



## BASSFORD REMELE

Jessica L. Kometz  
ATTORNEY



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### PRACTICE GROUPS

Class Action/Multi-District Litigation  
Commercial Litigation  
Employment Litigation/Advice  
Trust and Estates Litigation

### INDUSTRY GROUPS

Financial Services  
Health Care  
Non-Profit Organizations

### OVERVIEW

Ms. Kometz maintains a practice with a focus on assisting families, businesses, and individuals in maneuvering through trust and estate conflicts, as well as in the areas of employment law and commercial litigation.

In her trusts and estates practice, Ms. Kometz works with trust beneficiaries, trustees, and other fiduciaries in resolving will and trust conflicts and petitions for guardianship and/or conservatorship. In her employment practice, Ms. Kometz advises and represents clients in a wide spectrum of concerns, such as navigating reasonable accommodation requests, terminating employees, etc. and has successfully defended harassment and discrimination claims in court and with various administrative agencies. Ms. Kometz also has experience conducting investigations for employers, school districts, and colleges relating to Title IX and sexual misconduct issues, discrimination, and harassment.

Ms. Kometz graduated *magna cum laude* from Mitchell Hamline School of Law where she was a member of the *Mitchell Hamline Law Review*. During law school, Ms. Kometz argued her first case in front of the Minnesota Court of Appeals while serving as an extern for the Honorable Daniel C. Moreno of the Fourth Judicial District and the Honorable Laura Nelson of the Second Judicial District.

### EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

#### Education

Mitchell Hamline School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2017

- CALI Award Recipient, Contracts
  - CALI Award Recipient, Legal Research and Writing
  - Dorsey & Whitney Scholarship Recipient, 2015-2017
  - *Mitchell Hamline Law Review*, Associate, Vol. 42, 2015-2016
- St. Cloud State University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2013

#### Bar Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- Minnesota

#### Judicial Clerkships

- Fourth Judicial District, The Honorable Daniel C. Moreno, Judicial Extern, 2017
- Second Judicial District, The Honorable Laura Nelson, Judicial Extern, 2017

#### Certifications

- Civil Rights Investigator, Foundations Certification, Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA), 2021

### EXPERIENCE

#### Representative Cases

##### *Trust and Estate*

- Part of a team who successfully litigated the question of where a decedent would be buried.
- Successfully represented a nominated personal representative in seeking appointment when the decedent had only signed the self-proved affidavit portion of a will.

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### **Employment**

- Obtained summary judgment on whistleblower and disability discrimination claims in favor of large public school district.
  - Successfully defended the same matter at the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Served as a neutral investigator in relation to claims of gender, national origin, and race discrimination, hostile environment, and harassment for two separate large public school districts and a private college.
- Served as a Title IX investigator for a large public school district and a private college.
- Successfully defended a non-profit client in relation to a charge of disability discrimination and retaliation filed with the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, resulting in a No Probable Cause finding.
- Successfully defended a healthcare client in relation to a charge of disability discrimination filed with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, resulting in a No Probable Cause finding.
- Part of a team who successfully represented a large corporation in an investigation by the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights involving race and religious discrimination claims.
- Successfully represented a large corporation in an investigation by the St. Paul Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity involving disability, national origin, and public assistance discrimination claims.

### **Publications**

- *Notes & Trends – Probate and Trust Law*, monthly column author, Bench & Bar of Minnesota, 2023-present
- *Prepared In Anticipation – Taking Full Advantage of the Protections in Rule 26.02(d)*, co-author, Minnesota Defense, Winter 2017

### **Seminars**

- *Trends in Trust and Estate Litigation: What You Need to Know As An Estate Planner*, co-presenter, A Loss of Trust: What Trust and Estate Litigators Think Estate Planners Need to Know, Bassford Remele, January 24, 2023
- *Mom Always Liked You Best: Tips from Experienced Trust Litigators for Estate Planners and Trustees*, co-presenter with A.I. Silver, N.M. Abramson, and C.D. Marshall, private company, February 11, 2020
- *Employment Law: Solutions for Top Complexities*, presenter, NBI, Inc. national webcast CLE, March 20, 2019
- *Not Your Typical Dog and Pony Show: Service and Assistance Animals in Residential and Commercial Settings*, presenter, Animal Law Section, Minnesota State Bar Association, March 12, 2018

### **PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC**

#### **Bar Associations**

- Federal Bar Association
- Minnesota State Bar Association
  - Labor and Employment Law Section
  - Probate and Trust Law Section
- Hennepin County Bar Association

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**Professional Associations**

- Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association
- Minnesota Women Lawyers
- Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA)

**Civic Involvement**

- The Advocates for Human Rights, 2019-present
- Volunteer Lawyers Network, 2018-present
- Tubman, 2018-present

**ACCOLADES**

- Up & Coming Attorney, *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2021
- Attorney of the Year, *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2019