

Faculty Biography

Kate L. Johansen, J.D.

Kate Johansen is a dynamic public affairs leader with nearly two decades' experience at the forefront of high-profile, high-stakes issues and a proven track record of leveraging policy, advocacy, communications and strategy to achieve measurable results for best-in-class organizations. She currently serves as Chair of External Relations at Mayo Clinic, where she oversees state and federal policy and advocacy and advises leaders across the enterprise on complex issues at the intersection of politics, policy and strategy. Johansen began her career in public service, working in all three branches of government, two state legislatures and on Capitol Hill before further leading health policy for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Medica. An attorney by training, she also served as the Editor-in-Chief of the William Mitchell Law Review and clerked for the Minnesota Supreme Court. She sits on the board of the Public Affairs Council and is a 2003 Harry S. Truman Scholar, a 2012 University of Minnesota Humphrey Policy Fellow and in 2020 was named one of Fortune magazine's "40 Under 40" most influential people in politics and government.