



Susan B. Zaunbrecher

Partner

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A transformative and connective leader, Susan believes deeply in the power of relationships, collaboration, and strategic clarity. After several years as Fifth Third Bancorp's Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, she rejoins Dinsmore as **Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives**, bringing back a wealth of executive and legal experience. In this role, her focus includes firmwide strategic initiatives, professional development, major internal projects, community engagement, and strengthening Dinsmore's commitment to innovation, cross-organizational alignment, and delivering ever greater value to clients.

During her tenure at Fifth Third, Susan served in a key leadership role on the company's Enterprise Team, the senior governing body responsible for strategy, management, and operations of the Fortune 500 institution. There she led an in-house legal department of more than 100 professionals and played an essential role in shaping the bank's overall strategic direction.

Before her time at Fifth Third, Susan spent nearly three trailblazing decades at Dinsmore. She was the first woman to chair the firm's Corporate Department and served on Dinsmore's Board of Directors and Executive Committee for nearly twenty years. She also led the Business, Acquisitions, and Securities Practice Group, helping elevate it into a nationally respected practice focused on complex transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and securities law. Her leadership extended deeply into firm culture—guiding the integration of new lawyers and newly merged firms and ensuring their smooth alignment with Dinsmore's culture and values.

Susan has long been instrumental in Dinsmore's growth and success. Her return marks a continuation of that impact as she helps shape the firm's ongoing evolution and future trajectory.

Services

- Corporate & Transactional
- Securities Enforcement & Litigation
- Public Company Reporting, Compliance & Governance
- Venture Capital
- Private Equity

- Government Relations
- M&A Banking & Financial Services
- Gaming Industry

Education

- University of Cincinnati College of Law (J.D., 1990)
 - Law Review, Law Review Editorial Board
- Newcomb College of Tulane University (B.A., 1981)

Bar Admissions

- Ohio

Affiliations/Memberships

- Cincinnati Bar Association
- Cincinnati Art Museum, Board member
- Cincinnati Museum Center, Board member, Executive Committee
- Alpaugh Family Economic Center at University of Cincinnati, Board member, Past chair
- Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio, Board member, Executive Committee
- Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Legacy Board member
- Queen City Club, Immediate Past President
- United Way Tocqueville Society
- Cincinnati Arts Wave, Leadership Cabinet
- Previous Board Service:
 - Cincinnati SPCA
 - REDI Cincinnati

Distinctions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Banking, Finance, Securities and Mergers & Acquisitions Law
- Lawyer of the Year in Cincinnati for Litigation - Securities by *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2017)
- Ohio *Super Lawyers*®
- Top 10 Female Lawyer in Cincinnati by *Women's Business Cincinnati*
- 2016 YWCA Greater Cincinnati Career Woman of Achievement
- *Chambers USA*®: *America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Corporate/M&A
- One of Ohio's Most Powerful and Influential Women by the National Diversity Council
- Top 25 Women in Cincinnati by the Ohio *Super Lawyers*®

- *Cincy Leading Lawyer* by *Cincy Magazine*
- Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Woman of Distinction (2014)
- Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce Women of Excellence, Woman of the Year Corporate Nominee (2014)
- Peer Review Rated AV in *Martindale-Hubbell*