



BASSFORD REMELE

Sarah M. Hoffman
SHAREHOLDER



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PRACTICE GROUPS
Professional Liability/
Claim Prevention

INDUSTRY GROUPS
Health Care

OVERVIEW

Ms. Hoffman is a health care litigator who helps systems, hospitals, clinics, and individual providers navigate and prevent lawsuits, investigations, board proceedings, and hearings.

Ms. Hoffman is currently part of several litigation teams defending providers in multi-million dollar birth injury cases in both state and federal court. She also represents providers in licensing actions, and counsels health care clients regarding various legal issues, including laws governing treatment of patients with mental illnesses and confidentiality of medical records.

Ms. Hoffman is co-chair of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Medical Liability and Health Care Law Committee and also serves as a volunteer for the Tubman Safety Project. She also serves on Bassford Remele's Board of Directors and as chair of its Pro Bono Committee.

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

William Mitchell College of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2008
- *Law Journal*, Assistant Editor
Concordia College, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2005

Bar Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin

Judicial Clerkships

First Judicial District, The Honorable Shawn Moynihan, Law Clerk, 2008-2013

EXPERIENCE

Representative Cases

Ms. Hoffman is routinely part of litigation teams handling high-damage medical malpractice cases involving complex medical and legal issues.

- Part of a litigation team that obtained a defense verdict for an obstetrical practice group accused of negligence in failing to deliver a child born with e. coli meningitis, born to a mother with preterm premature rupture of membranes, who left the hospital against her physicians' advice.
- Part of a litigation team that obtained a defense verdict for an emergency room physician in a case involving allegations of improperly prescribing an antibiotic, and contentions of extensive medication side effects.
- Part of a litigation team that obtained a defense verdict for a dermatopathologist accused of failing to diagnose melanoma in a wrongful death case.
- Part of a litigation team that obtained a defense verdict in a birth injury case for a family practice physician accused of failing to timely deliver a child later diagnosed with neonatal encephalopathy and cerebral palsy.
- Part of a litigation team that obtained a defense verdict for a general surgeon in a case involving a pseudomonas bacterial infection, and allegations that defendant surgeon failed to perform an examination that would have led to earlier diagnosis of the infection.
- Part of a litigation team that obtained a defense verdict in a negligent nondisclosure case involving disclosure of risks of LASIK surgery.

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Publications

- *The Whole Truth: What Whole Exome Sequencing and Other Genetic Tests Can Reveal about Causation in Birth Injury Cases*, author, Minnesota Defense, Winter 2020

Seminars

Ms. Hoffman regularly presents to and trains health care providers and lawyers on issues relating to health care law and the greater industry.

- *Medical Liability in Minnesota*, presenter, Minnesota Medical Association, Physician Forum, August 3, 2022
- *Effective Communication Across Surgical Center Teams, Your Role in Preventing Malpractice Claims*, presenter, Minnesota Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, October 28, 2021
- *Perspectives from In-House Counsel*, panel moderator, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Women in the Law Committee, November 13, 2018
- *The Reptile Theory: How to Spot the Snake in the Grass and Strike Back Before Trial*, co-presenter, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Trial Techniques Seminar, Duluth, MN, August 17, 2018
- *Understanding the Opioid Epidemic and Its Impact on Litigation*, co-presenter, 2018 Medical Malpractice Conference, HCBA/MNAJ/MDLA, April 12, 2018
- *Use of the Health Officer Authority: Answers to Frequently-Asked Questions*, presenter, private health system, 2017
- *Medical Assistance Liens – Update on the Law*, presenter, 2017 Medical Malpractice Conference, HCBA/MNAJ/MDLA, May 20, 2017
- *Minimizing the Risk of Malpractice Lawsuits: Informed Consent, Negligent Nondisclosure, and the “Reptile” Theory*, co-presenter, large private practice health care provider, 2016
- *Peer Review 101: Rules of the Road*, co-presenter with R.E. Moos, Minnesota Society for Healthcare Risk Management, June 24, 2016
- *The ACA’s Impact on Medical Malpractice Litigation*, presenter, large regional health care provider, May 4, 2016
- *Expecting the Unexpected: How to Keep Your Cool Under Pressure*, co-presenter, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Mid-Winter Conference, January 29, 2016
- *Working with Experts, Continuing Education Seminar*, co-presenter, Minnesota State Bar Association, December 2, 2015

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC

Bar Associations

- Minnesota State Bar Association
 - Health Law Section
- State Bar of Wisconsin
 - Health Law Section
- Hennepin County Bar Association

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Professional Associations

- Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association
 - Medical Liability and Health Care Law Committee, Co-Chair, 2020-present
 - Women in the Law Committee, Co-Chair, 2018-2020
- Minnesota Society for Healthcare Risk Management
- Minnesota Hospital Association
- Women's Health Leadership TRUST
- Minnesota Women Lawyers

Civic Involvement

- Tubman Safety Project
- William Mitchell College of Law, mentor, 2012-2013
- Pro Se Clinic at William Mitchell College of Law, Minnesota Justice Foundation, volunteer attorney, 2009-2011

ACCOLADES

Honors & Awards

- Minnesota Rising Stars list, *Super Lawyers*, 2016-present