

# SAINT PAUL LEGAL LEDGER MINNESOTA LAWYER

## LEGAL NEWS

LGBTQ+ people uneasy after Dobbs

Chauvin gets 21 years for violating Floyd's civil rights

FROM OUR PARTNERS

Community, growth and so much more

Dairy Queen loses round in dispute over 'Blizzard' name

## LEGAL FEATURES

Breaking the Ice: Move expands practice for out-of-state clients

Perspectives: R.A.V. 'hate' case here recalled on 30th anniversary

Perspectives: Pride at 50 recalls LGBTQ+ legal heritage here

Breaking the Ice: Attorney says therapy dog helps calm clients

## M ADLINES

Chauvin's federal prison future in Floyd's death

'Chief counsel' for civil rights gets Medal of Freedom

Chauvin gets 21 years for violating Floyd's civil rights

Abortion ruling puts spotlight on gerrymandered states

Home / Features / Breaking the Ice / Breaking the Ice: Move expands practice for out-of-state clients



Katie Barrett Wiik

## Breaking the Ice: Move expands practice for out-of-state clients

By: Todd Nelson July 7, 2022

**Name:** Katie Barrett Wiik

**Title:** Partner, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr's Minneapolis office

**Education:** B.A., women's and gender studies and communications, Macalester College; M.A. comparative ethnic conflict, Queen's University Belfast; L.L.M. human rights law, Queen's University Belfast; J.D., Harvard Law School

Katie Barrett Wiik, whose move to Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr's Minneapolis office was announced last month, sought a federal appellate clerkship and has received recognition for her appellate experience.

But Barrett Wiik also is a litigator who often joins a team that has an appellate question or when her appellate skills can contribute at various stages of trial court procedures.

"The strategic thinking and the issue analysis that is necessary in appellate practice is very helpful to the client at any stage," Barrett Wiik said.

Barrett Wiik, who has extensive experience in Minnesota appellate courts and the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, said she was excited to join Saul Ewing as a firm with a national footprint, to serve clients she has outside of the state.

In pro bono work, Barrett Wiik is co-counsel a case where the Minnesota Supreme Court will decide whether to protect a sexual assault counselors' records from subpoena.

### Q: Best way to start a conversation with you?

**A:** Share something authentic about yourself. I'm usually pretty willing to do that. That's a real way of forming a human connection.

### More Breaking the Ice stories

- Breaking the Ice: Move expands practice for out-of-state clients
- Breaking the Ice: Attorney says therapy dog helps calm clients
- Breaking the Ice: Time to adapt, new managing partner says

### Q: Why did you go to law school?

**A:** I decided to go to law school in high school when a couple of different experiences came together for me — community service and activism on issues relating to gender equity and reproductive rights and then doing mock trial. I kind of had an awakening to some aspects of social change that I wanted to be a part of, and I was really energized by the idea that lawyers and the rule of law have been and can be a powerful way to create change.

### Q: What books are you reading?

**A:** I recently got some of Mary Oliver's books. I'm really enjoying "American Primitive," which focuses on nature and our interactions with nature.

**A:** When people don't acknowledge the work of others as part of their successes. That's something I've observed through the years, that lawyers are more or less good at. Not sharing credit.

**Q: Best part of your work?**

**A:** The most rewarding part is when my clients tell me that I've made a difference in their lives. Sometimes it's in ways that I have already been aware of, like achieving a particular thing in their litigation or their case. But other times, it's in ways I didn't know, getting that gift from them of, "Here's how this impacted me," or "Here's how you made a difference."

**Q: Least favorite?**

**A:** Having to deliver bad news to a client is awful, particularly when they've put so much into the matter and/or I've felt like we've done everything we can do.

**Q: Favorite activity away from work?**

**A:** I love to travel. We're lucky enough that my parents have a lake cabin, so we can go to that. We love going to Grand Marais and the North Shore. My husband and I have a 10-year-old and an almost 13-year-old, so exploring new places with them. We got to a lot of state parks in the pandemic.

**Q: Where would you take someone visiting your hometown?**

**A:** I was born in St. Paul but grew up in Shoreview and returned, and my family now lives in Shoreview. We have amazing parks and public spaces, and not surprisingly, as the name suggests, many are by lakes.

**Q: Legal figure you most admire?**

**A:** Judge Karen Nelson Moore on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. She is incredibly bright and hardworking. She was a law professor before she was a judge, so she focuses on the judicial clerkship experience being a learning one for her clerks.

**Q: Misconception about your work as an attorney?**

**A:** There isn't a remedy for everything under the law. It needs to be one of the tools in our society towards justice or fairness, but it's also not the only tool or the only place for societal remedies.



**ABOUT TODD NELSON**



**RELATED**



Breaking the Ice: Attorney says therapy dog helps calm clients

🕒 June 30, 2022



Breaking the Ice: Time to adapt, new managing partner says

🕒 June 23, 2022



Breaking the Ice: Pro bono work brings high court victory, award

🕒 June 16, 2022



Breaking the Ice: Pro bono redistricting effort earns honors

🕒 June 9, 2022



Breaking the Ice: Work and rewards in civil commitment law

🕒 June 2, 2022



Breaking the Ice: From first associate to firm's first female CEO

🕒 May 26, 2022

Logged in as [todd\\_nelson@mac.com](mailto:todd_nelson@mac.com). [Log out?](#)

---

I'm not a robot reCAPTCHA  
Privacy - Terms

[Post Comment](#)

---

#### DAILY DOCKET NEWSLETTER



Get Minnesota Lawyer  
news in your inbox

[Sign-Up for Free](#)

---

#### DIGITAL EDITION



The Digital Edition of Minnesota Lawyer is available to both print and online subscribers.

**Current Edition**

---

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



See upcoming events  
for lawyers here

---

#### MY ACCOUNT

[LOG OUT](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[FREE EMAIL NEWSLETTERS](#)

[MANAGE ACCOUNT](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

---

#### SERVICES

---

#### FOLLOW US



---

<a href="#">YOUR CALIFORNIA PRIVACY RIGHTS/PRIVACY POLICY</a>	<a href="#">CONTACT US</a>
<a href="#">DO NOT SELL MY INFO/COOKIE POLICY</a>	<a href="#">ADVERTISE</a>
<a href="#">SUBSCRIBER AGREEMENT</a>	<a href="#">REPRINTS</a>
	<a href="#">ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT</a>
	<a href="#">FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</a>

