

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL BUSINESS JOURNAL



Patrick Arenz

Partner, Robins Kaplan

At 36, Patrick Arenz has already made partner at Robins Kaplan.

He specializes in intellectual property rights and tackles high-stakes cases, taking on multi-billion-dollar companies like Apple and La-Z-Boy. More recently, he is pursuing a case against Disney and Pixar studios, alleging they misappropriated ideas from a child development expert in Minnesota for their animated movie "Inside Out."

He also represents the interests of Fortune 100 companies, such as Medtronic, and served as co-counsel with the Illinois Attorney General in its lawsuit against the city of Chicago to address civil rights violations within the police department.

Also, as chairman of Robins Kaplan's nationally recognized pro bono committee, Arenz recently won a precedent-setting jury verdict in a federal lawsuit on behalf of a victim of sex tourism.

Outside Robins Kaplan, Arenz has been active with the Sedona Conference since 2008, speaking at the organization's events and meeting with lawyers and judges across the country to advance the U.S. legal system. He also serves on the board of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, a community legal advocacy organization, and previously served on the board for Compatible Technology International, a nonprofit that works with small farmers to improve food and water security in developing countries.

By Haley Madderom, staff writer

MORE FROM ARENZ ...

Where did you graduate from high school? Marquette University High School, Milwaukee

What was your mascot? Hilltoppers

If your colleagues, friends and family were to vote for you in a yearbook awards page now, what would they nominate you for? Most Likely to be a Shark Hunter (Okay, that answer came from my 4-year-old son, William.)

What advice would you give today's high school seniors? Never, ever give up and always stay positive.



Fast
facts



Age: 36

Education: Bachelor of Arts, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, William Mitchell College of Law

Family: Wife, Christine; children, Katherine (6), William (4) and Elizabeth (1)

Hobbies: Green Bay Packers football, daily exercise and deep sea fishing

Board memberships: Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

What professional accomplishment are you most proud of in your career? I've enjoyed significant success in my career focusing on – and winning – multimillion dollar intellectual property and business lawsuits. But I'm most proud of the pro bono work I've done on behalf of those who needed access to justice but could not afford a lawyer. In my first year as a lawyer, I tried a case in immigration court against the federal government in which I was able to secure asylum for a young Ethiopian woman who faced persecution for her political views on women's rights and free speech. Most recently, in 2017, I obtained a \$950,000 jury verdict for a victim of sexual assault that occurred in Laos when my client was 14 years old. The results in these cases, among many others my colleagues at Robins Kaplan have obtained on a regular basis, have positively impacted people's lives forever. I'm proud and fortunate to be part of a firm so dedicated to fighting for and championing equal justice for all.

What project or goal are you working on that you are most excited about? Like many, I'm on a quest to add more hours to the day. So far I've

been unsuccessful inventing more time. But I have been on a new routine for the past several months where I get up at 4 a.m. during the work week, which allows me to exercise, get some early work done and have breakfast with my kids before starting my day at the office. It doesn't add time to the day, but it allows me to fit more into each day.

Looking forward, what legacy do you hope to leave behind? The most important legacy, without doubt, is my kids. As I expect any parent would say, I want to do everything I can so they live happy, successful and meaningful lives. On a professional note, our firm is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year – something many law firms and corporations cannot say. We've made it this far based not only on our ability to adapt to changes in the legal profession and the needs of our clients, but also by staying true to our longstanding willingness to try – and win – cases with the most at stake. My goal is to play a role continuing this tradition and furthering the firm's reputation in this regard, so later generations can look forward to celebrating Robins Kaplan's 125th, 150th, etc., anniversaries in the future.