

## WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

### RCBA Member Appreciation Day

***Wednesday, May 12***

We appreciate you, our members, and everything you do. To show that, we're inviting you to join us for the 2021 Member Appreciation Day, which will be held virtually this year.

Enjoy two FREE CLEs, followed by the virtual passing of the gavel, and award presentations.

**12:00 to 1:00 p.m. | CLE: Great Minds Think Differently\***

Presenter: Haley L. Moss | Haley Moss LLC

**1:00 to 2:00 p.m. | CLE: Grounding Your Practice in Wellness: Bringing Your Best Self\***

Presenter: Caroline Curham

**2:00 p.m. | Passing of the Gavel and Award Presentations**

Outgoing President Susan Buckley will pass the gavel to incoming President Monica Dooner Lindgren. The Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award will be presented to Veena Iyer and the Liberty Bell Award will be presented to the Center for Excellence in Supported Decision Making—Volunteers of America Minnesota and Wisconsin (more info on page 2).

*\*Full CLE program details can be found on page 8.*

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## 2021 RCBA Award Recipients

The Ramsey County Bar Association is presenting its Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award and the Liberty Bell Award on May 12, recognizing service to the local legal profession and community. The 2021 awards will be presented at the association's annual Member Appreciation Day event, to be held via remote participation this year. Visit [www.ramseybar.org](http://www.ramseybar.org) for event and awards information.

### Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award: Veena Iyer

The Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award is given to an individual who demonstrates outstanding professional performance, leadership in the development of law in the community, and a commitment to humanitarian service to the bar and the Ramsey County community. The 2021 recipient, **Veena Iyer**, currently serves as Executive Director of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM). Iyer and the team at ILCM provide immigration legal services to low-income immigrants throughout the state and engage in advocacy and education efforts to support access to justice. Previously, Iyer was a shareholder at the law firm of Nilan Johnson Lewis, practicing labor and employment law. Her work at ILCM is a culmination of a career of humanitarian service that has benefitted not only the residents of Ramsey County, but the greater community throughout Minnesota.

### Liberty Bell Award: Center for Excellence in Supported Decision Making (CESDM)—Volunteers of America Minnesota and Wisconsin

The RCBA Liberty Bell Award is given each year to recognize non-lawyers who have been involved in activities that promote a better understanding of the law and our government. The 2021 recipient, **Center for Excellence in Supported Decision Making**, was instrumental in working with the Minnesota State Bar Association attorney drafting committee to develop and update Minnesota guardianship law. CESDM regularly offers educational opportunities to attorneys through CLE programs, and services to the community. CESDM's staff consists of social workers Kathleen Carlson, Amanda Hudson, and Anita Raymond. John Kantke is the Managing Attorney for Volunteers of America/Estate and Elder Law Services, the non-profit firm that works with CESDM. In 2016, Volunteers of America Minnesota and Wisconsin opened the CESDM to promote safe and viable alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship in Minnesota.

## THANK YOU to RCBA's annual sponsors

### Gold Level



### Silver Level





## Looking Back ...

Thank you for the opportunity to represent RCBA in our professional community throughout the bar year. 2020-2021 has been a year like no other. Shortly after RCBA Past President Sarah McEllistrem passed the gavel—virtually—to me, we learned of George Floyd’s tragic death; and now, more recently, we witnessed the death of Daunte Wright at the hands of law enforcement. As expressed in the joint MSBA, HCBA, RCBA and Federal Bar Association Minnesota Chapter Presidents’ statement: “The bar associations stand with our colleagues of color in grieving this latest senseless loss. ... The bar associations strive to improve society by developing professional excellence among its diverse membership. One of the core components of its mission is to provide valued resources to its members.”

The Bar remains dedicated to addressing issues of diversity and inclusion in the profession and society.<sup>i</sup> In April, MSBA, HCBA, RCBA, Twin Cities Diversity in Practice and Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers sponsored “Listening & Support Sessions—Space for Lawyers Experiencing Distress in the Midst of Derek Chauvin Trial and Daunte Wright Killing.” The RCBA New Lawyers section also sponsored “Discriminatory Covenants and the Just Deeds Project—Acknowledging the History of Systemic Racism in Housing.” These presentations were excellent and I urge you to seek out similar resources. The MSBA homepage<sup>ii</sup> and Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, [www.MNLCL.org](http://www.MNLCL.org),<sup>iii</sup> both have resource pages available on their websites. Looking ahead, please join me on Wednesday, May 19th for the RCBA Law Day CLE: Reconsidering Criminal Justice After the Death of George Floyd, co-hosted by the Ramsey County Law Library (full program details on page 8).

Many of us have had family and friends inquiring about news headlines and the Chauvin trial.<sup>iv</sup> While we may not be criminal law practitioners, we must help build trust and confidence in the rule of law. In her March President’s Page, current MSBA President Dyan Ebert reminds us to “commit to educating the people in your circles about the rule of law. Together, let’s rebuild trust and confidence in this ideal we hold so dear...”<sup>v</sup> Ms. Ebert asks us to make this

commitment because “the most important professional obligation we have is to defend the rule of law.”<sup>vi</sup> As Ms. Ebert thoughtfully explains, the obligation to defend the rule of law is embedded in our Rules of Professional Conduct (Minn. R. Prof. Conduct, Preamble ¶6). Moreover, a peaceful society depends on the rule of law, and as attorneys, we have a special obligation to ensure that the rule of law does not fall by the wayside as people struggle with actions of the police.

Finally, as RCBA members, we have the knowledge and skills to give back to the profession and to our community through our involvement with the Bar Association. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve, (thanks to my supportive family!) and thanks to the staff, and the RCBA Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Thank you to RCBA volunteers, especially section and committee chairs, for their time and effort in making my term as president successful, even amidst a *pandemic*. Section co-chairs plan CLEs, recruit speakers, and host CLE sessions. Committee co-chairs spend countless hours to plan events and to make it easy for us to participate in those events as much as our schedules permit. Please consider increasing your involvement with a section or committee to support the RCBA. (A full list of the RCBA Section and Committee chairs is on page 4.)

Thank you, *again*, for supporting RCBA as a member,  
Susan

<sup>i</sup><https://www.mnbar.org/about-msba/what-we-stand-for/diversity-inclusion>

<sup>ii</sup><https://www.mnbar.org/msba-home>

<sup>iii</sup><https://www.mnlcl.org/category/current-events/>

<sup>iv</sup>At the time of this writing, closing arguments in the Chauvin trial are underway.

<sup>v</sup>Ebert, Dyan, “Defending the Rule of Law,” *Bench & Bar Minnesota*, March 2021.

<sup>vi</sup>*Id.*

<sup>vii</sup>The Bench and Bar Benefit Committee set a fundraising goal of \$20,000, then raised (netted) \$30,000 after pivoting to a virtual platform!

## Sections

### Family Law

Adeola Adekunle, Amy Krupinski

### Criminal Law

Kristin Hendrick

### New Lawyers

Alexandra Haigler, Samantha Ivey, Racey Rodne, Charlie Shafer, Thomas Johnson

### Real Estate

Royee Vlodaver, Mike Burke

### Solo Small Firm

Cassandra Suchomel, David Drach

### Trusts & Estates

Patty Stotzheim, John Wehrly

## Committees

### Bench & Bar Benefit<sup>vii</sup>

Renee Fossen, Caryn Boisen, Kyle Dareff

### Charity Golf Tournament

Martin Norder, James Erickson, Jr.

### CLE Oversight

Leann Fuith, Carol Bros

### Memorials

Betsy Keyes, Scott Borchert

### Second District Ethics

Tim Simonson

### Youth and the Law

Sarah Orange, Hon. Jessica Palmer-Denig

# 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF Save the Date

## NON Tournament

**Monday, August 2**  
**11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Keller Golf Course**  
**2166 Maplewood Drive, St. Paul**

11:30 a.m. - Registration and lunch  
1:00 p.m. - Shotgun start  
5:00 p.m. - Dinner

Cost:  
\$150 RCBA members; \$175 non-members  
Foursome discount: \$125 per person  
*Prices will increase by \$10 on July 2*

Please consider sponsoring our event.

More information about sponsorship opportunities and registration can be found on our website: [www.ramseybar.org](http://www.ramseybar.org)

Questions? Contact [Amanda Idinge](mailto:aidinge@mnbars.org) at [aidinge@mnbars.org](mailto:aidinge@mnbars.org) or 612-752-6614

## Foundation Focus:

# Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota



Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota (LRAP) has been around for 30 years. Its mission is to help reduce the education debt burden experienced by dedicated public interest lawyers who represent low-income clients seeking legal services to secure essential needs like food, shelter and safety, and fundamental rights like equal access to justice. “Our mission grounds our work,” said Dee Baskin, executive director of LRAP.

Student loan debt is the same no matter the job, but legal aid attorneys earn one-third of what their counterparts at major law firms earn. In most cases, they do not receive bonuses or additional benefits. It can be difficult for legal aid attorneys, facing high student loan debt, to pay basic expenses such as rent or mortgage, car payments or public transportation fees, and the increasing costs of childcare, if applicable. Not to mention the struggle to put money into savings for emergencies or other needs. LRAP exists to fill this gap. LRAP provides loan repayment assistance to nearly 50 public service attorneys—who serve 10,000 low-income Minnesotans—each year. The lives of low-income clients are profoundly impacted by the services these attorneys provide.

Grants from foundations and law firms, as well as individual donations, go directly to paying the loans of legal aid attorneys. During a typical year, LRAP offers two application cycles. An awards committee, composed of members of the LRAP Board of Directors, reviews all applications. Applicants are legal aid attorneys with a demonstrated financial need working in Minnesota.

LRAP applicants could have up to \$200,000-\$300,000 in debt. The awards committee aims to relieve a significant portion of income-driven repayment amounts for all qualified applicants. However, based on funding and number of applications, it could vary. LRAP prioritizes years of experience in legal aid

employment as they help applicants work toward public service loan forgiveness after 10 years.

Legal aid organizations do not want high turnover. Experienced attorneys, those who can handle a larger volume of complex cases, are needed and valued in the legal aid field. “A lot of people leave legal aid because they cannot afford to be there,” said Baskin, “It is so important that we have as many attorneys as possible handling increasing caseloads.” The volume and quality of work provided by legal aid attorneys would not be possible without LRAP. Without loan help from LRAP, many attorneys would be forced to leave the work they love—work that helps low-income members of the community—for private-sector employment.

One such attorney is Katie Allen of Neighborhood Justice Center in St. Paul. Allen represents clients at Ramsey County’s Mental Health Court. This role allows her to spend extra time with each client to determine their mental health needs. She recently helped a young man who had been experiencing homelessness receive in-patient treatment instead of jail time for mental illness and chemical dependency. Over the last year—especially with prominent law enforcement sweeps of homeless encampments, and other instances of housing insecurity related to the COVID-19 crisis—these services have become more important than ever.

LRAP is always working to expand its reach. To help, attorneys can share the message of LRAP’s work, refer attorneys in public service, and keep up with LRAP on social media. Contact Dee Baskin at [dbaskin@mnbars.org](mailto:dbaskin@mnbars.org) with any questions or visit [lrappmn.org](http://lrappmn.org).

By: Amanda Idinge



# RCBA CALENDAR

MON.

TUES.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT./SUN.

## May

					1 2
3	4	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting	8 9
10	11	12 Member Appreciation Day	13 Trusts & Estates Section CLE	14	15 16
17	18	19 Law Day CLE Board of Directors Meeting	20 New Lawyers Section CLE	21	22 23
24	25 Diversity Committee Meeting RCBF Golf Tournament Committee	26 Family Law CLE	27 Solo/Small Firm Section CLE	28	29 30

OFFICE CLOSED

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Memorial Day

*For CLE course presenters, descriptions, and registration information, please see page 8.*

### Regular Section Meeting Times (Dates subject to change)

Criminal Law Section - Dates vary

Family Law Section - Fourth Wednesday of each month

Real Estate Section - Third Tuesday of each month

Solo and Small Firm Section - Fourth Thursday of each month

Trusts & Estates Section - Second Tuesday of each month

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT./SUN.
	1	2 <i>CLE Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	3	4	5 6
7	8 <i>Real Estate Section CLE</i>	9 <i>RCBA/HCBA Family Law CLE</i>	10	11	12 13
14	15	16	17 <i>Solo/Small Firm Section CLE</i> <i>Virtual Multi-Bar Happy Hour</i>	18	19 20
21	22 <i>Diversity Committee Meeting</i>	23	24	25	26 27
28	29 <i>RCBF Golf Tournament Committee</i>	30	<i>June</i>		

RCBA programming is currently being offered via remote participation unless otherwise noted.

For the most updated event information, please visit our website: [www.ramseybar.org](http://www.ramseybar.org)



## MAY/JUNE CLE AND SECTION PROGRAMMING

(Unless Otherwise Noted)

**Location:**

All RCBA programming is currently via remote participation only.

**Time:** Noon – 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:**

\$15 RCBA members  
\$30 non-members

**Credit:** 1 standard credit applied for

Register at [ramseybar.org](http://ramseybar.org)  
or call (651) 222-0846.

### May 12 | Member Appreciation Day: Great Minds Think Differently

**Presenter:** Haley L. Moss | Haley Moss LLC

*This CLE will dive into the concept of neurodiversity, and how we can accept and support our clients, friends, family members, and colleagues who think differently.*

**Time:** 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE for RCBA members; \$30 non-members

**Credit:** 1.0 Elimination of Bias credit applied for

*Thanks to our sponsors: Taft, MLM, Olsen Thielen, and Thomson Reuters*

### May 12 | Member Appreciation Day: Grounding Your Practice in Wellness: Bringing Your Best Self

**Presenter:** Caroline Durham | Warrior Wellness and Durham Law Office

*The demands of our practice can bring us out of balance. During this session we will talk about simple ways to right yourself and right your legal practice.*

**Time:** 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE for RCBA members; \$30 non-members

**Credit:** 1.0 standard credit applied for

*Thanks to our sponsors: Taft, MLM, Olsen Thielen, and Thomson Reuters*

### May 13 | Trusts & Estates Section: Estate Planning for Blended Families—Successfully Navigating the Balance Between Successor Spouse and Children

**Presenter:** Courtney R. Sebo Savica | Wendland Utz, Ltd.

*Practical tools for creating an effective estate plan for the blended family that—above all—appropriately manages expectations so that families can avoid the litigation route after the testator is gone.*

*Thanks to our sponsor: Taft*

### May 19 | Law Day CLE: Reconsidering Criminal Justice After the Death of George Floyd

**Presenter:** Professor Mark Osler | University of St. Thomas School of Law

**Moderator:** Erikka Ryan | RCBA and MSBA

*The death of George Floyd nearly a year ago shook the nation and the world. Among other things, it refocused criminal law reformers on the continuing problems of racial disparities, over-incarceration, and the relationship between the police and the communities they serve. Professor Mark Osler will talk about these swirling currents and what might come next.*

*Following the presentation, a moderated discussion about the issues will be led by Erikka Ryan, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the bar association.*

**Time:** 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE for all attendees

**Credit:** 1.25 Elimination of Bias Credits applied for

*This program is co-hosted by the Ramsey County Law Library*

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### May 20 | New Lawyers Section: Growing Your Practice, Making Partner—A Professional Development Panel Discussion

**Panelists:** Victoria A. Elsmore | Collins, Buckley, Sauntry & Haugh PLLP; Amy M. Krupinski | Collins, Buckley, Sauntry & Haugh PLLP

**Moderator:** Racey Rodne | McEllistrem, Fargione, Rovig & Moe, P.A.

*Our panelists will share their own experiences of professional development and offer advice for what should be top of mind for new lawyers as they look to expand their business and reach partner.*

*If you're interested in getting involved with the New Lawyers section, please join early (4:30 p.m.) for a section meeting where the New Lawyers will select leaders for the next bar year (2021-2022).*

**Time:** 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE for RCBA members; \$10 non-members

### May 26 | Family Law Section: Starting, Surviving, and Thriving with your Solo Practice

**Presenters:** Cathleen A. Sykes | Sykes Family Law, P.A.; Jill Meyer | Meyer Law

*Tips and strategies for starting a solo family law practice (in a pandemic!), balancing administrative duties with paying client work, and maintaining your sanity without large firm resources at your disposal.*

*Thanks to our sponsor: OurFamilyWizard*

### May 27 | Solo/Small Firm Section: Tax Issues Relating to Sole Proprietors and Small Law Firms

**Panelists:** Nate Nelson | Olsen Thielen CPAs and Advisors; Magen Koepp | Olsen Thielen CPAs and Advisors; Adam Thielen | Olsen Thielen CPAs and Advisors

*Learn about current tax topics important for sole proprietors and small law firms.*

**Time:** 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

**Cost:** \$20 RCBA members; \$30 non-members

**Credit:** 1.5 standard credits applied for

### June 8 | Real Estate Section: Real Estate Legislative Update

**Presenter:** Kevin J. Dunlevy | Beisel & Dunlevy, PA

*What happened at the legislature this year in real estate area, including tolling of statutes of limitation and the possible \$25 soil and water district surcharge on deed and mortgage recordings.*

### June 17 | Solo/Small Firm Section: The Nimble Law Practice

**Panelists:** Judith Rush | Judith M. Rush, Attorney at Law and St. Thomas School of Law; Steven Messick | Messick Law PLLC

*Explore how the Rules of Professional Conduct apply to and promote the nimble law practice.*

**Time:** 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

**Cost:** \$20 RCBA members; \$30 non-members

**Credit:** 1.5 Ethics credits applied for

### June 17 | Virtual Multi-Bar Happy Hour hosted by the RCBA New Lawyers Section

*Join us for a virtual happy hour and opportunity to socialize. New and experienced lawyers are encouraged to attend.*

**Time:** 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

*Thanks to our sponsors: MLM, Taft, Olsen Thielen, and Thomson Reuters*

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To place an ad, contact **Nicole Altobell** at [naltobell@mnbars.org](mailto:naltobell@mnbars.org).

### MEMBER NEWS

**Maria Mitchell** has been named the new Director of Youth Justice & Wellness Division for the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

Submit your member news to Barrister Editor **Bethany Lenderink** at [blenderink@mnbars.org](mailto:blenderink@mnbars.org).

### WRITERS WANTED

Have an idea for an article or just interested in writing for the *Barrister*?

Contact Barrister Editor:  
**Bethany Lenderink** at [blenderink@mnbars.org](mailto:blenderink@mnbars.org).

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When current clients or new callers to your office have legal needs outside of your practice area, know that your bar association colleagues are here to help.

With over 200 participating attorneys—representing nearly every practice area—the Ramsey and Hennepin County Bar Associations' **Minnesota Lawyer Referral and Information Service (MNLIRIS)** is the best place to direct those with legal matters you are unable to assist.

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## PLACEMENT SERVICE

Let the Bar Association help you find the right staff for your law firm. We specialize in the placement of full-time and part-time legal office support staff:  
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### What law firms say...

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"Every law firm has unique staffing needs. I'm here to help you find the right person for your office. Let's work together."

**Sabina Zeenat**, Placement Director



"For over 30 years, the RCBA Placement Service has been a go-to-resource for local lawyers and law firms."

**Cheryl Dalby**, Chief Executive Officer

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