

## ATTORNEY PROFILE



### Heather G. Balgaard

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#### Specialty Areas

Estate and Trust  
Trust Litigation

#### Admissions

Minnesota State Bar

#### Education

Crown College, B.S., *summa cum laude*  
Mitchell Hamline School of Law,  
J.D.

#### Memberships

Minnesota State Bar Association  
Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
Mentor

Heather is a relationship-focused practitioner who takes time to listen to her clients' individual needs and concerns and works closely with them to ensure that all of their questions are answered and their specific legal needs are met. Her practice is focused on representing individuals and closely held businesses in the areas of estate planning, succession planning, and wealth preservation including: wills, trusts, retirement planning, asset protection planning, business succession, probate, and trust administration.

In addition to helping clients plan for the future, Heather advocates for clients when disputes arise. She has experience litigating probate contentions and representing clients through alternative dispute resolution to settle trust disputes.

#### Representative Experience:

- Heather was an integral part in representing landowners in an eminent domain case which resulted in an award of upwards of a million dollars for her clients. This matter was written about by several media outlets.
- She successfully argued against a due process violation claim at the Minnesota Court of Appeals securing the district court's original order in favor of her client.
- She represented a client in a seminal probate case after the Minnesota Court of Appeals remanded an elective share claim. She successfully negotiated a settlement to resolve client's elective share brought on behalf of an estate.

Prior to joining the firm Heather worked at a law firm in the metro area practicing family law, estate planning, probate and civil litigation. She also ran her own estate planning practice and worked for a global legal solutions corporation for seven years before joining her previous firm.

While a student at Mitchell Hamline, Heather served as associate editor of the *Hamline Law Review* from 2010 to 2011 and an associate of the *Hamline Law Review* from 2009 to 2010. She was also a research assistant for a law professor and contributed to the article "'Brother Can You Spare a Dime?' Technology Can Reduce Dispute Resolution Costs when Times are Tough and Improve Outcomes," published in the *Nevada Law Journal* in the Spring of 2011. Heather served as the Community Service chair of the Hamline Women's Legal Caucus during her second and third years of law school. She continues to be community minded and volunteers as a mentor and represents low-income clients going through the probate process.