



Susan G. Ridgeway

Senior Counsel

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Susan Ridgeway's practice emphasizes civil litigation and surrogacy and reproductive donation law.

Susan is an experienced litigator in both state and federal court and has a solid record of achieving proactive and cost-efficient resolutions for her clients, both in and out of court.

Education

JD: University of Montana, 1990, with honors

BA: University of Montana, 1984, History, with honors

Bar Admissions

Montana, 1991

Washington (inactive), 1992

U.S. District Court, District of Montana and Eastern District of Washington

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Montana

Her services typically involve real property (design, construction, development, management, sale, foreclosure), health care (professional employment, HIPAA compliance, business and software agreements, fertility law), and defense of legal malpractice claims. She has represented large and small businesses and individuals in a wide range of matters.

For the last fifteen years, a portion of Susan's practice has been dedicated to establishing and protecting family rights in assisted reproductive technology arrangements. She has obtained remedies for LGBTQ+ parents and their children, including two groundbreaking Montana Supreme Court decisions, routinely represents parties in surrogacy and gamete or embryo donation arrangements, and is recognized as a fertility law authority in Montana.

Career Distinctions & Honors

The Best Lawyers in America®; Family Law, 2024-2027; Commercial Litigation, 2025-2027; Construction Law, 2026-2027; Corporate Law, 2026-2027

Martindale-Hubbell®, AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated

Mountain States Super Lawyers®, Civil Litigation: Defense, 2020, 2022-2025; Business Litigation, 2021

University of Montana School of Law, Guest Lecturer, 2016-present

Professional Associations

American Bar Association, Litigation and Assisted Reproductive Technologies Groups

American Academy of Reproductive Technology Attorneys, Fellow

Family Law Institute of the National LGBT Bar Association

Society for Ethical Egg Donation and Surrogacy

State Bar of Montana

Professional Experience

Partner, Axilon Law, Missoula, Montana, 2015-2021

Solo Practitioner, Missoula, Montana, 2000-2015

Associate Attorney, Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C., Missoula, Montana, 1995-2000

Assistant Attorney General, State of Washington, Spokane, Washington, 1992-1995

Judicial Law Clerk, Washington State Court of Appeals, Seattle, Washington, 1990-1992