

# Attorney Profile

## Kalene M. Engel

Winona, Minnesota  
Owner/Attorney, since 2000

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A native of Fountain City, Wisconsin, Kalene is a 1990 Summa Cum Laude graduate of the Winona State University Paralegal Program. Following her graduation, she began her legal career as a personal injury paralegal at Suk Law Firm in Rochester, Minnesota, where she handled hundreds of personal injury cases. In the Fall of 1993, while continuing to work as a paralegal at Suk Law Firm in Rochester, Minnesota, Kalene began commuting from Winona to evening classes at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. While at law school, Kalene received numerous academic and achievement awards, including the prestigious Burton Legal Writing Award for excellence in legal research and writing. In June of 1997, Kalene graduated as valedictorian of her law school class of 240 students.

After honing her skills as an Associate Attorney for three years at Suk Law Firm, in November of 2000, Kalene started Engel Law Office in Winona. From 1999 to 2007 she taught a variety of law-related courses at Winona State University including Insurance Law; Legal Research and Writing; Substantive Law & Ethics and Civil Procedure. In 2001, Kalene was named a Rising Star in the Law by Minnesota Law and Politics magazine. . Since 2004, she has served as Town Clerk for the Town of Milton in Buffalo County, Wisconsin ([www.townofmiltonwi.com](http://www.townofmiltonwi.com)). In March of 2008, Kalene was hired as the Coordinator for the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council ([www.winonacountycjcc.org](http://www.winonacountycjcc.org)). In June of 2008, Kalene began offering family mediation services as a complement to her law practice.

In addition to her law practice and civic responsibilities, Kalene also serves as a Volunteer Attorney for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services and has been instrumental in developing the Pro Se Divorce Clinic. Based upon her extensive volunteer work, Kalene was awarded the 2005 Third Judicial District Pro Bono Award. In the Fall of 2005, she was awarded the "Outstanding Woman in Government Award" from the Winona Women in Business Group.

Kalene also serves on the Advisory Boards of the Winona County Restorative Justice Program and the Minnesota Southeast Technical College Legal Assistant Program. She has also volunteered her time to coach volleyball in the Winona Area Volleyball Program (Jr. Olympics) and the Winona State University Youth Volleyball Camp and, in October of 2008, joined with two other individuals to form the Pirate Youth Volleyball Program ([www.pirateyouthsports.com](http://www.pirateyouthsports.com)).

## **Areas of Practice**

- Personal Injury
- Family Law
- Mediation
- Guardianship/Conservatorship
- General Practice

## **Bar Admissions**

- Minnesota, 1997
- Wisconsin, 1999
- U.S. District Court District of Minnesota, 1999
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of Wisconsin, 1999

## **Education**

- William Mitchell College of Law, St Paul, Minnesota, 1997  
Juris Doctorate  
*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*  
*Honors: Valedictorian (1/240)*
- Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota, 1990  
Bachelor of Science  
*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*  
Major: Paralegal, Multi-Legal Services Option

## **Classes/Seminars Taught**

- Legal Research & Writing I and II, Winona State University, 1999 - 2004
- Civil Procedure, Winona State University, 2004 - 2008
- Insurance Law, Winona State University, 1999
- Substantive Law & Ethics I, Winona State University, 2005 - 2007

## **Honors and Awards**

- Dean's Merit Scholarship, 1993 - 1997
- Burton Legal Writing Award, 1995 - Present
- Richard A. Golling Memorial Scholarship, 1995 - 1996
- Charles & Marjorie Pihl Scholarship, 1996 - 1997
- Valedictorian, Summa Cum Laude - William Mitchell College of Law, 1997 - Present
- Rising Star - Minnesota Law & Politics Magazine, 2001
- Third Judicial District Pro Bono Award, 2005
- Winona Women in Business "Outstanding Woman in Government", 2005

## **Professional Associations and Memberships**

- American Bar Association
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Minnesota State College Southeast Technical College, 2005 - Present  
Member of Legal Assistant Program Advisory Board
- Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association
- Minnesota Women Lawyers
- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Winona Chamber of Commerce
- Winona County Bar Association
- Winona County Restorative Justice, 2006 - Present  
Advisory Board Member

## **Past Employment Positions**

- Winona State University, Adjunct Professor, 1999 - 2008
- Suk Law Firm, Of Counsel (Attorney), 2000 - Present
- Suk Law Firm, Attorney, 1997 - 2000
- Suk Law Firm, Paralegal, 1993 - 1997

## **Pro Bono Activities**

- Volunteer Attorney - Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, 2000 - Present
- Southern MN Regional Legal Services Pro Se Clinic - Attorney Director, 2003 - Present
- Volunteer Attorney - Legal Aid of Olmsted County, 1998 - 2000

## **Birth Information**

- October 28, 1968, Winona, Minnesota, United States of America