

Karen Bauer

Milwaukee, WI

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SENIOR COUNSEL

Overview

Karen is a seasoned litigator with an innate ambition and penchant for leadership. She brings to her practice more than a decade of experience handling high-stakes litigation and regulatory compliance matters.

As senior counsel in Amundsen Davis's Business Litigation Service Group, Karen often defends financial institutions and lenders. As a former consumer protection litigator, she is experienced at managing every aspect of the litigation lifecycle and strategically draws on this past experience to advise her clients. Karen's ability to articulate complex legal topics in a simple, accessible manner lends to her educational style of advocacy. She has deep experience advising clients on statutory interpretation and regulatory implementation, allowing them to understand the risks and opportunities before them.

Outside of the office, Karen is an avid volunteer for causes she cares about, ranging from participation in her state and local bar associations to working with youths. She is a frequent presenter and writer on higher education financing and student loans.

Experience

Regulatory Advisory and Litigation Support for Federal Higher Education Rules

Representation of Student Loan Debtors in Federal Bankruptcy and Administrative Proceedings

Leadership of Consumer Law Litigation Involving Predatory Sales and Financing Practices

Coordinated Defense in Multi-Jurisdictional Bankruptcy Litigation with DOJ

SERVICES

Banking & Finance

Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights

Business Litigation

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D., 2009

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, B.A. 2004

ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin

Strategic Defense of Financial Institutions in Consumer Protection Litigation

Karen Bauer

Membership & Involvement

- State Bar of Wisconsin: Board of Governors, 2023 – Present; Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission, 2025; Wisconsin Law Foundation Awards Committee, 2024 – 2026; WisLAP Monitor, 2012 – Present; Lawyers Assistance Program Volunteer, 2009 – Present; Pro Bono Honor Society, 2019 – 2023; Greater Wisconsin Initiative Working Group Advisor, 2019 – 2021; YLD Fellow, 2013 – 2019
- Member: Association for Women Lawyers
- Board Member: Local 212 MATC Believe in Students Fast Fund Inc., 2020 – Present
- Troop Leader: Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast, 2018 – Present
- Gubernatorial Appointee: Wisconsin Student Debt Task Force, 2020
- Volunteer: American Bar Association Free Legal Answers; Read Aloud Community Outreach Leader

Honors

- Wisconsin Law Journal Legal All-Star Award Recipient: 2023
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation: 2017
- Fellow, Wisconsin Law Foundation: 2016
- State Bar of Wisconsin Young Lawyers Division (YLD): Outstanding Young Lawyer, 2013
- State Bar of Wisconsin Public Interest Law Section: Outstanding Public Interest Law Student Award, 2009

Firm News

Senior Counsel Karen Bauer Joins Amundsen Davis
Firm News, May 27, 2025

In the Media

Karen Bauer Interviewed for *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Article on Federal Student Loans

Speaking Engagements

The State of Student Loans 2026
Speaking Engagement, State Bar of Wisconsin, Webcast

Know What You Owe: Student Loan Info You Need
Speaking Engagement, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Seminar, October 2022

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Student Loans: What You Need to Know
Speaking Engagement, Community Advocates, Seminar, October 2022

Bankruptcy and Student Debt
Speaking Engagement, American Bankruptcy Institute Conference, Seminar, June 2022

Student Loan Repayment for Local Government Leaders
Speaking Engagement, Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL), Seminar, January 2022

Bankruptcy Basics
Speaking Engagement, Legal Aid Society, Seminar, October 2020

Student Loan Repayment
Speaking Engagement, State Public Defender Conference, Seminar, 2020

Managing Student Loan Repayment
Speaking Engagement, Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC), Seminar, June 2019