

Brian M. Shust

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CEDAR RAPIDS OFFICE

Teamwork and service are central tenets of Brian Shust's law practice, starting with his 10 years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. "Being part of something bigger than myself and serving others for a greater good is what drives me," Brian says. "My passion is supporting forward-thinking teams, big or small."

In his combined transactional and litigation practice, Brian applies his service-minded approach and unique experience to client advocacy and business counseling. As a JAG officer, he provided legal advice during every facet of the government contracting life cycle. He counseled on soliciting, awarding, and administering contracts, including ensuring regulatory compliance. He led the JAG Corps acquisition integrity office, overseeing over 125 fraud attorneys and advising federal investigators on the legal issues surrounding procurement fraud and corruption. His diverse contracts experience allows him to identify what it means to be a successful business and how to win contracts.

Brian has extensive litigation and investigation experience, which helps him negotiate practical solutions to protect client interests. He defended the Air Force against contract protests and claims in federal courts and boards, and he was military prosecutor for several years. He values a big-picture approach coupled with zealous advocacy.

Now, in his private practice, Brian maintains the values of teamwork and service that have guided his life. "The people I'm working with and working for inspire me," he says. He enjoys the challenge of helping clients unpack the nuances to achieve their goals. "Lawyers exist to solve problems. Thinking strategically is vital to finding creative solutions."

With two small children, Brian values the time he devotes to being a husband and father. His new Iowa roots also bring him closer to his extended family. "My family has been blessed to experience different parts of the country for the past 10 years," Brian says. "Now, I am thrilled to raise my family in one place and instill the amazing values of Iowans."

RECOGNITION



PRACTICE AREAS

- Business, Finance & Real Estate
- Business & Commercial Transactions
- Business Organizations
- Contracts & Procurement
- Corporate Governance
- Litigation
- Administrative Hearings, Arbitrations & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Business & Commercial Litigation
- Construction & Real Estate Litigation

EDUCATION

- Wake Forest University (B.A., history)
- University of Iowa College of Law (J.D. with distinction)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Iowa
- Illinois
- U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals
- Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- U.S. Air Force JAG Corps (Major): Government contracts attorney, prosecutor
- Iowa Air National Guard (Major) at 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, Iowa

Air Force General Counsel's Acquisition Integrity Award, 2024

American Bar Association Keith E. Nelson Distinguished Service Award (Writing), 2023

Rated top Major in Air Force JAG Corps' acquisition, fiscal law, and litigation division, 2021 and 2022

Rated top company grade staff officer in special operations wing, 2018 and 2019

Legal office company grade Attorney of the Year, 2015 and 2016

Distinguished Graduate at Commissioned Officer Training, 2014

Iowa Law Review

Student Writer

Wake Forest University Baseball Team (athletic scholarship)

SPEECHES AND PUBLICATIONS

"Navigating Commercial and Government Contracts"

EntreFEST, June 2025 (co-speaker with Eric Tubbs)

"Commercial and Government Procurement Contracts"

Association of Corporate Counsel Forum (Iowa Chapter), May 2025 (co-speaker with Eric Tubbs)

"Understanding and Minimizing Conflict of Interest Risk for Governmental Boards, Councils and other Elected Offices"

Iowa Society of CPAs Government Roundtable, May 2025 (co-speaker with Frances Haas)

"Avoiding Legal Issues and Unlocking FEMA Funds after Natural Disasters"

Iowa Emergency Management Association Annual Conference, May 2025 (speaker)

"Best Practices for Employers Managing USERRA and Military Services Matters"

Nyemaster Labor & Employment Webinar, April 2025 (co-speaker with Kristina Stanger and Thomas Cunningham)

"Government Contracts Basics"

Iowa State Bar Association, November 2024 (presentation)

"Government Contracts for Business Lawyers"

Iowa State Bar Association Business Law Seminar, September 2024 (presentation)

"Acquisition Integrity First," *The JAG Reporter*, 2023

"Noon on the 20th Day of January—A Legal Advisor's Perspective on the 59th Presidential Inauguration," Lieutenant Colonel Micah W. Elggren, Major Brian M. Shust, and Captain Ravi R. Doshi; 6 *The Army Lawyer* 20, 2022