

Jacob W. Nelson

Member

Contact

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Location: Cedar Rapids, IA

Practice Areas

- Business and Commercial Litigation
- Construction and Design Practice
- Estate Planning Litigation
- Trial and Appellate Advocacy

Biography

Jacob Nelson is a litigation attorney at Simmons Perrine PLC with a well-established practice in general commercial litigation, distribution and franchise disputes, construction law, and trust and estate litigation. He brings a thoughtful, strategic approach to complex cases, representing clients in both trial and appellate courts.

Before joining the firm in 2015, Jacob practiced with Foley & Lardner LLP in Milwaukee, where he gained extensive experience in high-stakes litigation across a range of industries. He previously served as a law clerk to Judge James E. Gritzner of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa and as a judicial extern to Judge Aleta A. Trauger of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Jacob's early service with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps reflects his longstanding commitment to public service and community engagement. He was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Bar Admissions

- State of Iowa
- State of Wisconsin

Education

- Vanderbilt University Law School, JD, 2008
    - Moot Court Board
    - Mock Trial Board
- University of Iowa, BA, with honors and highest distinction, 2004
    - Phi Beta Kappa

Professional Affiliations

- Iowa State Bar Association
    - Litigation Section
    - Construction Law Section
- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Linn County Bar Association
- Greater Cedar Rapids Housing & Building Association
- Master Builders of Iowa

Honors & Awards

- Listed in Legal 500 US Elite Iowa Rankings for Commercial Disputes, 2026
- Included in the Best Lawyers in America® 2022-2025 Ones to Watch: Cedar Rapids
    - Commercial Litigation
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers list, 2022-2023
    - Business Litigation
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers Rising Star list, 2016-2017
- Graduate of the Leadership for Five Seasons, Class of 2017

News & Events

2026

- Jake Nelson Listed in Legal 500 US Elite Iowa Rankings for Commercial Disputes, 2026

Archive

- Jake Nelson Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2025 Ones to Watch: Cedar Rapids
- Jake Nelson Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2024 Ones to Watch: Cedar Rapids
- Jake Nelson Listed in 2023 Great Plains Super Lawyers
- Jake Nelson Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2023 Ones to Watch: Cedar Rapids
- Jake Nelson Makes First Appearance on Great Plains Super Lawyers List
- Best Lawyers in America® 2022 Ones to Watch: Cedar Rapids
- Best Lawyers in America® 2021 Ones to Watch: Cedar Rapids

News & Events

- Included in the Best Lawyers in America® 2022-2025 Ones to Watch: Cedar Rapids
    - Commercial Litigation
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers list, 2022-2023
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