



A passionate practitioner, Sarah Odion Esene helps entertainers and businesses protect their intellectual property rights and establish their business structure through virtually all means of entertainment and corporate transactions.

Sarah counsels and analyzes legal issues in copyright infringement and corporate matters. She advises and assists in drafting and negotiating on a range of music and television contract agreements, including production, producer, songwriter, side artist and featured artist, licensing, and recording deals. Additionally, Sarah guides student athletes through defining and negotiating various intellectual property matters including their name, image, and likeness (NIL) contract terms.

Sarah's practice also includes advising clients in entity formation, corporate governance, and asset and stock purchase sales.

Prior to joining Barnes & Thornburg full-time, Sarah was a law clerk for the firm and for another Boston firm. Before law school, she spent two years as a legal administrative assistant for a global law firm based out of Washington, D.C. and was a legislative intern for a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

Sarah is dedicated to diversity and inclusion and has been since she was an undergraduate, which is evidenced in the organizations she connected with and continues to be a part of.

Driven to help those in need, Sarah began her pro bono efforts by serving as a student attorney at the Prisoner's Rights Clinic during law school, where she helped client obtain parole.

Professional and Community Involvement

Board member, National Pre-Law Diversity Initiatives, Inc.

Advisor, The University of Texas at Austin's Black Law Students Association Pre-Law Division

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Associate

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EDUCATION

Northeastern University School of Law, (J.D.), 2020, symposium editor of Northeastern University Law Review, NUSL Trademark Moot Court Team

The University of Texas at Austin, (B.A.), history, minor in African-American studies, 2014, Longhorn Scholar

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota

LANGUAGES

English

Italian

PRACTICES

Corporate

Intellectual Property

INDUSTRIES

Entertainment

Film and Television

Media

Sports

Former student attorney, Prisoner's Rights Clinic

Former tax preparer, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Former mentor and tutor, Soul Tree, D.C. Department of Child and Family Services

Honors

Variety Magazine Dealmakers Impact Report, 2023

The Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch, 2024

Lawyers of Color Hot List, 2023

Lawyers Of Color Diversity Issue, 2023