



Susan G. Ridgeway

Senior Counsel

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

An experienced litigator in both state and federal court, Susan has helped small and large companies with their legal needs for over 25 years. Her clients include construction contractors, property developers, banks, health care providers, cryobanks, manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers. Susan has a solid record of achieving proactive and cost-efficient resolutions for her clients, both in and out of court.

A portion of Susan's practice has been dedicated to establishing and protecting family rights. For 12 years she has provided legal services to create and protect families in assisted reproductive technology arrangements. She is recognized as a legal authority in Montana on surrogacy, reproductive donation, and parentage rights and has obtained remedies for LGBTQ+ parents and their children, including two groundbreaking Montana Supreme Court decisions.

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

Career Distinctions & Honors

The Best Lawyers in America[®]; Family Law, 2024-2025; Commercial Litigation, 2025 Martindale-Hubbell[®], AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated *Mountain States Super Lawyers*[®], Civil Litigation: Defense, 2020, 2022-2024; 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

Other Activities

Susan enjoys cycling, mountain biking, and playing ice hockey with friends.