



Susan Gaertner

Senior Counsel | susan.gaertner@lathropgpm.com

MINNEAPOLIS

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PRACTICE AREAS

General Business & Complex
Commercial Litigation

Investigations & White-Collar
Defense

Health Law

Litigation

Counseling & Policy
Development

Investigations

trainED

Neutral Alternative Dispute
Resolution Services

INDUSTRIES

trainED

Health Care

Agribusiness & Food

Higher Education

COURT MEMBERSHIPS

Susan Gaertner represents companies, institutions, and individuals facing federal and state court enforcement actions, and she conducts internal investigations when allegations of misconduct are raised.

Susan also leverages her vast dispute resolution experience to serve as a Qualified Neutral in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

Susan's practice spans a wide range of white-collar matters, including allegations of mail fraud, wire fraud, and visa fraud. She also assists clients with civil and criminal tax matters in state and federal jurisdictions, including foreign bank account disclosure filings and issues relating to unreported income. In addition, her experience includes defending religious and other nonprofit organizations facing internal and external investigations, with a particular focus on allegations of sexual misconduct. Susan is accustomed to working on high-profile matters, and is experienced in dealing with the media in conjunction with and on behalf of her clients.

An experienced trial attorney, Susan served as Ramsey County (Minnesota) Attorney from 1995 to 2011. The fourth person to hold the office since 1933 and the first woman to hold the office, Susan successfully prosecuted many high-profile and complex cases in civil and criminal court. In addition, she spearheaded initiatives aimed at improving system-wide responses to sexual misconduct allegations, and gained particular experience in child abuse prosecution and prevention. She previously served as an assistant county attorney for 10 years, successfully trying scores of cases to juries. In recognition of Susan's trial experience, she has been admitted into the American College of Trial Lawyers.

- Minnesota
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. District Court District of Minnesota
- U.S. Tax Court

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1980, *Minnesota Law Review*; Order of the Coif

University of Minnesota - Duluth, B.A., *summa cum laude*, Political Science

CLERKSHIP(s)

Law Clerk to the Honorable Gerald W. Heaney, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

With her experience managing the myriad of civil litigation and advisory practice challenges faced by a major metropolitan county, Susan understands the impact that investigations and litigation have on an organization. Her experience allows her to create solutions to legal problems and ensure they are provided in a cost-effective manner, whether handled in-house or through outside counsel.

Susan has also counseled health care providers on issues related to health care fraud and regulatory enforcement. She has represented health care professionals in district court and licensing board matters, and before the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Susan previously worked as a criminal defense attorney for the William Mauzy Law Office and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Gerald W. Heaney of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Events

- Health Law Seminar
September 22, 2022
- Minnesota Residency Audit and Exit Planning
September 22, 2021
- State of Litigation Virtual Event Series
Session 1 - Thursday, July 16; Session 2 - Thursday, July 23;
Session 3 - Thursday, July 30
- How to Get in Trouble Without Really Trying; Practical Advice for When a Regulator Comes Knocking
March 19, 2019
- Government Investigations: Avoiding Obstruction of Justice Traps
November 2, 2017
- GPM Ethics Luncheon with Professor Richard Painter
June 21, 2017
- White Collar Breakfast Briefing: Governmental Investigations - Decision-Making in the First 24 Hours
September 19, 2016
- Medical Marijuana in Minnesota: Smoking Out the Highlights
December 2, 2014
- Navigating Tough PR and Legal Challenges in the Health Care, Medical Device and Life Science Industries
September 19, 2012

- "An Insider's View of Health Care Fraud Enforcement: What's on the Radar of State and Federal Agencies and on the Radar of State and Federal Agencies and Private Litigants," July 19, 2012
- Crisis Management for the Health Care Provider: Successfully Navigating the Law and Public Relations March 8, 2012

Presentations

- Moderator, "Perspectives of MN US Attorney on Health Care Fraud," Lathrop GPM Health Law Seminar, September 22, 2022
- Presenter, "Tales from the Front Line: Dueling Perspectives on Health Care Enforcement," Gray Plant Mooty Health Law Conference, July 20, 2017
- Panelist, "Wrongful Conviction in the Political Context," The Innocence Project of Minnesota CLE, July 13, 2017
- Panelist, "Critical Conversation: The Mall of America as Constitutional Battleground—When Rights Collide," Minnesota CLE, June 16, 2017
- Presenter, "Medication Thefts: Prevention, Investigation, Reporting and Best Practices," Aging Services of Minnesota 2013 Institute, February 8, 2013
- Panelist, "Responding to Government Investigations: A Practical Anatomy," GPM White Collar Roundtable, October 30, 2012
- Presenter, "Maintaining Control of Controlled Substances: Drug Diversion Prevention and Enforcement Issues," Care Providers of Minnesota 2012 Assisted Living & Senior Housing Summit, August 22, 2012
- Presenter, "Controlled Substances and Enforcement: Drug Diversion Reporting Requirements," Aging Services of Minnesota Institute,

February 8, 2012

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Presenter, "Human Trafficking: Today's Hidden Slavery," 41st Annual Criminal Justice Institute, Bloomington, MN, August 22, 2006

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Presenter, "Progress in Combating Domestic Abuse," Symposium on Domestic Violence, St. Paul, MN, September 9, 2005

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Presenter, "The Sudafed's Gone, but Meth Lingers On: Where Do We Go From Here?" 40th Annual Criminal Justice Institute, Bloomington, MN, August 22, 2005

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Presenter, "Sex Offenders: Myths, Realities, and Reflections," 39th Annual Criminal Justice Institute, Bloomington, MN, August 24, 2004

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Presenter, "Domestic Violence and the Invisible Victims," American Association of University Women, St. Paul, MN, April 14, 2004

Publications

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Author, "Effective Witness Interviews," Minnesota CLE Manual "Handling Internal Investigations: Best Practices for Investigating Alleged Fraud, Bribery, Regulatory Noncompliance, and Other Types of Corporate Wrongdoing," June 1, 2017

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Chapter author, "Adapting to New Eyewitness Identification Procedures," Reforming Eyewitness Identification Procedures to Strengthen Prosecutions, Thomson Reuters/Aspatore, January 1, 2010

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"Successful Eyewitness Identification Reform: Ramsey County's Blind Sequential Lineup Protocol," Police Chief Magazine, April 1, 2009

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"Three Strikes Against Juvenile Crime: Prevention, Intervention, Detention," The Prosecutor, November 1, 1996

Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- Just What the DOJ Ordered: Telehealth Enforcement Actions Are Here to Stay
December 2, 2020
- Risks Abound: Shield Yourself From Liability for Your PPP Loan
October 5, 2020
- More Money More Problems? The Sequel: Should My Company Return The Money It Received from the CARES Act?
May 4, 2020
- Long-Term Care Providers in the Crosshairs: Minimizing Risk of Liability Under the False Claims Act in the COVID-19 World
April 30, 2020
- More Money More Whistleblowers? False Claims Act Risks in the Aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic
April 27, 2020
- The New Crime Wave: State Efforts to Investigate COVID-19 Related Crimes
April 20, 2020
- More Money More Problems? CARES Act Stimulus Comes with Potential for Broad Oversight Investigations, Audits, and Enforcement
April 14, 2020
- Medical Marijuana Roundtable: Top Ten Takeaways
December 15, 2014
- Litigation Update - How This Former Prosecutor Views the New FCPA Guidance
November 26, 2012
- Health Law Alert: Drug Theft on the Rise: Best Practices for Health Care Providers
April 23, 2012
- Agribusiness Alert: Authorities Increase Enforcement and Prosecutions under Federal and State Environmental Laws—The Corn Plus Example
November 14, 2011

In The News

- The American Lawyer Quotes Susan Gaertner on White-Collar Law Under President-Elect Biden
November 12, 2020
- "What's happening in the jury room?" MPR News
June 15, 2017
- "Mall of America 'prepared to use all remedies' against Black Lives Matter protesters," Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal
December 17, 2015
- "Black Lives Matter: The Legal Issues Behind MOA Protest," Minnesota Public Radio News
February 20, 2015
- "Sheryl Sandberg's 'Lean In' And The Push For Women's Equality," Minnesota Public Radio
March 15, 2013
- "Trayvon Martin Case," Minnesota Public Radio The Daily Circuit Program
April 12, 2012
- "Ruling On Strip-Searches Could Lead To State-Level Lawsuit, Attorney Says," Minnesota Public Radio
April 3, 2012
- "Supreme Court Strip Search Case," Minnesota Public Radio The Daily Circuit Program
April 3, 2012
- "DFLers Cry Foul Over GOP Fliers Printed With Public Money," Minnesota Public Radio
February 13, 2012
- "When Revenue Agents Come Knocking," Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal
July 22, 2011
- "Gaertner Joins Staff Of Gray Plant Mooty Firm," Pioneer Press
February 16, 2011
- "Susan Gaertner Joins Law Firm," Star Tribune
February 16, 2011
- "Ex-Ramsey County Attorney Joins Minneapolis Firm," Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal Daily Update
February 15, 2011
- "Former RamCo Attorney Joins Gray Plant Mooty," MPR
February 15, 2011

News Releases

- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2023 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 18, 2023
- 23 Lathrop GPM Attorneys in Minneapolis Recognized for 2022 Pro Bono Service
June 5, 2023
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2022 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 18, 2022
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys in Minnesota Recognized for Pro Bono Service
June 21, 2022
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2021 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 22, 2021
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys in Minnesota Recognized for Pro Bono Service
June 15, 2021
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2020 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 21, 2020
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys in Minnesota Recognized for Pro Bono Service
June 30, 2020
- Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Named 2019 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 5, 2019
- Attorneys Recognized for Pro Bono Service
June 14, 2019
- Attorneys Recognized for Pro Bono Service
July 16, 2018
- Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Named 2018 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 5, 2018
- 43 Gray Plant Mooty Lawyers Named 2017 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 5, 2017

- 47 Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized as 2016 North Star Lawyers
May 18, 2017
- 40 Gray Plant Mooty Lawyers Named 2016 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 5, 2016
- 38 Gray Plant Mooty Lawyers Named 2015 Minnesota Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
July 09, 2015
- 40 Gray Plant Mooty Lawyers Named 2014 Minnesota "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars"
July 7, 2014
- Gray Plant Mooty's Susan Gaertner Selected as Advisor to Pair of American Bar Association Committees
June 8, 2011
- Former Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner Joins Gray Plant Mooty
February 15, 2011

Professional Affiliations

- American Arbitration Association - Arbitrator
- Qualified Neutral, Minnesota Supreme Court Roster
- American College of Trial Lawyers
- American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, advisory board and past vice chair
- Minnesota County Attorneys Association, board member and past president
- National District Attorneys Association, board of director

Community Involvement

- Minnesota Interagency Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention
- Minnesota Criminal & Juvenile Justice Information Task Force
- Joint Domestic Abuse Prosecution Unit, cofounder, 2000
- National Symposium on Female Offenders, delegate, 1999

- White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence, participant, 1996
- University of Minnesota Law School, Board of Visitors, 1996-2001
- Presidential Scholarship Commission, by appointment of President Clinton, 1995-2000
- Minnesota Attorney General's Arson Task Force, 1995-1998

Honors

- Peace Officer Grievance Arbitration Roster, Minnesota State Legislature
- *Thomson Reuters*, "Minnesota Super Lawyer®," 2004-2009, 2014-2023
- Minnesota State Bar Association, "North Star Lawyers," 2016-2023
- *Minnesota Monthly*, "Minnesota's Top Lawyers," 2022
- Norm Maleng Minister of Justice Award, Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association, 2009
- Prosecutor of Excellence Award, Public Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, 2007
- Women of Distinction Award, Century College, 2007
- Distinguished Service Award, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, 2004
- Attorney of the Year, *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2003
- Hall of Fame, Harding High School, St. Paul, MN