

Suzanne M. Watson

Of Counsel || [Milwaukee](#)

Suzanne Watson partners with employers of all sizes on a full range of labor and employment issues. Suzanne is an experienced and strategic litigator and devotes a substantial amount of her practice to representing and successfully advocating on behalf of businesses before federal and state courts and administrative agencies throughout the country, including in the areas of trade secrets, unfair competition and restrictive covenants (including non-compete, non-solicitation, and confidentiality), discrimination, retaliation, harassment, disability and accommodations, leaves of absence, wage and hour, and employment contracts. Suzanne has successfully litigated restrictive covenant and employment law cases in both bench and jury trials, as well as has obtained countless favorable outcomes prior to trial or hearing on behalf of employers across the country.

Suzanne also works closely with employers in proactively addressing, and advising on, a wide array of personnel issues and maintaining compliance with state and federal employment laws. Suzanne's experience also includes developing employment policies and procedures and contracts for employers, including tailoring restrictive covenant agreements and severance agreements to each employers' specific and unique business and personnel needs.

Wisconsin *Super Lawyers* named Suzanne as a Rising Star in 2015, 2016, 2017 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.



Practice Groups



[Employment Law](#), [Wage and Hour](#)

Experience

- ▶ Advises businesses on trade secret and restrictive covenant (non-compete, non-solicitation, and confidentiality) matters
- ▶ Successfully represents businesses in federal and state courts in trade secret and unfair competition matters, including non-compete, non-solicitation, and confidentiality cases
- ▶ Successfully defends employers in federal and state court litigation and administrative agency matters in all areas of employment law, including Title VII, ADA, FMLA, FLSA, and state law equivalents
- ▶ Advises employers on all types of employment law issues and compliance, including hiring, discipline, leaves of absence, termination, and policies and procedures

Education & Admittance to Practice

Education

- ▶ J.D., *cum laude*, University of Wisconsin Law School, 2010
- ▶ B.A., Miami University, 2007

Admittance to Practice

- ▶ Wisconsin
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- ▶ U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth and Seventh Circuits

Professional Activities & Speeches

Professional Activities

- ▶ Wisconsin Bar Association

Speeches

- ▶ Milwaukee Bar Association - "Drafting, Enforcing, and Litigating Restrictive Covenant Agreements" - December 10, 2020
- ▶ Ogletree Deakins Podcast - "Lots of Leaves: Managing FMLA Abuse and Other Challenging Leave Issues" - December 10, 2019
- ▶ Wisconsin Association of Corporate Counsel Annual Conference - "The Four Horsemen of the Internet Apocalypse" - Elkhart Lake - May 16, 2019
- ▶ Wisconsin Association of Corporate Counsel Annual Conference - "Freedom of Speech Does Not Mean Freedom From Consequence" - Elkhart Lake - May 18, 2018
- ▶ Wisconsin Association of Corporate Counsel Annual Conference - "Getting Lost in the Weed: A Journey Through the Rapidly Changing World of Legalized Cannabis" - Elkhart Lake - May 18, 2017
- ▶ Wisconsin Association of Corporate Counsel Annual Conference - "Generations at Work: Managing the Clash" - Elkhart Lake - May 20, 2016
- ▶ Wisconsin Association of Corporate Counsel Annual Conference - "Litigating Non-Compete and Non-Solicitation Agreements - Suing Former Employees: A View from the Trenches" - Elkhart Lake - May 1, 2015

Honors & Awards

- *Order of the Coif*
 - Wisconsin *Super Lawyers* Rising Star (2015 – 2021)
 - University of Wisconsin Law School Academic Achievement Award
 - University of Wisconsin Law School Dean's List (2008 – 2010)
 - Miami University Honors Program
 - Miami University Dean's List (2003 – 2007)
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