

**WORKFORCE2030  
FEATURED  
SPEAKER**

## JULIA VANDER WEELE

**Office Managing Partner**  
*Spencer Fane*

Julia Vander Weele is an employee benefits attorney who also sits on Spencer Fane's Executive Committee and serves as its Office Managing Partner in Kansas City.

As a member of the Executive Committee, she is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the firm, which has been recognized by The American Lawyer as one of the fastest-growing in the nation while also being highlighted by Law360 as among the top four in the nation for job satisfaction among attorneys.

In her role as Office Managing Partner, she is responsible for reviewing, assessing and improving operational performance, client service, and talent development and retention for the firm in Kansas City.

In addition to her leadership at the firm, Julia maintains a full-time legal practice that helps employers and other benefit plan sponsors create and maintain competitive benefits packages that attract and retain talent to help their businesses thrive. Her specific experience in the Employee Benefits Practice Group includes managing issues related to the tax code and labor laws related to competitive tax-favored benefit packages that shield leadership from personal liability.

She also advises clients on laws applicable to employee benefit plans and programs, including health care reform and ERISA. Her collaborative

approach to client service includes an intentional ability to understand a client's business and unique goals and objectives. She works directly with HR professionals, C-level executives, and business owners to assist them in making informed decisions on their retirement, health, executive compensation, and other benefit plans.

In recognition of her leadership, Julia has been named by Missouri Lawyers Weekly (MLW) as a 2022 Law Firm Leaders honoree and included in Ingram's magazine's 2022 Ingram's 250 class and 2021 class of Women Executives Kansas City (WeKC).

The MLW Law Firm Leader award recognizes chairpersons, managing partners, or other law firm executives who demonstrate extraordinary vision, innovation, and leadership. The Ingram's 250 annually looks at the most influential and powerful business leaders in the Greater Kansas City region, while highlighting "high-achieving" women who hold professional leadership roles for leadership, accomplishments, dedication to inspiring others, and contributions at notable local businesses.

Julia also remains actively involved in numerous professional and civic organizations. She previously chaired and remains highly involved in the Spencer Fane Women ADVOCATE group.

Outside the firm, Julia also serves as a member of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, which

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MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

*(continued)*

is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization composed of the leadership of the largest private employers in the Kansas City region. In her role, she is a member of the Civic Council's Kansas City Tomorrow leadership program (KCT), a selective, year-long experience that prepares senior-level business and community leaders for civic engagement in the Kansas City region.

Julia completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa and later earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law. She joined Spencer Fane in 2002 after spending six years in a corporate law department.

