



## Sherri Strand

Senior Counsel

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### PRACTICES

- Business Litigation
- Nonprofit Corporate Law
- Employment Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Securities Law
- Class Action

### EDUCATION

- Washington University School of Law, J.D., 1978, Wiley Moot Court Executive Board Member, 1977-1978
- Kalamazoo College, B.A., National Merit Scholar, 1975
- University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, 1974

### ADMISSIONS

- Missouri
- Missouri USDC, Eastern District
- US Ct Appeals, 8th Circuit (Covers AR, IA, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)
- US Supreme Ct

### REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
- 35 Districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- U.S. Bank National Association
- Scottrade, Inc.

### AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan

Sherri is a trial attorney with experience in a wide variety of civil litigation in state and federal courts.

She has successfully represented public companies, small businesses and not-for-profit organizations, both as plaintiffs and defendants.

Over the past decade, Sherri has developed a special focus on representing nonprofits and, in particular, religious denominations and congregations, seminaries and religiously affiliated universities. She assists in forming new nonprofit entities, handles compliance matters and required annual reports, administers state registrations and counsels entities regarding matters dealing with the U.S. Department of Education.

Sherri frequently serves as outside general counsel for religious entities. In this role, she oversees all outside litigation, fields intellectual property questions, facilitates the creation of nonprofit organizations in foreign countries and leads national legal strategies, including participation in amicus curiae briefs in cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Nonprofit and religious organizations look to Sherri for her ability to resolve thorny internal and external conflicts, many involving sensitive institution-specific matters, with confidence and tact. Sherri draws on her background in both corporate law and litigation to obtain clear, effective results for clients.

### Experience

- ***Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, et al.***

Sherri was part of a legal team that in January 2012 won a unanimous ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in a case heralded as the most significant religious-freedom case decided by the High Court in decades. Sherri represented Hosanna-Tabor, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In issuing its ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court for the first time acknowledged the "ministerial exception," a doctrine grounded in the First Amendment that bars claims by ministers and other religious leaders under employment-discrimination laws. As part of her practice, Sherri has represented broker dealers in court and before the securities industry self-regulatory organizations, and was named "Missouri's Best Lawyer if the SEC Calls" by a Missouri Lawyers Weekly survey.

St. Louis

- Missouri Bar Association

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

- Thompson Coburn LLP Senior Counsel, 2021-Present Partner, 2001-2021

#### **COMMUNITY**

- Lutheran Senior Services, Board of Directors, 2015-Present
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Legal Advocates for Abused Women
- Washington University Moot Court Competition, Judge

#### **Recognitions**

- Listed in Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers, 2005 (by Thomson Reuters)

#### **Presentations**

- ADR, MO CLE, Lecturer, 2002-2006