



 **POWERHOUSE**

<https://.PowerHouseMediation.com>

# Kristi Paulson

Mediator | Arbitrator | Special Master

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(612) 895-2210

"I cherish the ADR process because it allows me to bring unique skills and a diverse set of tools to the table, ultimately leading to effective resolutions."

## BIOGRAPHY

Kristi Paulson is the Founder and President of PowerHouse Mediation, a nationally recognized leader in alternative dispute resolution. With over 30 years of experience as a trial lawyer and neutral, she specializes in mediation, arbitration, and special master services across civil and family law matters.

As a Minnesota Rule 114 Qualified Neutral and North Dakota Rule 8.9 Neutral, Kristi combines deep courtroom experience with practical dispute resolution expertise. She has served as Director of the Academy of Certified Trial Lawyers of Minnesota and is a past President of the Douglas K. Amdahl Inn of Court. Kristi was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 2017 and the National Association of Distinguished Neutrals in 2020. She also completed her term on the Minnesota Lawyers Board of Professional Responsibility and the ADR Ethics Board in December 2025 and April 2026.

Kristi is committed to professional excellence, civility, and customized dispute resolution approaches. She is recognized nationally for her expertise in online mediation and regularly trains lawyers, neutrals, and participants in mediation and advocacy skills.



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Based in Minneapolis, Kristi balances her professional work with a passion for reading, public speaking, boating, creative arts, and family life. Her dedication, innovation, and commitment to high standards define her as a true ADRPowerHouse.

## PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Mediation
- Civil Arbitration
- Special Master Assignments
- Limited - Family Mediation (Attorney represented only)

## EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Minnesota Law School
- M.A., North Dakota State University
- B.A., Moorhead State University

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Minnesota    October 22, 1993
- United States District of Minnesota    June 24, 1994
- United States Court of Appeals – 8th Circuit    September 21, 1994
- United States Court of Claims    1994
- United States Supreme Court    July 14, 2000
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribal Court    2001

## EXPERIENCE

- **Founder/Owner, Mediator|Arbitrator|Special Master** PowerHouse Mediation (2000 - present)
- **Attorney at Law**, Kristi J. Paulson, Chartered Law Firm (1998-present)
- **Hearing Officer**, Ramsey County Hearing Officer 2022-present
- **Arbitrator**, Minnesota State Arbitration Board (BMS - General) 2001-present
- **Professor**, Department of Communication, North Dakota State University (2009 - 2020)
- **Online Course Specialist**, Grantham University (2009 – 2017),  
United Tribes Technical College (2008-2013)
- **Attorney at Law**, Dady & Garner (1998)
- **Attorney at Law**, Hvass, Weisman & King, Chartered (1995-1998)
- **Attorney at Law**, Wm. D. Foster and Associates (1994-1995)
- **Trial Judicial Law Clerk**, State of Minnesota/Hennepin County District Court (1993-1994)
- **Law Clerk**, Geraghty, O’Loughlin & Kenney, St. Paul (1991)
- **Law Clerk**, Phillips, Gross and Aaron, Minneapolis (1992-93)



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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Minnesota Conciliation Court Referee – First Judicial District (Dakota), May 2021 - present
- Minnesota Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, MN Supreme Court, Elected Vice Chair (January 2024), Member, January 2020 -April 30, 2026
- Minnesota ADR Ethics Board, MN Supreme Court, January 2020 – December 31, 2025
- ABA House of Delegates, MSBA Representative December, 2022 – present
- ABA Fellows – National Co-Chair, Minnesota State Delegation May, 2023 - present

## PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HONORS

- Minnesota Super Lawyer - ADR (2023 - present)
- Minnesota Monthly – Top Lawyers (2023 - present)
- First District Bar Association President (2023-24), Board Member (2019-2023)
- Minnesota Bar Association Assembly Delegate (2021-present)
- Minnesota State Bar Association Member (1993 - present)
- MSBA ADR Section Council Member (2021 - present)
- MSBA One Profession Committee (2000 - 2025)
- MSBA Convention Committee (2023)
- Rule 8.9 Qualified Neutral North Dakota - Civil and Family Mediation & Arbitration (2020)
- MSBA NorthStar Lawyer (2019-present)
- Rule 114 Qualified Neutral – State of Minnesota - Mediation & Arbitration (Civil/Family) (2017)
- American Board of Trial Advocates (2017 - present)
- Litigation Counsel of American– The Trial Lawyer Honorary Society (2021-present)
- Lawyers of Distinction (2018 - present)
- America’s Top Personal Injury Attorneys (2019 - present)
- Americas Top High Stakes Litigators (2018 - present)
- Minnesota “Super Lawyer” and “Rising Star” – Personal Injury Litigation
- Martindale-Hubbell - AV Rated (1998 - present)
- American Bar Association (1993 - present)
- American Bar Association Life Fellow (2005 - present)
- ABA Fellows - Minnesota State Co-Chair 2023
- American Inns of Court (1996 - present)
- Amdahl Inn of Court (1996 - present), President (2003-04) Director (2000 - present)
- Minnesota Association for Justice, Board of Governors (2006-2016)
- Minnesota Consumer Alliance, Chairperson (2005)
- MN State Bar New Lawyers Section Chairperson (2007)
- North Dakota State University, Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award (1990)



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## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Douglas K. Amdahl Inn of Court
- American Bar Association
- First District Bar Association
- ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
- ABA Section of Family Law
- MSBA Civil Litigation Section
- MSBA ADR Section
- MSBA Family Law Section
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Minnesota Association for Justice
- American Association for Justice
- Minnesota Consumer Alliance
- American Bar Association Fellows
- ABOTA Fellow
- Minnesota Women Lawyers
- Dakota County Bar Association
- American Inns of Court
- Academy of Certified Trial Lawyers of Minnesota

## PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Paulson, Kristi (June 2025 - present), Legally Speaker - A monthly column in Minnesota Lawyer. Copies of all articles can be found on the PowerHouse Mediation Website
- Paulson, Kristi (April 2026) April Showers Bring Muddy Paws...and the Power of the Pause". Minnesota Lawyer Mutual's The View
- Paulson, Kristi (Jan/Feb 2026). "AI and Spreadsheets" Bench and Bar of Minnesota
- Paulson, Kristi (December 2025) "The Snow Globe Effect: Seeing Conflict Clearly When Everything's in Motion" Minnesota Lawyer Mutual's The View
- Paulson, Kristi (October, 2025) "Lights, Camera, Algorithm - How AI Video can help you now" Bench and Bar of Minnesota
- Paulson, Kristi (August 2025) "Five Things AI is not" Bench and Bar of Minnesota
- Paulson, Kristi (August 2025) "Barking Up the Right Tree: Ethical Negotiation Lessons from the Dog Days of Summer" Minnesota Lawyer Mutual's The View
- Paulson, Kristi (March 2025 "A Tech Reticent's Lawyer to Getting Started with AI" Bench and Bar of Minnesota
- Paulson, Kristi (April 2025) "Weathering the Storm: Navigating Difficult Conversations in Law" Minnesota Lawyer Mutual's The View



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## PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS (cont)

- Paulson, Kristi (2023, November). “The Complexities of Mediating a Personal Injury Wrongful Death Case” ADR E-Newletter (Publication of the Minnesota State Bar Association).
- Paulson, Kristi (2023, Spring). “Minnesota’s New Rule 114” Minnesota Defense (Publication of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association).
- Paulson, Kristi J. (2023, March). “Inside ADR’s Minnesota Rules Reset Understanding the New Rule 114 - Part Two” Bench and Bar of Minnesota.
- Paulson, Kristi J. (2023, January/February). “Inside ADR’s Minnesota Rules Reset Understanding the New Rule 114 - Part One: An Overview” Bench and Bar of Minnesota.
- Paulson, Kristi J. (2022, August). “The Three Cs of Legal Technology and Ethics” Bench and Bar of Minnesota.
- Paulson, Kristi (pending) (2021, December). “Mediation in the COVID-19 Era: Is Online Mediation Here to Stay?” Southwestern Law Review.
- Paulson, Kristi J. (2021, July). “The Virtual Courtroom: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going?” Minnesota Association for Justice
- Paulson, Kristi J. (2021, February). “Trying Jury Trials in the Covid-19 Era” Bench and Bar of Minnesota.
- Paulson, Kristi J. (2020, May/June). “The Remote Worker’s Survival Guide” Bench and Bar of Minnesota.



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