

SAMANTHA H. BATES

Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Samantha Bates is a seasoned trial attorney in Maslon's Litigation Group who represents corporations and individuals in high-stakes government and internal investigations, white-collar criminal defense, complex business disputes, and trust and estate litigation. Drawing on an extensive record in the courtroom, Samantha brings sound judgment, strategic insight, and composure to matters carrying significant legal, financial, and personal consequences. Her practice reflects an uncommon ability to guide clients through some of the most difficult and deeply personal challenges they may face. Known for her collaborative, creative, and determined approach, Samantha works tirelessly to achieve just and effective outcomes.

Before joining Maslon, Samantha devoted 15 years to public service as a federal and state prosecutor, building substantial trial experience in some of the most demanding cases in the criminal justice system. She most recently served for six years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, where she led complex investigations and prosecutions involving racketeering conspiracies, civil rights violations, firearms trafficking, narcotics conspiracies, and violent crimes. Most notably, Samantha served on the prosecution team in *United States v. Derek Chauvin et al.,* which resulted in the convictions of four Minneapolis police officers for federal civil rights violations arising from the death of George Floyd.

Samantha's exceptional public service has been recognized by multiple federal law enforcement agencies. In 2024, she received the United States Department of Justice's prestigious David Margolis Award for Exceptional Service—the Department's highest award for employee performance—for her contributions to the *Chauvin et al.* prosecution.

Before becoming an Assistant United States Attorney, Samantha prosecuted violent felonies with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office in Minneapolis and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in Detroit. Over the course of her prosecutorial career, she handled

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Litigation

- Business Litigation
- Construction & Real Estate Litigation
- Corporate Trust Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- Investigations & White Collar Defense
- Tort & Product Liability
- Trust & Estate Litigation

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota

Illinois

Michigan

U.S. District Court

- Minnesota

U.S. Court of Appeals

- Eighth Circuit

EDUCATION

Wayne State University Law School
J.D., 2009

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
B.A., 2006
English Literature

numerous felony jury trials, including complex and emotionally charged criminal sexual assault and homicide cases. That depth of trial work sharpened her ability to assess risk, develop persuasive case strategies, examine witnesses, present complicated evidence, and advocate effectively before judges and juries. Whether defending a client in a government investigation, litigating a business dispute, or navigating a sensitive trust and estate conflict, Samantha combines formidable courtroom experience with empathy, discretion, and an unwavering commitment to those she serves.

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

- Federal Bar Association: Minnesota Chapter Board of Directors 2026-Present
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- University of Minnesota Law School: Adjunct Professor
- University of St. Thomas School of Law: Mentor Externship Program, Mentor
- Women's White Collar Defense Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Groundwork Legal: Advisory Board 2026

SELECTED HONORS

- **Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®**, 2027
- **David Margolis Award for Exceptional Service,** U.S. Department of Justice, 2024 *(The Margolis Award is the department's highest award for employee performance.)*

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Litigation Liberation: How a Special Litigation Committee Can Save the Day (and the Company)," co-presenter, Business Law Institute, Minnesota CLE, 2026

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- "5 Mistakes to Avoid in Responding to a Government Investigation," co-author, *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2025