

Spencer S. Cady

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DES MOINES OFFICE

Spencer Cady grew up listening to legal discussions of justice and fairness. His upbringing with his father as a state court judge, along with the mentorship and experience he received during his federal judicial clerkship, gave him firsthand experience with how our state and federal justice systems operate and how legal disputes are resolved. "I have formed a good understanding of how decisions are made from a neutral perspective of the court," he says. "That helps in my practice to step back and take a big-picture view of a situation to effectively advocate for my client."

Spencer's practice consists primarily of general [commercial litigation](#) and [appellate advocacy](#), often trying and arguing breach of contract cases, construction disputes, product liability claims, and general commercial disputes. He also has experience in both prosecuting and defending criminal cases.

Spencer thrives on the competitive nature of [litigation](#) and on learning and understanding each issue in a dispute. He enjoys the diverse range of casework, industries, and issues in his practice. "Each case is like a puzzle, and I'm charged with piecing together how the facts coincide with the law, all while positioning my client to receive the best result."

Clients view Spencer as hardworking, direct, and understanding. He is thoughtful to a client's position but not afraid to provide counseling and a fair assessment of a dispute. "I understand the client and the issues and communicate with them in such a way they understand me and the course we should take to get the result they want."

Outside of work, Spencer is active in various community and legal organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa, Young Lawyers Division of the Iowa State Bar Association, and his alma mater, Drake University. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, and he is constantly seeking physical and creative challenges that work out his mind in different ways, such as basketball, golf, running, and tackling home improvement projects.

RECOGNITION

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch

Commercial Litigation, 2021-2025

Great Plains Super Lawyers

Rising Stars, 2021-2023

Des Moines Business Record Forty Under 40

[Honoree, 2025](#)

Order of the Coif

Iowa State Bar Association Graduating Senior Award

Spencer S. Cady

PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation
- Appellate Practice
- Business & Commercial Litigation
- Construction & Real Estate Litigation
- Personal Injury & Tort Defense
- Product Liability

EDUCATION

- Drake University (B.A., J.D., with high honors)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Iowa
- Admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Iowa.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Law Clerk, Honorable James E. Gritzner, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa

2013

Drake Law Review

Articles Editor, 2011–2013

Drake Criminal Defense Clinic

2012–2013

ABA Moot Court Team

2011–2013

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association

Iowa State Bar Association

Polk County Bar Association

Iowa Defense Counsel Association

SPEECHES & PUBLICATIONS

Editor, [OnBrief: Iowa's Appellate Blog](#)

[“Reconciling Privacy with Progress: Fourth Amendment Protection of E-Mail Stored With and Sent Through A Third-Party Internet Service Provider”](#)

61 Drake L. Rev. 225, 2012