



Susan E. Lovern

Attorney

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Susan Lovern is the President and CEO of von Briesen & Roper, s.c. and Co-Chairs the firm's Commercial and Business Litigation Section. She represents clients in complex business litigation and appeals in state and federal courts, as well as in pre-litigation contexts, including arbitrations and mediations. Susan's business litigation clients include hospitals, health systems, banks, manufacturers and businesses of all sizes.

She regularly handles contract, lease and warranty disputes for her clients, as well as business torts, class action defense, shareholder and non-compete agreements, unfair competition and trade secrets. Susan also represents clients facing environmental and real estate litigation matters, including CERCLA cleanup and PFAS contamination cases. Her appellate experience includes numerous published opinions and arguing cases before the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In every matter, Susan's focus is on understanding her client's business objectives and providing strategic, cost-effective service consistent with those objectives.

Areas of Practice

- Appellate
- Class Actions
- Commercial and Business Litigation
- Environmental Law and Litigation
- Health Law
- Litigation and Risk Management
- Real Estate Litigation

Education

- University of Iowa, J.D., *with distinction*, 1995
- University of Northern Iowa, B.A. - finance, *with highest honors*, 1992

Bar Admissions

- Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit

Presentations and Publications

- "From Phishing to Privilege: Cybersecurity Stories Every Litigator and Advisor Should Hear and Ethical Considerations", Panelist, TAG Alliances International Conference, May 2026
- "Trending Ethics Topics", Panelist, State Bar of Wisconsin, Trending Topics in Business Litigation, December 2025
- "Wellness and Mindfulness for Professionals", Panelist, TAG Alliances International Conference, May 2025
- "Trending Topics in Business Litigation", Panelist, State Bar of Wisconsin, December 2024
- "First Ladies - Women who were first in their role", Panelist, *Milwaukee Business Journal* Women of Influence Symposium, October 2024
- "Advice from the C-Suite", Moderator, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Women Leaders Conference, March 2023
- Wisconsin Women in Business Forum, Panelist, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Foundation, February 2023
- "Fraudulent Transfer Under Wisconsin Law", State Bar of Wisconsin, Trending Topics in Business Litigation, Dec. 2022
- "The Practice Areas of Tomorrow that Firms Should Prepare for Today", Panelist, TAG Alliances International Conference, May 2022
- "Hot Ethics Topics in Business Litigation", Panelist, State Bar of Wisconsin, Trending Topics in Business Litigation, Dec. 2021

- "The Attorney-Client Privilege in Business Litigation - How to Keep It ... and How to Lose It", State Bar of Wisconsin, Trending Topics in Business Litigation, Dec. 2020
- "Ethics in Negotiation: What Lawyers Can and Can't Say", Ethics 2018 CLE Seminar, von Briesen & Roper, Nov. 2018
- "Can We Talk?! Understanding the Attorney-Client Privilege", Association of Corporate Counsel, Wisconsin Chapter Conference, May 2016

Representative Matters

- Defending multiple hospitals and health care providers in medical records class action lawsuits.
- Successfully mediated a multi-million dollar award in a breach of contract action for a hospital client following discovery and prior to the first deposition.
- Obtained a seven-figure recovery for client in mediation of contract claim against environmental remediation company prior to litigation.
- Negotiated the release of corporate executives from non-compete agreements with Fortune 500 retail company without litigation.
- Obtained a CERCLA cost award against plaintiffs on behalf of defendant manufacturing company in multi-party federal trial.
- Successfully defended paper manufacturer against summary judgment liability claim brought by the United States in a \$1 billion-dollar CERCLA cleanup action.
- Represented a compressor and pump company in a federal jury trial, winning a declaration that the contract at issue constituted a dealership under the Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law.
- Won summary judgment for a bank client dismissing TILA and contract challenges to a multi-million dollar mortgage, including defeating two appeals of the judgment.
- Successfully defended an environmental services company and its officers in a two-week jury trial against claims of unfair competition, conspiracy, and breaches of the duty of loyalty.
- Won a judgment for a hospital client in a breach of contract dispute that was upheld by the Court of Appeals and then the Wisconsin Supreme Court in a unanimous (7-0) decision (2009 WI 33, 317 Wis.2d 54, 765 N.W.2d 251).
- Successfully defended a municipality's grant of a permit for a 49-turbine wind farm against circuit and appellate court challenges (2006 WI App 169, 295 Wis.2d 522, 721 N.W.2d 499).
- Won a declaratory judgment at trial on behalf of a national association confirming authority of the board of directors and ownership of property against a group of six challengers.

Professional and Civic Associations

- TAG Alliances (Advisory Board, 2025-present)
- Thomas E. Fairchild American Inns of Court (Executive Committee, 2018-2024)
- Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association (Board of Directors, 2013-2019), (Co-Chair Civil Committee, 2016-2019)
- Milwaukee Bar Association (Elected Board Member, 2010-2016)
- Association for Women Lawyers Foundation (Board of Directors, 2014-2017)
- Association for Women Lawyers (President, 2003-2004) (Board of Directors, 1999-2005)
- State Bar of Wisconsin (Strategic Planning Committee, 2008-2009)
- American Health Lawyers Association
- American Bar Association (Litigation Section)

Honors and Accomplishments

- Power Players, *Milwaukee Business Journal* (2025, 2026)
- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: General Commercial (2025-2026)
- 2024 Women of Influence, Corporate Executive, *Milwaukee Business Journal*
- Wisconsin 275 - The State's Most Influential Business Leaders, *BizTimes Media* (2022, 2024)
- Top 10: Wisconsin Super Lawyers® (2022-2025), Top 50: Wisconsin Super Lawyers® (2019-2025), Top 25 Women: Wisconsin Super Lawyers® (2012, 2014-2025), Top 25: Milwaukee Super Lawyers® (2020-2025), Wisconsin Super Lawyers® (2010-2025)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation (2016-2026), Litigation - Environmental (2013-2026), Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants (2023-2026), Litigation - Health Care (2024-2026), Bet-the-Company Litigation (2025-2026); Litigation - Real Estate (2026)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year" Litigation - Environmental, Milwaukee (2014, 2021 & 2026)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year" Litigation - Health Care, Milwaukee (2026)
- The BTI Consulting Group, Client Service All-Star (2020)
- Association for Women Lawyers' Founders Award (2020)
- "Notable Women in Law", *BizTimes Media* (2020, 2022)
- Wisconsin Law Foundation, Fellow (2020-Present)
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow (2017-Present)
- Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow (2014-2024)
- "Woman in the Law" *Wisconsin Law Journal* (2010)

Community Involvement

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- Saint John's on the Lake, Board of Directors (2025-present)
 - Milwaukee Public Library Foundation, Board of Directors (2020-2026)
 - Greater Milwaukee Committee (2020-present)
 - Sojourner Family Peace Center 'Be the Light' Gala Co-Chair (2023)
 - Trustees of Funds and Endowments, Board of Directors (2019-2021)
 - Christ Church Episcopal, Whitefish Bay (Chair Endowment Board, 2019), (Chair Finance Committee, 2013), (Senior Warden, 2012), (Vestry Member, 2009-2012)
 - Vital Voices for Mental Health, (Vice Chairperson, 2000-2002), (Board of Directors, 1999-2002)