

## Byron E. Starns

### PARTNER

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Office: Minneapolis



**When it comes to major litigation, Byron is the attorney clients want in their corner to resolve complex environmental, regulatory and business disputes.**

A seasoned trial lawyer, Byron handles major litigation and administrative proceedings for clients in mining, energy and other regulated industries, as well as business clients faced with environmental issues. Byron thrives on solving hard fought, hotly contested complex disputes. He excels at navigating complex regulations, finding the facts, leading teams of experts and attorneys, and developing strategies needed to resolve lengthy and complex environmental and business disputes, often in related cases in multiple jurisdictions.

Byron's cases with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office and in private practice attest to the litigation strengths clients need to resolve complex and difficult cases, when the going gets rough. His deep experience encompasses environmental enforcement and cost recovery suits, contested utility and energy matters, major facility permitting proceedings, consumer protection and business regulation enforcement proceedings before state and federal agencies, construction and design professional liability cases, commercial and intellectual property disputes, antitrust class actions, product liability cases and condemnation proceedings.

### PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Environmental & Natural Resources

Energy

Environmental Litigation

Environmental Counseling

Mining

Transportation

### ADMISSIONS

Minnesota

Illinois

U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

### EDUCATION

University of Chicago Law School, J.D., 1969

- National Honor Scholar

- Rugby Club, President

Duke University, B.A., 1966

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## EXPERIENCE

As deputy attorney general for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Byron was the state's lead trial lawyer in what became the longest environmental enforcement trial in state history, *U.S. v. Reserve Mining Co.* The case was tried daily in U.S. District Court from August 1973 through May 1974, followed by a one-month remand trial on remedy in the summer of 1974. Byron argued 11 appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in this landmark case.

As Minnesota's chief deputy attorney general, Byron handled two cases that were briefed and argued in the U.S. Supreme Court (involving contract clause and equal protection clause issues respectively).

He served as national counsel in major products liability defense cases arising in multiple states (1991-2001).

Byron led a trial over the disputed valuation of the site for the new Minnesota Twins Ballpark before condemnation commissioner panel (2007).

Since 2008 Byron led a major Superfund cleanup effort and offensive and defensive cost recovery litigation for a major client.

Since 2012, Byron has co-led trials, appeals, and remand proceedings to require state regulation of groundwater appropriations to protect water levels in aquifers and connected surface waters for pro bono clients.

## RECOGNITIONS

Recognized with the "Minnesota ICON Award" by *Finance & Commerce* and *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2021

Named an "Attorney of the Year" by *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2018

Named among *The Best Lawyers in America*® in commercial litigation, energy law, environmental law, water law, mining law and personal injury litigation defense

- Angier B. Duke Scholar
- Lacrosse Team, Captain

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# Byron E. Starns

Listed as a “litigation leader” in *Benchmark Litigation*

Selected for inclusion in *Super Lawyers*®

Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* as “Minneapolis Lawyer of the Year” in the following categories:

- 2011 Administrative
- 2012 Litigation - Regulatory Enforcement
- 2014 Energy

## PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

St. Paul Academy and Summit School, Trustee, Secretary of Board of Trustees, 1999–2011

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Board of Directors, 2007–2009

University of Minnesota Joint Degree Program in Law, Health and the Life Sciences, Advisory Board, 2004–2012

Town & Country Club, Saint Paul, Minnesota, Board of Directors, Vice President and President, 2000–2006

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation

Minnesota Hazardous Substances Injury Compensation Board, Chair

## NEWS

Stinson Attorneys Recognized in the 17th Edition of *Benchmark Litigation*  
10.05.2023

175 Stinson Attorneys Selected to the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America* List  
08.17.2023

Stinson Attorneys Named Litigation Stars by *Benchmark Litigation*  
10.06.2022

152 Stinson Attorneys Selected to the 2023 *Best Lawyers in America* List  
08.18.2022

Byron Starns Selected to Receive 2021 Minnesota Icon Award  
11.19.2021

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Stinson Attorneys Named Litigation Stars by *Benchmark Litigation*

10.26.2021

103 Stinson Attorneys Selected to the 2022 *Best Lawyers in America* List

08.19.2021

Byron Starns' Renowned Environmental Law Career Featured by Alma Mater

11.02.2020

112 Stinson Attorneys Selected to the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* List

08.20.2020

Stinson Attorneys Named to 2020 Minnesota *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars

07.20.2020

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