

THE **POWERLIST**

MINNESOTA LAWYER
Construction and Real Estate Law

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What are the biggest challenges you currently see in construction or real estate law?

With respect to construction, a large challenge is ongoing labor shortage. Data show that long-term, seasoned workers are entering retirement, yet fewer professionals are entering the industry. A viable remedy is to even the playing field for women, minorities, and small businesses by giving them the fair opportunity to compete, in accordance with realistic and fair goals of participation, in addition to increasing use of technology to maximize efficiency.

What advice would you give a business to avoid legal complications in construction or real estate?

Document everything, and attempt to resolve disputes as they occur, in a professional and cordial manner that reserves the right to resolve any liabilities after the project's obligations are fulfilled. People simply do not sue or penalize people that they like. And if it is not in writing, it did not happen.

Without revealing the names of a client, what is the most interesting transaction you've worked on lately?

Working to resolve a complex residential project with conflicting contractual language and rules, as well as numerous insurance issues.

How do you manage work/life balance?

This has been a struggle, but I feel like I'm managing this better than ever at this point in my career. Since my son was born, I made it a priority to be home each night to read to him and put him to bed – work could always be done after that happened, but that was crucial to my peace of mind. I've also made a commitment to regularly exercise (usually long-distance running), which helps not only my physical health, but my mental health as well. It's a great stress-reliever without negative consequences! I also take two vacations a year with my family where I endeavor to disengage from the office as much as possible.

