

Kutak Rock Attorneys



David Bracht

David serves as of counsel with more than 35 years of experience across business, government, and law, including senior leadership roles in private industry and in federal and state agencies. He advises producers and agribusinesses involved in the production, processing, and sale of agricultural products, as well as biofuels producers and renewable energy developers, and also works with lenders, insurers, and other organizations supporting the agriculture and food sectors. Previously, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts appointed him Director of the Nebraska Energy Office in January 2015. He also held senior management posts with USDA credit and crop insurance regulators during President George H.W. Bush's administration.



Brett Bruneteau

Brett is an associate attorney and whose practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, corporate strategy, and capital markets. Prior to joining Kutak Rock, Brett worked in the media, sports, and entertainment industry for the Philadelphia Flyers of the National Hockey League (NHL) and the United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL). During that time, he focused on developing new streams of revenue, targeted marketing, strategic partnerships, and various community outreach initiatives. He was also drafted by the Washington Capitals in the fourth round of the 2007 NHL Entry Draft, competed internationally with Team USA, and participated at the NCAA Division I level for men's ice hockey.



Rachel Carrigan

Rachel is an associate attorney who has quickly become a critical contributor to several diverse areas of the firm's national litigation practice group. She has developed a strong track record across a range of complex litigation matters. Rachel advocates for the firm's clients in complex litigation, arbitrations, mediations and protests involving both private and governmental adversaries, with a focus on shareholder and constituent disputes, government contract disputes, managed care procurements, challenges to adverse decisions by government agencies, breach of contract disputes, healthcare litigation, and business tort claims.



Jeff Makovicka

Jeff is a partner who advises banks, nonbank agricultural lenders, and other financial institutions on lending, regulatory, strategic, and transactional matters. His experience includes lending, M&A, joint ventures, subsidiary formation, capital raises, restructurings, and investments involving financial institutions. Jeff also represents agribusiness clients—including grain buyers, input suppliers, feed and fertilizer distributors, agricultural lenders, data aggregators, and ag fintech companies—across their operations. He regularly lectures on agricultural lending and has significant experience with state lender licensing, the UCC, and the Food Security Act.



Bart McLeay

Bart is a litigation partner who focuses his practice on major commercial litigation, including breach of contract, class action, business torts and intellectual property matters and specialty experience in many different industries, including energy, financial services, construction, agribusiness, telecommunications, healthcare, reinsurance and more.

External Speakers



Eric Dinger

Eric Dinger is the founder of Landoption. He is a dedicated conservationist and entrepreneur with a passion for fostering outdoor experiences and environmental stewardship. Currently serving as the board chair for Outdoor Mentors, Eric brings a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record of leadership and innovation in the conservation sector. Eric's early career experiences culminated in the founding of Landoption, a company that connects landowners with alternative land-use programs to promote sustainable practices. Eric's approach to business—working hard, learning quickly, and taking good care of people—has remained consistent throughout his career.



Joe Fox

Joe Fox leads all business attraction and expansion activities for the Greater Omaha Chamber and the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership. Most recently, Joe served as Deputy Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED), where he oversaw the state's national and international business recruitment, retention, expansion, workforce development, innovation and marketing efforts. He also served as Interim Director of NDED, leading the agency's mission to support Nebraska's communities, businesses and people in a global economy.



Jessica Rudolph

Jessica manages The Combine's coworking space at Nebraska Innovation Campus, serves as The Combine's sponsorship liaison, and coordinates events for The Combine. She is from Gothenburg, Nebraska and has experience in the beef cattle industry. Jessica graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Communication where she was part of the Engler program- igniting a passion for entrepreneurship. In her free time, she enjoys advocating for agriculture and serves as a board member for the Nebraska FFA Foundation.