



James A. Wahl

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MINNEAPOLIS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Emerging & Mature Systems

Franchise Registration &
Compliance

Intellectual Property

Multi-Unit Franchising

Start-Up Systems

Trademarks

Franchise & Distribution

Corporate & Business

Mergers & Acquisitions

Intellectual Property &
Technology

COURT MEMBERSHIPS

- Minnesota
- U.S. District Court for the District
of Minnesota

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota Law
School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1985

Jim Wahl concentrates his practice on structuring, documenting, registering, and implementing franchise and distribution programs, as well as registering and protecting clients' trademark and copyright interests.

Jim has represented franchisors for more than 25 years, providing counsel on matters including:

- Agreements and disclosure documents for domestic and international transactions
- Negotiating and closing franchise transactions
- Distribution systems
- Franchise registrations and regulatory compliance
- Business formation
- Growth strategies
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Technology law matters
- General corporate and business law

Jim also assists clients in building and protecting their brand names and other intellectual property assets. He counsels clients in the selection and clearance of new trademarks; obtains federal registration of trademarks and copyrights; drafts license, confidentiality, and other agreements; and represents businesses in unfair competition, trade secret misappropriation, and infringement disputes.

Events

- Webinar: Preparing for Franchisee Bankruptcies in a COVID-19 World
May 27, 2020
- The Supreme Court Trademark-Bankruptcy Ruling's Impact on Franchisors
July 11, 2019
- Trade Secrets and Franchising Webinar
September 25, 2018

Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- Federal Circuit Reverses Preliminary Injunction on Franchisor's Patent and Trade Dress Infringement Claim
March 14, 2024
- Kansas Federal Court Quashes Deposition of Franchisee's General Counsel
July 6, 2023
- Illinois Federal Court Grants Franchisor's Motion to Dismiss Nonrenewal Claim
December 8, 2022
- Florida Federal Court Enforces Explicit Contract Terms in Finding for Franchisor on Area Development Agreement Breach Claims
May 5, 2022
- Minnesota Federal Court Holds that Optional Parts Purchases Do Not Constitute an Indirect Franchise Fee
April 7, 2022
- NASAA Group Proposes to Ban Most Acknowledgments and Compliance Questionnaires Used by Franchisors. — Lathrop GPM Vigorously Objects
January 19, 2022

In The News

- 1851 Franchise Interviews James Wahl on his Franchise Law Practice
November 30, 2021
- Franchise Times Quotes James Wahl and Bob Haupt on Franchisee Bankruptcies
June 9, 2020

News Releases

- Ten Lathrop GPM Attorneys Recognized as Franchise Legal Eagles
April 1, 2024
- 11 Lathrop GPM Attorneys Recognized in the International Who's Who Legal Franchise 2023 List
November 27, 2023
- Eight Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 89 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America©
August 17, 2023
- 10 Lathrop GPM Attorneys Recognized in the International Who's Who Legal Franchise 2022 List
September 28, 2022
- Six Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 95 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America©
August 18, 2022
- 11 Lathrop GPM Attorneys Recognized in the International Who's Who Legal Franchise 2021 List
October 12, 2021
- Seven Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 100 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America©
August 19, 2021
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Recognized in Who's Who Legal Franchise 2020 List
September 30, 2020
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named to The Best Lawyers in America©, Lawyer of the Year, and Ones to Watch for 2021
August 20, 2020
- 16 Lathrop GPM Attorneys Recognized as Franchise "Legal Eagles"
April 1, 2020
- Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized in the International Who's Who Legal: Franchise for 2019
December 10, 2019
- Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Named The Best Lawyers in America© 2020
August 15, 2019
- 17 Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized as 2019 "Legal Eagles"
April 1, 2019

- 15 Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized in the International Who's Who Legal: Franchise for 2018
October 29, 2018
- Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America© 2019
August 15, 2018
- 15 Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized as 2018 "Legal Eagles"
April 3, 2018
- 17 Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized in the International Who's Who Legal: Franchise for 2017
October 2, 2017
- 37 Gray Plant Mooty Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018
August 15, 2017
- 15 Gray Plant Mooty Franchise Attorneys Recognized As 2017 "Legal Eagles"
April 3, 2017
- Gray Plant Mooty Adds James Wahl to Global Franchise Practice
March 14, 2017

Professional Affiliations

- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- International Franchise Association, Legal Legislative Committee

Honors

- *The International Who's Who of Franchise Lawyers*, 2021-2023
- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*©, 2018-2024
- *Franchise Times* "Legal Eagle," 2017-2020, 2024
- *Thomson Reuters* "Minnesota Super Lawyer®,"
- *Minnesota Monthly*, "Minnesota's Top Lawyers," 2022