

November/December 2019 Volume 31 Issue 8

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RCBA HOLIDAY PARTY



*Join the fun!
See details and
sponsorship
on page 2.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bench & Bar Benefit

Saturday, November 2, 2019
The Saint Paul Hotel
350 Market Street, St. Paul

Green Line Lunch

Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Bangkok Thai Deli
333 University Ave W
(Western Ave Station)

Happy Hour Hosted by New Lawyers

Thursday, November 21, 2019
Dixie's on Grand
695 Grand Ave, St. Paul

Holiday Party

Thursday, December 12
The Lexington
1096 Grand Ave, St. Paul

Judges' Dinner

Thursday, March 26, 2020
Town & Country Club
300 N Mississippi River Blvd,
St. Paul

Memorials

Friday, April 24, 2020
Sundin Music Hall
1531 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul

Member Appreciation Day

Wednesday, May 13, 2020
First National Bank Building
Conference Center
332 Minnesota Street, St. Paul

Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, July 27, 2020
Keller Golf Course
2166 Maplewood Drive, St. Paul

RCBA Holiday Party

Thursday, December 12, 2019

5:00-7:00 p.m.
The Lexington
1096 Grand Ave,
St. Paul

Sponsored by:

CBS&H

COLLINS, BUCKLEY, SAUNTRY, & HAUGH PLLP

\$30 per person; Add \$5 for registrations received after December 5.

Register online at www.ramseybar.org.

Complimentary attendance for judges: To RSVP, send an email to info@ramseybar.org or call (651) 222-0846.

Nominations for RCBA Leaders

The RCBA Nominating Committee is seeking a diverse pool of nominees for election to several leadership roles in the organization for the 2020-2021 bar year. Nominations are sought for the following roles:

- RCBA Vice President for 2020-2021 (will lead RCBA as president in 2021-2022)
- RCBA Secretary/Treasurer - One-year term
- RCBA Board of Directors - Three at-large positions
- Representatives and Alternates to the Minnesota State Bar Assembly - Six representatives; one-year terms

Details are available at ramseybar.org.

Application/Deadline:

Send a resume and statement of interest by January 15, 2020 to Ariana Guerra at aguerra@mnbars.org.

Law Day Award Nominations

The Ramsey County Bar Association is seeking nominations for this year's Law Day Awards.

Nominations are due by January 15, 2020. Contact Ariana Guerra at aguerra@mnbars.org or (612) 278-6343 with any questions.

Liberty Bell Award - The individual (a non-lawyer) selected has been involved in activities which:

- Promote a better understanding of our government
- Encourage respect for the law and the courts
- Stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility under the law
- Contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of government
- Inculcate a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law

Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award - The individual (a lawyer) demonstrates:

- Substantial length of humanitarian service to the bar and the community
- Outstanding professional performance
- Outstanding achievement in service to the citizens of Ramsey County
- Leadership in the development of law in our community
- Substantial commitment to preserving and carrying out the vision of our Constitution

Nomination forms are available at www.mnbar.org/RCBA-Awards



Big Family Lessons for Lawyers

The holidays are coming so maybe I am getting sentimental as I do every year at this time. I start thinking about celebrating with my family and friends and “taking stock” of the year – which probably means something different to everybody. As many of you know, I come from a large family – twelve, in fact. 8 girls and 4 boys. I’ve learned many lessons from that experience which have helped me in my practice and to be a better lawyer. So, here’s my Top Five Big Family Lessons for Lawyers:

Lesson 1: Eat fast.

This practice helped us secure seconds. You can imagine the amount of mac and cheese being inhaled at dinner time. Let’s be honest though, there probably isn’t even enough space in a grocery cart filled with Kraft deliciousness that could fill 12 bellies. But the point carries into all our practices – act crisply and efficiently. Clients expect fast action and fast results and while the legal wheel may turn slowly, you shouldn’t be the reason for it.

(Note: this also applies to showering. Be the first to take a shower or you won’t get any hot water, even if it is your wedding day. Just ask my sister Jane).



The McEllistrem siblings, December 1978; Front left to right: Susie, Jane, Molly holding Megan, Laura, Paul; Back left to right: Steve, Mary, Mike holding Sarah, Tom, Michele

Lesson 2: What's yours isn't really yours.

Growing up, I’m not sure anything was ever really mine. Hand me downs, reused bikes and backpacks, shared bedrooms, and even bathroom time. But, turns out, there was (and is) always room for one more. Be inclusive – both with ideas and people.

Lesson 3: Karma is real.

When you sneak out the side door after curfew and your sibling locks the door you intentionally left unlocked, that is remembered. Some may seek vengeance, while others simply believe that their retribution was the result of learning by example. Either way, there are always consequences for our actions. But karma can change. And, maybe you get away with hiding your peas in your milk when your dish-washing sibling remains quiet. So, extend that professional courtesy even if you aren’t in need of one because it may come back to you in the future.

Lesson 4: Find your own strength.

Our parents used to have dinner parties – the ones with fine china and pressed linens. They’d quickly feed us and then banish us kids upstairs as the guests arrived. Inevitably, we’d become desperate for snacks. As one of the youngest (and smallest), I was sent down the laundry chute, clinging to a series of bed sheets, so as to reach the kitchen without passing through the dining room. Snacks in my grip, I relied on my siblings to pull me up for our feast. I learned that there is strength in numbers, but

that each of us can shine in our own way. Each one of us has gifts and passions that set us apart – learn your own and put them to use.

Lesson 5: But, remember, you're still not that great.

I have four brothers, all lawyers. We like to argue, often about absolutely nothing. Likely all four would claim that they are better lawyers than me. I’d argue that the best was saved for last. But I’ve learned that comparison leads to unhappiness. Just when you

start thinking you’ve got it all figured out, someone will be quicker than you, or funnier than you, or smarter than you. So be humble. As Harry Truman once said, “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”

I hope these lessons help you in your practice and wish you all a happy holiday season!

The Ramsey County Bar Foundation provides financial support to programs in the Ramsey County geographic area that benefit the legal profession, improve the quality and accessibility of justice, and would otherwise attract the interest and support of Ramsey County Lawyers.

GRANTS ARE AWARDED TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT

Educate all segments of the public in government and the legal system; promote and provide legal services to persons of limited means through grants to legal services providers; and improve the administration of justice and the quality and functioning of the legal system.



COMMUNITY GRANTS
\$43,500

Advocates for Human Rights
\$1,000

Asian Women United of Minnesota
\$1,000

Children's Law Center of Minnesota
\$4,000

Children's Minnesota
\$1,000

Civil Society
\$5,000

Collaborative Community Law Initiative
\$2,000

Dispute Resolution Center
\$2,000

HOME Line
\$2,000

Innocence Project of Minnesota
\$1,000

JustUs Health
\$1,000

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
\$4,000

Loan Repayment Assistance Program of MN
\$4,500

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
\$1,500

Minnesota Elder Justice Center
\$2,500

Minnesota Justice Foundation
\$2,500

Neighborhood Justice Center, Inc.
\$2,500

St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
\$4,000

Tubman
\$2,000

HALF OF THE BENCH AND BAR BENEFIT PROCEEDS ARE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO



SMRLS

**SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES**

\$27,387.48



**LAW STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS**

\$6,000

The RCBF awarded five scholarships totaling \$6,000 to law students who attend a Minnesota law school and who are members of a group traditionally under-represented in the legal profession.



The RCBF raises funds through the annual Bench and Bar Benefit, Charity Golf Tournament, and donations from RCBA members. The Benefit, held in the fall each year, is the major fundraiser for the foundation.

DONATE



**HELP FUND LEGAL SERVICES
IN OUR COMMUNITY, GO TO
WWW.RAMSEYBAR.ORG**

FOUNDATION FOCUS: CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil Society was founded by Linda Miller, their current executive director, in 1996. Thanks to federal grants, the organization was, and continues to be able to provide legal services to victims who often have barriers to accessing justice, such as language, ethnicity, and familiarity with the law.

In 2018, Linda Miller was awarded one of four Public Justice Attorney of the Year awards at a Public Justice Gala in Denver, Colorado for her work in *Vang v. Prataya*, a child sex tourism case.

Clients meet with staff and are assisted through their entire journey from victim to survivor.

In 2002, Civil Society began to serve victims of human trafficking, which is one of their primary areas of focus today. They established a large network of partner organizations to assist in serving diverse victims through legal work. Often working with international victims who are not U.S. citizens, Civil Society works to obtain vital resources all U.S. victims are entitled to by virtue of being a citizen. Civil Society works with law enforcement in Ramsey County to ensure that trafficking victims have effective immigration and other services so they can remain in the U.S. to testify. This process is extremely delicate and important because foreign-born victims could be deported and leave their children, who are most likely U.S. citizens, behind.

Civil Society does its best to handle everything in-house. They provide urgent and on-going comprehensive legal services. “Once someone is found to be a victim, we handle many of their ongoing issues,” said Miller. Handling everything from orders for protection, immigration, and citizenship without referring clients to outside organizations helps streamline the process and makes the experience more positive for the clients. Clients meet with staff and are assisted through their entire journey from victim to survivor.

Civil Society continues to receive federal grants to provide funds to pay for attorneys, but anything outside of what those grants allow (some child protection issues, for example) is left unfunded. Grants from the Ramsey County Bar Foundation have been helping to fill in those gaps since 1999. Most recently, the Foundation funded legal and immigration legal

services for labor and sex trafficking victims, which allows them to gain resources for safety and security for victims while they await prosecution of their traffickers.

Today, Civil Society provides comprehensive direct legal services to victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, child sex tourism, campus rape, stalking, cyber stalking and some domestic assaults. A lot of these projects benefit the residents of Ramsey County. To name a few, they provide legal representation to children in schools who experience sexual assault or sexual exploitation. Civil Society also works with private attorneys who may want to bring civil actions on behalf of those child and adult victims. These civil suits can provide these victims adequate counseling and medical care.

Civil Society also works with shelters to provide legal representation for orders for protection hearings for parents and children who have been harmed; with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State to provide a safe way for victims to receive mail so as not to be discovered by their abusers; and with victims of sexual assault in the workplace with hearings related to harassment and restraining orders.

Civil Society is constantly seeking personal injury attorneys who may be able to provide civil trials to victims. Civil Society encourages private attorneys to represent clients in civil suits and will accompany clients to meetings at law firms.

To volunteer with Civil Society, or for further information contact Linda Miller, executive director, at office@civilsocietyhelps.org.

By: Mollie Teaster, Larry B. Stevens & Associate



RCBA CALENDAR

MON.

TUES.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT./SUN.

November

				RCBA Executive Committee Meeting 1	Bench & Bar Benefit 2	3
4	5	CLE Oversight Committee Meeting 6	Youth & the Law Committee Meeting 7	8	9	10
Veteran's Day 11	Green Line Lunch 12	13	Trusts & Estates Section CLE 14	15	16	17
18	RCBA Diversity Committee Meeting 19	RCBA Board of Directors Meeting 20 Family Law Section CLE	Happy Hour 21	2019 Tubman Safety Project 22	23	24
25	SMRLS Fall Appreciation Luncheon 26	27	Thanksgiving 28	29	30	
			RCBA OFFICE CLOSED			

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.

December

						1
2	3	4	5 Solo Small Firm Section CLE	6 RCBA Executive Committee Meeting Criminal Law Section CLE	7	8
9	10 Green Line Lunch	11	12 Trusts & Estates Section CLE Holiday Party	13	14	15
16 RCBA Memorials Committee Meeting	17 RCBA Diversity Committee Meeting	18 Family Law Section CLE	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
RCBA OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS						
30	31	<p><i>For more information about:</i></p> <p>Diversity Committee Green Line Lunches - page 11 RCBA Happy Hour hosted by the New Lawyers Section - page 10 <i>Details are also available at ramseybar.org.</i></p>				

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CLE OPPORTUNITIES

(Unless Otherwise Noted)

Location:

First National Bank Building
Training Room
332 Minnesota St, St. Paul

Time: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Cost, includes lunch:

\$15 RCBA members
\$30 non-members

Credit: 1 standard credit
applied for

Register at ramseybar.org
or call (651) 222-0846.



RCBA is offering flexible CLE packages again for the 2019-2020 CLE season. Great savings over buying individual CLEs. High Quality, Relevant CLEs presented by local experts

5 CLEs \$60

10 CLEs \$110

15 CLEs \$150

Any length: 1 credit hour, 1.5 hours, 2 hours, 3 hours
Any format – live, remote access
Includes lunch, if applicable.

To purchase a package,
email info@ramseybar.org or call
(651) 222-0846.

November 14 | Trusts & Estates Section: Difficult Estate Planning Clients: How to Spot Them, How to Manage Them, and How to Part with Them

Presenters: Danielle Parry, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company;
Patty Beck, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company

Practical ways to navigate ethical issues and avoid malpractice pitfalls when dealing with difficult estate planning clients.

November 20 | Family Law Section: Court Rule 17.02 Guardians ad Litem in Family Court and Ethical Considerations in Employing Rule 17.02

Presenters: Letty Van Ert, Tuft, Lach, Jerabek & O'Connell, PLLC;
Karen Kugler, McGee Kugler Family Law

Discussion of Rule 17.02, under which the Court can appoint a Guardian ad Litem for an incompetent adult who is a party to a lawsuit. We will flesh out scenarios under which this rule can be employed in family court, and the ethical considerations in doing so.

November 22 | 2019 Tubman Safety Project

Presenters: Katy Drahos, Tubman Legal Services Coordinator;
Shiloh Bute, Tubman Staff Attorney

Time: 12:30-4:30 p.m.

More details available at ramseybar.org.

December 5 | Solo Small Firm Section: What Every Solo Needs to Know about Estate/Elder Law

Presenters: Suzanne M. Scheller, Scheller Legal Solutions LLC;
Bridget-Michaele Reischl, Decoro Law Office;
Margaret Barrett, Safe Harbor Estate Law;
Sarah Larsen, Outreach Librarian, Minnesota State Law Library

Due to our aging population, all solos are more likely to encounter issues surrounding aging in their practice area. Listen to 3 TED style talks and come away with checklists you can quickly refer to. Thanks to our sponsor: Olsen Thielen.

Registration (and breakfast): 8:00-8:30 a.m.

CLE Presentation: 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Location: Louisiana Cafe, 613 Selby Ave, St. Paul, MN

Credit: 1.5 standard credits applied for

Cost (includes breakfast): \$20 RCBA Members; \$30 non-members

December 6 | Criminal Law Section: Will this Affect my Driver's License?

Presenters: Alexandra (Sasha) Reese, Driver Evaluation Supervisor, State of Minnesota
Frank Zawislak, Driver Evaluator, State of Minnesota

A chance to get some answers and guidance regarding driver's license suspensions and revocations.

December 12 | Trusts & Estates Section: The PRACTICAL Tool: A Person-Centered Approach to Guardianship Assessment

Presenter: Anita Raymond, LISW, CMC, Program Manager, Volunteers of America - MN

Explore the tension Guardianship/Conservatorship presents between helpful tool and infringement on civil right and how PRACTICAL can aid in identifying and facilitating less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. Thanks to our sponsor: Olsen Thielen.

December 18 | Family Law Section: Lexi's Case: Minnesota's First Quad-Parent Adoption

Presenter: Jason Brown, Brown Law Offices

Attorney Jason Brown will discuss his recent experience in successfully concluding an adoption involving four parents. The family dynamics are as interesting as the legal issues involved in Lexi's case.

SAVE THE DATE

2020 GOLF
Tournament

Monday, July 27, 2020

Keller Golf Course
2166 Maplewood Dr,
St. Paul

RAMSEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Judges' Dinner

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Town & Country Club
300 Mississippi River Blvd North
St. Paul***Member Appreciation Day***

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

First National Bank Building
Conference Center
332 Minnesota St, St. Paul***Memorials 2020***

The annual memorial session for Ramsey County attorneys who have passed away during the past year will be held on Friday, April 24, 2020 at Hamline University Sundin Music Hall.

If you know of a deceased attorney or judge whom you would like to see included in this year's special session of court, please contact Sharon at (651) 789-3756 or selmore@mnbars.org.

**Start off the New Year
Planning 2020 Events!**

Volunteers needed to help prepare for these annual RCBA events

Judges' Dinner Entertainment

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Memorials Session

Friday, April 24, 2020

Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, July 27, 2020

Contact Sharon at (651) 789-3756 or selmore@mnbars.org.

RCBA MEMBER NEWS

Fredrikson & Byron announces that **Jacob P. Harris** has rejoined the firm in the litigation, white collar & regulatory defense and appellate groups after serving as a judicial law clerk to the Hon. Margaret H. Chutich, Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. **Zachary S. Pratt** has joined in the patents, intellectual property and artificial intelligence groups. **Jesse C. Beier** has joined in the trusts & estates and trusts & estates litigation groups.

Submit your news to selmore@mnbars.org

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:
Paralegals | Legal Assistants | Receptionists | Office Administrators

What law firms say...

"The best part about working with the RCBA is how it simplifies the hiring process. The Placement Service has consistently met our expectations by finding good, qualified candidates. The service is also very reasonably priced compared to their competition. It's a win-win experience."



GET STARTED! Contact Placement Service Director Sabina Zeenat at szeenat@mnbars.org or 651-222-0846



"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

Renew your membership



The 2019-2020 Bar Year is Underway!

Log in at www.mnbar.org and select Ramsey (District 2) as your District Bar. Contact the MSBA at 612-333-1183 with questions or to renew over the phone. Thank you for your membership.

Attention: Members - Have you heard?

The Ramsey County Bar Association offers an Attorney Referral Service to benefit our members and the public. To better assist clients that come into your office with legal issues beyond what your practice handles, or if your caseload is heavy; just refer them to the RCBA Attorney Referral Service at (651) 224-1775 or email at ars@mnbars.org. We refer clients to fellow members of the Ramsey County Bar Association who practice a variety of different areas of law. We schedule 30-minute consultations with a qualified attorney from one of our membership panels for \$30 or less. Our service is confidential, helpful, and abides by the standards adopted by the ABA.

RCBAHAPPYHOUR

HOSTED BY THE NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Join us for a free drink, appetizers, and an opportunity to socialize. New and experienced lawyers are encouraged to attend. If you're interested in getting involved with the New Lawyers section, please come early (4:30) for a section meeting.

Thursday, November 21
5pm - 7pm

Dixie's on Grand
695 Grand Avenue, St. Paul

Sponsor: Phi Alpha Delta Minnesota
Statewide Alumni Chapter

GREEN LINE LUNCHES

The **RCBA Diversity Committee** continues its series of "Green Line Lunches" in celebration of the vibrant University Avenue neighborhoods along the light rail line.

No reservation is necessary. Participants order off the regular lunch menu and pay for their own lunch.

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at Noon - Bangkok Thai Deli
333 University Ave W (Western Ave Station)

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at Noon - iPho by Saigon
704 University Ave W (Dale St Station)



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Kathleen R. Gearin

Ramsey County District Judge, Retired



During 26 years on the bench, Judge Gearin presided over a wide range of civil cases, from family law to complex commercial matters, and gained a reputation for her integrity, decisiveness and sensitivity. As Chief Judge of her district, she frequently dealt with sensitive cases, including the Coleman-Franken Senate recount and the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. She is available as a mediator, arbitrator, special master and discovery referee in cases involving **business/commercial, employment, family law, governmental/public agency, insurance, personal injury/torts, professional liability** and **real property** matters.

The JAMS Minneapolis panel also includes:

Philip L. Bruner, Esq. • Daniel H. Mabley, Hennepin County District Judge, Retired

Hon. James M. Rosenbaum (Ret.) • Hon. Janice M. Symchych (Former) • Lawrence Zelle, Esq.

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- Offers an array of services to mitigate risks

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612-373-9681 or chad@mlmins.com