

Roger W. Stone

Member

Contact

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Location: Cedar Rapids, IA

Practice Areas

- Construction and Design Practice
- Environmental Law
- Business and Commercial Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Banking Litigation
- Municipal Law
- Banking and Finance

Biography

After clerking for the Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Roger Stone joined the firm in 1981. He soon began litigating commercial and construction cases across Iowa. He has led the firm's efforts to build a strong reputation and practice in the fields of construction and environmental law. Mr. Stone has represented many corporations, contractors, cities, counties, engineers, architects and individuals in hundreds of cases for over forty years. He has handled claims of up to $2.2 billion.

Roger Stone has received recognition by his peers for his legal work:

- First Iowan named to the American College of Construction Lawyers
- Twelve times his peers named him one of the Top Ten Super Lawyers for the State of Iowa
- Cedar Rapids "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers® in Construction Law, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2021, 2024
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers list, 2012-Present
- Ranked In Chambers USA 2014-Present for Litigation: General Commercial

Attorney General Tom Miller selected Mr. Stone and Simmons Perrine as the only lawyer and firm outside of Des Moines to serve as Special State Counsel to represent the State against the tobacco companies. Among other activities, Mr. Stone argued the case in the Supreme Court of Iowa. Iowa and other states successfully settled their claims in late 1998, resulting in the largest recovery in the State's history of over $2.2 billion and substantial health related programs.

He acts as general counsel to general, roofing, mechanical, electrical, excavation, concrete, masonry, paving, painting, drywall and other contractors and architect and engineering firms.

Mr. Stone has served as an arbitrator on the American Arbitration Association's national panel of construction arbitrators for large complex cases, including 40 panels of three arbitrators and 45 single arbitrator cases. The cases have involved claims of up to $100 million. Mr. Stone has served as counsel representing clients in many construction arbitrations that have gone to hearing and also serves as a mediator in construction cases throughout Iowa.

Mr. Stone has also managed superfund matters, chemical spills, permitting issues, delay and disruption claims, contaminated land sales, remediation plans, criminal defense of corporate officers and water and wastewater issues.

Mr. Stone spent 25 years serving as Managing Partner and Chair of the Board of Directors of the firm.

Bar Admission

- State of Iowa

Education

- University of Iowa College of Law, JD, with highest distinction, 1980
    - Phi Beta Kappa
    - Order of the Coif
    - Recipient Hancher-Finkbine Medallion
    - Iowa State Bar Academic Excellence Award
    - Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Corporation Law, 1979-1980
- Columbia University, MA, 1977
    - Political Science
    - International Fellow
- University of Iowa, BA, with highest distinction, 1975
    - State of Iowa's Nominee for the Rhodes Scholarship

Representative Experience

Mr. Stone has served as lead counsel on a wide range of construction cases, including nearly any type of building or project in Iowa.

Environmental

- We have experience in cases involving clean-up and liability for environmental contamination, landfill development, other solid waste disposal and transfer, mold liability, other industrial hygiene, odor and other nuisance control.

Public Projects

- We represent contractors and owners on public projects that include athletic stadiums, event arenas, schools, swimming pools, streets and highways, storm sewer systems, bridges, golf courses, municipal water plants, and waste treatment plants. These projects often include specific construction issues arising out of our practice in commercial and industrial, water and drainage, utilities and energy and public liens.

Utilities and Energy

- We represent clients providing electrical and other utility services, wind and solar farm development, ethanol plants, coal mines, developing alternative energies.

Water and Waste Water

- We represent clients in construction that affects and is affected by water. Specific projects include cofferdams, storm water embankments and retention, dams, dikes, and other alterations of drainage.

Industrial

- We represent clients in the construction of commercial and industrial buildings. Specific types of buildings include: stadiums, arenas, schools, dormitories, hospitals, hotels, churches, museums, high rise buildings, office buildings, domes, steel plants. In addition to general commercial and industrial experience, we have attorneys with specialized experience in specific construction issues.

Specific Construction Issues

Our attorneys have experience involving failure analysis and liability as well as contract liability in a variety of specific issues:

- **Structural:** geotechnical surveys, subterranean support, foundational systems, backfill and compacting of buried structures, load-bearing system designs, and alteration of drainage
- **Climate control:** HVAC, geothermal systems, piping, individual solar and wind systems
- **Roofing and weatherproofing:** traditional shingle roofs, elastomeric roof systems, other alternative roof systems, window design and incorporation, cladding and other siding
- **Materials and installation:** poured-in-place concrete, and pre-cast concrete systems, mortar and brick systems, glazing, ceramics, carpeting, tile and other surface coverings
- **Business infrastructure:** telephone systems computer controls, acoustical material, refrigeration
- **Project Progress:** Project delays, extra work claims, liquidated damages, and change orders

Residential

- Our experience on specific issues, commercial and industrial, water and drainage, and environmental projects allows us to most effectively represent clients when comparable issues arise on residential projects.

Representative Experience

Significant Construction Matters

- Co-trial counsel recovering $18 million for a mechanical contractor on a hospital claim
- Co-trial counsel recovering $10 million for a general contractor on a hospital project
- Defended engineering company in $65 million design and licensure claim, settled for $2 million
- Secured $3.6 million arbitration award for municipal utility on faulty equipment claim
- Defense verdicts and favorable settlements in over 200 engineering and architectural malpractice cases
- Prosecuted and filed approximately 1,000 mechanic’s liens
- Lead counsel on 40+ construction arbitrations and 20 public bidding disputes

Significant Environmental Matters

- Represented the State of Iowa in over 1,000 environmental cleanup reimbursement claims against major oil companies, including trial victory over Amoco Oil Company
- Negotiated Superfund settlements across multiple states, including Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan
- Defended corporations and executives in EPA criminal investigations and enforcement actions

Significant Banking & Commercial Litigation

- Won four jury trials on lender liability claims against a national bank
- Defended and resolved dozens of lender liability and banking malpractice claims
- Represented the State of Iowa in $165 million settlement payment dispute with tobacco companies

Professional & Community Affiliations

- **Professional Memberships**

- Iowa State Bar Association
  - Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section
  - Construction Law Section
  - Litigation Section Member
  - Construction Law Section Council, 2014-2017
- Linn County Bar Association
- Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Fellow, American College of Construction Lawyers
- National Registry of Construction Arbitrators, American Arbitration Association
  - Large Complex Case Panel Member, 2013
- Research Assistant to Professor Allan D. Vestal (Post-Graduation)

Community Involvement

- Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Former Chairperson
- Priority One Board, Former Director
- Cedar Rapids Country Club, Former Director & President
- Cedar Rapids Art Museum, Former President

Honors & Awards

- First Iowan Named to the American College of Construction Lawyers
- Listed in Legal 500 US Elite Iowa Rankings for Commercial Disputes, 2026
- Listed in Super Lawyers® Top 10 Attorneys in Iowa (2012–2013, 2015–2024)
- Included in Best Lawyers® “Lawyer of the Year” in Cedar Rapids:
  - Litigation – Construction Law (2012, 2024)
  - Construction Law (2014, 2018, 2022)
- Included in Best Lawyers in America®, 2027
  - Commercial Litigation
  - Construction Law
  - Litigation – Construction
- Ranked in Chambers USA, 2014–2026
- AV Rating by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Included in Benchmark Litigation for Dispute Resolution in Environmental Law (2022–2025)
- Recognized as Local Litigation Star, 2013–2016
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers list, 2012–2026 (Construction Litigation)

Publications

- Author, Construction Damages in Iowa, 52 Drake Law Review 101 (2004)
- Author, Mechanic’s Liens in Iowa-Revised, 49 Drake L. Rev. 1 (2000)
- Author, Architect’s and Engineers Liability under Iowa Construction Law, 50 Drake L. Rev. 33 (2001)
- Author, Mechanics Liens in Iowa, 30 Drake Law Rev. 39, 1980
- Mr. Roger W. Stone & Jeffrey A. Stone, Indemnity in Iowa Construction Law, 54 Drake L. Rev. 125 (2005)

News & Events

2026

- Roger Stone Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2027
- Roger Stone Listed in Legal 500 US Elite Iowa Rankings for Commercial Disputes, 2026
- Roger Stone Recognized in the 2026 Edition of Chambers USA

Archive

- Roger Stone Included in Best Lawyers in America®
- Roger Stone Listed in 2025 Great Plains Super Lawyers

- Roger Stone Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2025
- Roger Stone Ranked in Top 10: Iowa Super Lawyers List for 12th Time
- Roger Stone Makes Chambers USA 2024 List
- Roger Stone Included in Best Lawyers® 2024 “Lawyer of the Year” for Litigation – Construction Law, Cedar Rapids
- Roger Stone Listed in 2024 Great Plains Super Lawyers
- Roger Stone Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2024
- Roger Stone Listed in Chambers USA 2023
- Roger Stone Listed in 2023 Top 10: Iowa Super Lawyers
- Roger Stone Listed in 2023 Great Plains Super Lawyers
- Roger Stone Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2023
- Roger Stone Included in Top 10: Iowa Super Lawyers List for 10th Time
- Roger Stone Listed in 2022 Great Plains Super Lawyers
- Roger Stone Listed in Chambers USA 2022
- Roger Stone Appears on Top 10: Iowa Super Lawyers List for Ninth Time
- SPMB Listed in Chambers USA 2021
- Best Lawyers In America Recognizes 37 SPMB Attorneys
- Roger W. Stone Makes 8th Appearance on Top 10: Iowa Super Lawyers List
- 2020 Great Plains Super Lawyers Announced
- Chambers USA 2020 List Announced