Neal Westin

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DES MOINES OFFICE

Whether at work, in the community, or with his family, Neal Westin thrives on being involved and personally invested. In his practice, Neal specializes in business, privacy, and immigration law. He helps businesses find, hire, and retain properly authorized professional-level employees. He also represents individuals for student matters, work visas, and green cards to establish permanent residency.

"My immigration work is especially rewarding because I get to help people with a very personal and life-changing process," Neal says. "It's also challenging because it can be highly complex, is increasingly vetted, and the process can take years. Clients are deeply invested in the immigration process and anxious about the outcome. It's rewarding to me to see them through the complex process."

Neal also has a thriving corporate practice. From start-ups to nonprofits to multinational corporations, he helps businesses with contract reviews, licensing, ethics rules, intellectual property and trade secrets. He has an increased focus on privacy and information security, helping clients with data collection and usage matters. In relation to that practice, he's qualified as a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP).

Coming from a long line of teachers, Neal has a strong interest in education-related topics and appreciates opportunities to use his professional skills within the community. He has served on the campaign cabinet of United Way of Central Iowa and is active in their Education Leadership Initiative. He also served on the Make-a-Wish Iowa board of directors, has been involved with prairie restoration efforts at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, and with his neighborhood association board.

An Iowa native, Neal graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa. He went on to graduate with honors from the University of Texas School of Law, where he was managing editor of the Texas Forum on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights and had an internship with the Texas Supreme Court.

RECOGNITION

Martindale-Hubbell
AV® Preeminent

Chambers USA
Labor & Employment–Immigration, 2013–2026

The Best Lawyers in America®
Immigration Law, 2016–2027

The Best Lawyers in America®
Lawyer of the Year—Immigration Law, Des Moines, 2021, 2023, 2025, 2027



PRACTICE AREAS

- Business, Finance & Real Estate
- Alternative Energy, Renewable Fuels & Public Utilities
- Contracts & Procurement
- Cybersecurity & Privacy
- Municipal & Eminent Domain
- Real Estate
- Labor & Employment
- Immigration

EDUCATION

- University of Iowa (B.A., with high distinction)
- University of Texas (J.D., with honors)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Iowa

Great Plains Super Lawyers
Immigration, Business, 2013–2026

Lead DSM
Community Vision Award, 2014

***Des Moines Business Record* Forty Under 40**
Honoree, 2011

Texas Forum on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Managing Editor, 1998–1999

Phi Beta Kappa

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

American Immigration Lawyers Association

American Bar Association
- Business Law Section
- International Law Section

Iowa State Bar Association
- Business Law Section
- International Law Section

Polk County Bar Association

International Association of Privacy Professionals
Certified Information Privacy Professional

ABI Leadership Iowa
2011–2012

Make-a-Wish Iowa
- Board of Directors, 2016–2025
- Treasurer and Executive Committee, 2021–2025
- Finance Committee, 2016–present

Beaverdale Betterment Coalition
- President, 2006–2009
- Director, 2006–2014

Beaverdale Neighborhood Association
Director, 2004–2009

United Way of Central Iowa Education Leadership Initiative
2006–present

Friends of the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
- Director and Treasurer, 2000–2004
- Recipient of 2004 Pride of the Prairie Award in recognition of outstanding volunteer services

Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute
Class of 2005–2006