

Meet a Board Member: Brian Rochel



Brian Rochel is a partner at the law firm of Teske Micko Katz Kitzer & Rochel PLLP—a boutique firm in Minneapolis, Minnesota, focusing on employment law and consumer class actions. Brian’s practice involves representing employees in all aspects of employment law; litigating and trying cases such as wrongful termination, discrimination, and harassment. Brian represents employees in mediation, motion practice, jury trials, and appeals.

Brian grew up in a small town in Minnesota, where his curiosity grew along with his passion for helping others and sticking up for the “little guy.” In 2007, Brian graduated from Hamline University with degrees in Philosophy, Legal Studies and Political Science, where he mainly focused on applied ethics and issues of racial inequity. In 2010, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Hamline University School of Law.

Brian has spent his entire career representing employees in employment disputes. Brian has tried several cases to successful jury verdicts, including a \$361,000 verdict for a truck driver who was fired for seeking workers’ compensation benefits, a \$360,000 verdict for a disabled warehouse manager, and a \$160,000 verdict for a woman who was sexually harassed while working at a pawn shop.

Brian also represents executives and officers in contract disputes, including negotiating complex compensation and severance agreements. Brian’s clients include executives at some of the largest companies in the world.

Regardless of whether he is representing a factory worker or C-suite executive, Brian enjoys fighting for employees and continuing to stick up for people who are taken advantage of.

In 2014, Brian became a name partner at Teske Micko Katz Kitzer and Rochel, working with a team of exceptional lawyers whom he considers among his closest friends. “Working in a smaller firm is a great fit for me, especially with these amazing group of people. It really feels like a second family.”

In addition to his active practice, Brian currently teaches “Litigating Civil Rights”—a course he co-designed—at the Hamline School of Law. Brian is also very active in the community. Brian has been a member of the Minnesota Chapter of the FBA since 2010 and a YLD Board Member since 2015. He also frequently writes amicus briefs at the Minnesota Supreme Court and courts of

appeal, and volunteers with his neighborhood restorative justice program.

Outside of work, Brian enjoys being active. While running, basketball, tennis and biking are frequent activities, Brian is happy to do anything that lets him run around and make a fool of himself (joining a broomball team is the latest in that category). Most importantly, Brian is a brand-new father, and looks forward to raising his son to fight for what he believes in, stick up for the little guy, and never stop being curious.