



KEIKO L. SUGISAKA

Partner
Member of Firm Governance Committee
Co-Chair of Tort & Product Liability Group

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OVERVIEW

Keiko Sugisaka is a trial lawyer, concentrating her practice primarily on product liability, complex business, and intellectual property cases, including consolidated and multi-district litigation. She has broad experience successfully representing clients in federal and state courts nationwide involving product liability defense; patent, trademark, and copyright infringement; director/officer liability; trade secret misappropriation; unfair competition; and commercial disputes. Keiko also has extensive experience in all stages of complex and large-scale discovery and e-discovery issues. At Maslon, Keiko serves on the firm's three-person Governance Committee, which manages the firm, and co-chairs its Tort & Product Liability Group. In addition, Keiko is a member of the firm's technology, recruiting, and diversity committees, and is Maslon's member representative in Twin Cities Diversity in Practice, a nonprofit association comprised of Twin Cities law firms and corporate legal departments whose vision is to create a vibrant and inclusive legal community.

Prior to joining Maslon, Keiko practiced intellectual property litigation with a large national law firm and was an Assistant Attorney General in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office where she enforced laws regulating nonprofit corporations, management of charitable assets, and litigating high-profile matters such as health care audits, insurance industry investigations, and fraud cases.

Keiko earned her law degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Minnesota Law School and earned her bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, with a double major in speech communication and law and society from Macalester College. She also completed a judicial clerkship with Justice Alan C. Page of the Minnesota Supreme Court (1996-1997).

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

- *In re American Medical Systems, Inc.*, CV-11-3933 (Hennepin County District Court, Minnesota). Defended consolidated state court actions alleging multiple tort theories against American Medical Systems related to female mesh products.
- Represents world-leading medical device company in nationwide litigation involving PMA and 510k devices.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Litigation

- Business Litigation
- Competitive Practices/Unfair Competition
- Government & Internal Investigations
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Tort & Product Liability

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota

U.S. District Court

- Colorado
- Minnesota

U.S. Court of Appeals

- Eighth Circuit
- Ninth Circuit
- Federal Circuit

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota Law School

J.D., *cum laude*, 1996

Macalester College

B.A., *cum laude*, 1993

Speech Communication and Law & Society

- *Thomsen v. Famous Dave's of America et al.*, 606 F.2d 905 (8th Cir. 2010). Defended \$10 million copyright infringement and breach of contract action brought by former sign painter and restaurant designer for defendant Famous Dave's. District Court dismissed case on summary judgment, which was upheld on appeal.
- *U.S. Bancorp. v. Mitgang et al.* (Minn. Ct. App.). Appellate counsel for plaintiff in \$1 million breach of contract action. Obtained complete reversal of summary judgment on appeal with appellate court ordering grant of summary judgment in favor of plaintiff.
- Part of team representing design engineers for litigation following collapse of I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis; obtained interlocutory appellate review of district court decisions involving statute of repose.
- *Indiezone, Inc. et al. v. Rooke et al.* (N.D. Cal. 2013). Lead trial counsel successfully defending 17 defendants, as well as indemnified parties including two of the world's largest retailers, a national bank and technology company, against a 27-count complaint brought by domestic and international plaintiffs alleging over \$1 billion in damages for trade secret misappropriation, civil RICO, copyright and trademark infringement, and state law claims. Obtained an order dismissing one plaintiff for lack of standing and requiring the remaining plaintiff to arbitrate against certain defendants and stay the litigation pending arbitration. Prior to arbitration, successfully moved the court to vacate the arbitration order, dismiss the entire lawsuit with prejudice as to all defendants, and award attorneys' fees, which was affirmed on appeal.

Other Selected Case Results

- Trial and appellate counsel in defense of an alleged \$500 million theft of trade secret, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract case. The district court dismissed the case on summary judgment, which was affirmed on appeal.
- Trial counsel for plaintiff in action for theft of trade secrets involving an Olympic hospitality business for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. Obtained a temporary injunction and case settled thereafter including a permanent injunction.
- Trial counsel for plaintiffs in patent infringement action for web browser technology for interactive applications embedded in web pages. Jury verdict returned in favor of plaintiffs on issues of infringement, validity, and damages in the amount of \$520.6 million, with final judgment, including prejudgment interest, in an amount over \$565 million. On appeal, the Federal Circuit affirmed infringement and damages and ordered remand on invalidity and inequitable conduct defenses. Case settled prior to invalidity retrial.

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

- Maslon LLP: Governance Committee Member 2019
- Federal Bar Association – Minnesota Chapter: Board of Directors 2018-2021; Executive Committee, Grant Committee Co-Chair 2018-2019; Diversity Committee member
- Minnesota Commission on Judicial Selection: At-Large Member 2016-2023
- Fourth Judicial District Ethics Committee: Vice-Chair
- Twin Cities Diversity in Practice: Maslon Member Representative
- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity: Board Member 2019
- The Advocates for Human Rights: Pro Bono Attorney Volunteer
- United States District Court for the District of Minnesota: The Asian Pacific Legal Experience in America exhibit, Committee Member
- Women Presidents' Organization: Minnesota Chapter
- Minnesota Women Lawyers
- Minnesota Federal Court Open Doors Program
- Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association – Minnesota Chapter *Pro Se* Project: Volunteer Attorney
- Power of 100 Twin Cities Women Who Care: Member 2012-present
- Twin Cities E-Discovery Forum

- St. Paul Association for Community Soccer: Board Member
- Twin Cities Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms: past Board Member
- Theater Latté Da: past Board Member
- Community Child Care Center: past Parent Board Member

SELECTED HONORS

- **2017 Women in Business Award Winner**, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*
- **North Star Lawyer**, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2014-2018 (*North Star Lawyer is a designation that recognizes members who provide 50 hours or more of pro bono legal services in a calendar year.*)
- **Recognized on Minnesota Super Lawyers® list**, 2017-2019 (*Minnesota Super Lawyers® is a designation given to only 5 percent of Minnesota attorneys each year, based on a selection process that includes the recommendation of peers in the legal profession.*)
- **Top Women Attorneys in Minnesota® list**, 2018-2019 (*The annual edition of the Top Women Attorneys in Minnesota list features attorneys who received the highest point totals in the previous year's Minnesota Super Lawyers® and Rising Stars balloting, research, and blue ribbon review process.*)
- **Recognized on Minnesota Rising Stars list as part of the Super Lawyers® selection process**, 2004, 2009, 2011 (*Minnesota Rising Stars is a designation given to only 2.5 percent of Minnesota attorneys each year, based on a selection process that includes the recommendation of peers in the legal profession.*)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Preservation Obligations and Litigation Holds," Roadmap to E-Discovery Production and Review, Minnesota CLE, 2019
- "Ways to Protect Your Intellectual Property," Women Presidents' Organization, 2019
- "A New Look at Attorney Client Privilege and Waiver Issues," In-House Super Course, ACC Minnesota, 2019
- "Time After Time: Effective In-House/Outside Counsel Partnerships," Litigation Management: In-House Counsel Facing the Music, The Network of Trial Law Firms, 2018
- "E-Discovery – Tips and Traps Unique to Handling E-Discovery," Paralegal Seminar, Minnesota CLE, 2018
- "Ethics: Sanctions Against Inside and Outside Counsel," ABA Environmental & Energy, Mass Torts & Product Liability Committees' Joint CLE Seminar, 2017
- "Surviving the Waves: Implied, Express, and Subject Matter Waivers of Attorney-Client Privilege," 2017
- "Preservation Obligations and Legal Holds," E-Discovery: Everything You Need to Know, Minnesota CLE, 2016
- "E-Discovery Checklist: Producing and Reviewing Produced ESI," webcast, Minnesota CLE, 2016
- "Electronic Evidence in Its Various Forms: How to Use It," Evidence Tools for the Compleat Litigator, Minnesota CLE, 2016
- "New Lawyer: Introduction to Federal Court," webcast, Minnesota CLE, 2015
- "Pitfalls to Avoid When Producing Your Client's ESI," Effective E-Discovery in Civil Litigation, Minnesota CLE, 2015
- "Panel: Diversity in Practice," MDLA Diversity Event, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association, 2015
- "Electronic Evidence in Its Various Forms: Why You Need It, How to Get It, How to Use It," co-presenter, The 2015 Civil Litigator's Annual Short Course, Minnesota CLE, 2015
- "7 Practice Area Hot Spots for the In-House Generalist: Intellectual Property," 2014 In-House Counsel Crash Course, Minnesota CLE, 2014
- "Should You Patent That Trade Secret?" 2014 Midwest IP Institute, Minnesota CLE, 2014
- "Intellectual Property Series: Hot Topics in IP Litigation 2012," webcast, Minnesota CLE, 2012
- "Conversational Patents: 20 Phrases You Need to Know," Midwest Intellectual Property Institute, Minnesota CLE, 2011

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- "Preservation Obligations and Legal Holds," chapter co-author, *Minnesota E-Discovery Deskbook*, Minnesota CLE, 2016-present

- "Admissibility of E-Evidence in Minnesota: New Problems or Evidence as Usual?" co-author, 35 *Wm. Mitchell L. Rev.* 1453 (2009)
- "Basic Patent Infringement Litigation Coursebook," contributing author, Patent Resources Group, Inc., 1998-2003