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Attorney at Law
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I have been in the private practice of law for thirty-five years, working five years with a mid-sized law firm in St. Paul, Minnesota, before opening my own solo practice in 1992. I have practiced in a variety of legal areas: construction litigation, working with contractors and owners on projects large and small; health care law, representing parts of a major hospital network; corporate law, representing small businesses ranging in size from startups to companies with revenues of the three to five million dollars; nonprofit corporate law, working with organizations in the arts and human-services fields.

In addition to this, for over twenty-five years I have represented faith communities in matters as diverse as real estate, mergers and consolidations, collaborations across denominational boundaries, member discipline, new mission starts, and dissolution of historic churches. Although my clients are predominantly ELCA congregations, at any given time I have also represented Baptist, Methodist, Missouri Synod Lutheran, and Presbyterian congregations; from northern Minnesota, southern Minnesota to the Twin Cities metro area, Blooming Prairie to Wadena and Hibbing, inner-city Minneapolis to town and country parishes around the state. I am currently also Synod Attorney for the NE Minnesota Synod of the ELCA.

I consider representing faith communities a special privilege. These communities are where people have placed their allegiance and recognized a higher community calling outside of their individual lives. In the process of any congregational transition, whether it is consolidation/merger, partnerships with other congregations, or closure and dissolution, faith communities collectively face the grief and sadness of loss, the anxiety of an unknown future, or the joy and energy that can accompany change. Through any of these, congregations are given an opportunity to steward their resources toward the larger mission of the church. Effective legal representation is part of that good stewardship.