, and other unpaid compensation.

612-256-3244 | rdesai@nka.com

Michele Fisher
NICHOLS KASTER, P.L.L.P.

With more than 20 years of experience advocating for employee rights, Fisher is recognized for being a voice for workers who need it. Fisher is a leader in national wage and hour litigation and maintains leadership roles in several legal organizations.

612-256-3229 | fisher@nka.com

Tamara O’Neill Moreland
LARKIN HOFFMAN

Tamara O’Neill Moreland is an MSBA Board Certified Real Property Specialist with more than 20 years of experience. She is uniquely qualified to counsel on litigation involving land use, commercial and residential construction, fraudulent real estate transactions, environmental issues, and appellate advocacy. She strives to lessen the stress and uncertainty of litigation, and ensure her clients receive an outcome that is in the best interest of their business. O’Neill Moreland is a shareholder in Larkin Hoffman’s real estate litigation department, serves as ethics counsel for the firm, is a member of its board of directors, and is the chair of its professional development committee.

CONCENTRATION: Real Estate Law
952-896-6711
toneill@larkinhoffman.com
larkinhoffman.com

William J. Mauzy
THE LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM J. MAUZY, P.A.

William J. Mauzy has been recognized as a Minnesota Super Lawyer for 30 years and has been included in the Best Lawyers in America for Criminal Defense for more than 35 years. Mauzy has won acquittals and dismissals in a variety of matters, including securities fraud, campaign finance violations, bank fraud, mail fraud, tax crimes, bid rigging, healthcare fraud, nursing home fraud, antitrust, real estate and mortgage fraud, insurance fraud, environmental crimes, government contract fraud, drug crimes, bribery, theft, embezzlement, and criminal sexual conduct. He earned his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Minnesota.

CONCENTRATION: Criminal Defense
612-340-9108
wmauzy@mauzylawfirm.com
mauzylawfirm.com

David Valentini
VALENTINI LAW, P.A.

With 40 years of experience as a criminal trial lawyer, David Valentini has worked hard to earn a reputation as one of Minnesota’s top defense attorneys. Valentini has the unique perspective that comes from the 10 years he spent with the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office before entering private practice. Since starting his own firm, he has successfully defended thousands of people accused of serious crimes, especially DUI/DWI and drug-related offenses. He is an active member of the Minnesota Society for Criminal Justice, of which he is formerly president, in addition to the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

CONCENTRATION: Criminal Defense
612-341-0900
info@valentinilaw.com
valentinilaw.com
Best & Flanagan congratulates 10 attorneys included in the 27th Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®.

**John Burton**
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*Family Law*

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*Native American Law*

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*Real Estate*

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