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Areas of Law

Employment
Franchise and Distribution
Litigation

Bar Admissions

Minnesota, 2010

Education

University of Minnesota Law School
Minneapolis, MN; 2010
J.D., *magna cum laude*

University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN; 2007
B.A.

R. Henry Pfutzenreuter

R. Henry Pfutzenreuter advises clients in litigation, with a focus on franchise and distribution, employment and commercial disputes. He represents a broad range of businesses, from startups and closely held corporations, to international franchises and publically traded companies. Henry approaches disputes with a balance of pragmatism and zeal that maximizes his clients' business objectives and minimizes the burden of litigation. He is adept at using the latest litigation technology to thoroughly review the evidence, present his clients' positions effectively to the court, and obtain the most efficient results possible.

Representative Experience:

Henry prides himself on the variety of litigation matters with which he is able to assist his clients, including contractual disputes, sales under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, insurance claims, shareholder disputes, enforcement of noncompete agreements, business torts such as tortious interference, misrepresentation, and defamation, as well as trade secret misappropriation and intellectual property infringement. He also has experience litigating a variety of employment disputes, including wrongful discharge, discrimination, retaliation, whistleblower, and wage and hour claims.

Franchise and Distribution Litigation

- **Breach of Contract and Misrepresentation Claims.** Represented a national franchisor in claims brought by a group of franchisees alleging breach of contract and misrepresentation in connection with sales and operation of the franchise, including by compelling the franchisees to bring their claims separately in an arbitral forum.
- **Noncompete Agreements.** Regularly involved in enforcing franchise agreements' noncompete terms against current and former franchisees who attempt to take knowledge and experience gained from franchisors and use it to operate their own competing businesses, both domestically and abroad.
- **Trademark Infringement Claims.** Brought suit against a business that was knowingly and willfully using a franchisor's trademarks to market its own services.

Employment Litigation

- **Discrimination Claims.** Defends employers from claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act, and the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

R. Henry Pfutzenreuter

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- **Noncompete and Confidentiality Claims.** Has enforced noncompete and confidentiality agreements against employees who attempt to leave their job to work for competitors and take customer lists, trade secrets, and other proprietary information with them.
- **Government Complaints and Investigations.** Counsels employers in responding to investigations and complaints filed with state and federal employment discrimination agencies like the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Commercial Litigation

- **Breach of Contract.** Defended a utility district from a neighboring city's breach of contract claim in connection with the construction of a shared municipal facility.
- **Breach of Warranty.** Represented California lighting manufacturer in breach of warranty and fraud claims against Fortune 500 manufacturer and distributor of LEDs.
- **Copyright Infringement.** Defended a start-up online service provider from claims of copyright infringement by a well-established national competitor.
- **Real Estate Sales.** Represented seller of Minneapolis office tower, preventing buyer's attempt to hold-up and re-negotiate the transaction by enjoining the purchase agreement's termination, and forcing buyer to close at the agreed-upon purchase price of \$18.65 million.