Bakke Norman Announces Recertification of Timothy O?Brien as Civil Trial Specialist

March 04, 2026

NEW RICHMOND, WI - March 04, 2026 -
Bakke Norman has announced the recertification of attorney Timothy O?Brien as a Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. This achievement marks the 25th year of his certification, highlighting his extensive experience in handling complex civil litigation matters, including personal injury claims. The recertification process involves a rigorous evaluation, requiring demonstration of substantial trial experience and endorsements from judges and fellow attorneys.

Timothy O?Brien has built a distinguished career focused on personal injury claims, business disputes, and criminal defense. His practice emphasizes advocating for individuals who have suffered injuries due to negligence, such as in car accidents, slip and fall incidents, or medical errors. In Wisconsin, personal injury cases operate under at-fault laws, where the party responsible for the injury bears the liability. O?Brien?s expertise extends to navigating comparative negligence rules, which adjust compensation based on the degree of fault attributed to the injured party. For instance, if a client is found 20 percent at fault, recovery is limited to 80 percent of the damages.

The firm?s personal injury practice covers a broad range of incidents. Car accidents often involve determining

fault through evidence like police reports and witness statements, with a two-year statute of limitations applying in most motor vehicle cases. Farming accidents present unique challenges, as liability may involve farm owners, equipment manufacturers, or chemical suppliers. Bakke Norman attorneys assess these cases to identify all potential sources of compensation, including workers? compensation benefits or third-party claims.

Slip and fall injuries require proving that property owners failed to maintain safe premises, as mandated by Wisconsin law. Construction site accidents frequently combine workers? compensation with negligence claims against contractors or equipment providers. Medical negligence cases demand establishing that a healthcare provider?s error directly impacted the patient?s quality of life, often involving expert testimony. Defective product injuries focus on holding manufacturers accountable for unsafe designs or inadequate warnings.

Clients benefit from the firm?s approach, which prioritizes thorough investigation and negotiation. Many personal injury matters resolve through settlements or mediation, avoiding the need for prolonged trials. However, preparation for courtroom proceedings remains essential, and O?Brien?s board certification ensures readiness for such scenarios. His AV rating from Martindale Hubbell and repeated recognition as a Super Lawyer underscore his standing among the top five percent of litigators in Wisconsin.

This recertification aligns with Bakke Norman?s commitment to serving communities in Northwest Wisconsin, including those seeking a personal injury lawyer in Eau Claire, WI. The Eau Claire office, opened in January 2021, supports clients in the region by providing access to experienced legal counsel in personal injury and related areas. Other attorneys contributing to the personal injury practice include David Schoenberger and Laura Callope, who bring additional courtroom experience to the team.

?Maintaining this certification requires ongoing dedication to trial advocacy and client representation,? said Timothy O?Brien of Bakke Norman. ?It allows the firm to continue offering informed guidance in personal injury cases, where understanding Wisconsin?s specific laws can significantly affect outcomes.?

In addition to personal injury, Bakke Norman handles civil litigation, business transactions, debtor-creditor relations, criminal defense, employment law, municipal law, tax law, estate planning, and probate. The firm?s attorneys collaborate to address multifaceted legal needs, ensuring comprehensive support for individuals, businesses, and municipalities.

Bakke Norman also recognizes other recent achievements among its team. Deanne Koll, Tim O?Brien, and Bill Wallo have been named 2025 Super Lawyers in Wisconsin, reflecting peer recognition for professional excellence. These honors reinforce the firm?s position as a trusted legal resource.

The importance of timely action in personal injury claims cannot be overstated. Wisconsin?s three-year statute of limitations for general personal injury applies to many cases, but exceptions exist, such as discovery rules for injuries not immediately apparent. Bakke Norman advises clients to consult promptly to preserve evidence and build strong cases.

Looking ahead, the firm continues to monitor developments in personal injury law, including updates to safety regulations and liability standards. This proactive stance helps clients navigate evolving legal landscapes, from workplace injuries to product recalls.

?Certifications like this one enhance the firm?s ability to achieve fair resolutions for injured parties,? O?Brien added. ?Experience in civil trials provides a foundation for advocating effectively, whether in negotiations or before a jury.?

Founded in 1985 by Gary Bakke, George Norman, and Tom Schumacher, Bakke Norman began operations in the historic New Richmond Heritage Center. The firm expanded to a new building in New Richmond, followed by offices in Baldwin and Menomonie. The addition of the Eau Claire location in 2021 extended its reach to better serve Northwest Wisconsin. Today, Bakke Norman maintains four offices and has earned rankings among the best law firms in America by U.S. News. The firm upholds high standards in providing legal services across multiple practice areas.

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Bakke Norman

Bakke Norman provides comprehensive legal services to businesses and individuals. Our attorneys and staff are highly skilled in their chosen areas and well respected within their communities.

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