

July/August 2020 Volume 32 Issue 4

10 Questions with RCBA President **SUSAN BUCKLEY**

1. When did you first become interested in practicing law?

In high school, I participated in Close Up, a Washington D.C.-based program, which led to my interest in law as a career. Close Up provided participants with a better understanding of government institutions, history, and current issues, and how that understanding affects our role as citizens.

Close Up helped me realize that I wanted to improve others' lives. While in Washington, I was inspired to set a goal of utilizing my critical thinking skills to advocate for others and to better the community.

2. Can you share a bit about your career path and what you like most about your current practice area?

After college, through working as an underwriter in the property/casualty insurance industry, I gained knowledge about asset protection. After taking Trusts & Estates in law school, I found that an Estate Planning and Probate practice was a great way to combine my property/casualty insurance work experience and knowledge about asset protection with helping others plan their legacies.

For over twenty years, I have enjoyed representing clients of wide-ranging abilities in estate planning and guardianship matters. I am in court often; advocating for my clients' wishes and seeking the least restrictive arrangement for a client's need for decision-making assistance in guardianship matters. Throughout this process, I listen to my clients to gain an understanding of their life circumstances, and make sure I have heard their concerns, whether the matter is contested or not. I try to explain the law in a respectful manner and explain how the law applies to their individual situation.

A substantial portion of my practice is serving as a court-appointed attorney in guardianship matters, representing persons of limited means and often involving self-represented interested parties. I especially enjoy being able to contribute to the community this way.

3. How did you first get involved with the RCBA and what made you want to pursue a leadership role?

Upon my Bar Admission, I joined MSBA/RCBA and have appreciated the CLEs and networking activities the bar associations offers. I volunteered in many capacities over the years, and was inspired by our CEO, Cheryl Dalby, as well as a number of past presidents including Hon. Shawn Bartsh, Elizabeth Keyes, Hon. Kelly Olmstead, Paul Peterson, Caryn Boisen, and Sarah McEllistrem.

4. What are you most looking forward to in your year as president? What are some of the RCBA's goals and initiatives for the 2020-2021 bar year? I am looking forward to working with the Board in furthering the RCBA Mission. I am also looking forward to working with RCBA members to renew our commitment to supporting those working towards ensuring that all people with involvement with the justice system receive equal access to justice and equal administration of public safety for all people.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank our outgoing President, Sarah McEllistrem, for her generous service to RCBA for 2019-2020. RCBA benefitted from her contributions not only during this past year, but for the years she served as Vice-President, President-Elect, as a Board member, and for chairing committees over the years. I am still counting on her sage advice while she is Past-President. Thank you, Sarah!

5. What's some of the best professional advice you've received? Keep trying!

6. How do you manage stress and find balance?

One of my favorite activities is fundraising for the Ramsey County Bar Foundation and for other non-profits: volunteering energizes me and keeps everything in perspective. I love travel (just not now), going on walks with my dog, and working on my gardening skills, which I find really relaxing.

(Continued on pg. 2)



Buckley and her dog, Rosso.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Page
- Welcome New RCBA Vice President Kenya Bodden
- Excellence in Diversity Award
- Classifieds
- Calendar
- CLE and Section Programming
- RCBF Impact Report
- Meet RCBF President Paul D. Peterson
- Member Appreciation Day Thank You
- Placement Service
- MNLRIS

SAVE THE DATE

RCBF Virtual Bench & Bar Benefit

Held over several days the first week of November.

Details to come: CLEs, games, silent auction and more!

7. What are you currently reading? I recently finished *A Gentleman in Moscow* (Towles), *Voices of Rondo*, and am reading *Tell Me Your Names* and *I Will Testify* (Holbrook).

8. What's your favorite show to binge? I rarely sit down but enjoy Law and Order and Almanac. I started watching Almanac when (deceased) Second Judicial District Judge Joe Summers was the co-host, and truly enjoyed his humor and overall demeanor. I never had the opportunity to meet Judge Summers, but his son, Andy, and I served on a board of a small non-profit, raising funds for clean water and health care in Guatemala.

9. What's a song that always makes you dance? Earth Wind & Fire's "September" and pretty much anything by Fitz and the Tantrums, and Pink Martini.

10. Favorite snack or dessert? Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Earl's Triple Treat popcorn (Super Party Size, if you have to share!), sugar-snap peas, peanut butter M & M's.

News and Announcements

- **The annual RCBF Charity Golf Tournament, originally scheduled for July 27, has been cancelled.** A multitude of factors were considered before making this decision, including the safety of the participants and staff, difficulty of play, and more. If you are able, please consider making a donation to the RCBF to benefit our deserving grantees. Please contact [Amanda Lidinger](mailto:amanda.lidinger@mnbars.org) at amanda.lidinger@mnbars.org with any questions.
- **The 2020-2021 bar year is here.** If you haven't done so yet, it's time to renew your RCBA and Minnesota State Bar memberships. Log in at www.mnbar.org and select Ramsey (District 2) as your District Bar. Contact the MSBA at [612-333-1183](tel:612-333-1183) with any questions or to renew over the phone.
- **Get involved with RCBA Committees and Sections.** Join free sections like the Criminal Law, Family Law, New Lawyers, Real Estate, Solo/Small Firm, and Trusts & Estates sections. Help us plan member events like the Families First Halloween Party and the Bench & Bar Benefit. Or get involved with one of our committees, like the CLE Oversight Committee or the RCBA Diversity Committee. Visit our website for more information and to sign up: www.ramseybar.org

2020-2021 RCBA Officers and Leaders

The following have been elected as the RCBA Officers and Leaders for the 2020-2021 bar year:

President - Susan Buckley

President Elect - Monica Dooner Lindgren

Vice President - Kenya Bodden

Secretary/Treasurer - Elizabeth Clysdale

Past President - Sarah McEllistrem

Board of Directors - Kobie Hudson, Mike Mather, Amee Pham, Andrew Rorvig

Voting Representatives to Minnesota State Bar Association -

Landon Ascherman, Victoria Brenner, Hon. Thomas Gilligan, Jessie Nicholson,

Kelly Rogosheske, Dan Stahley

Alternate Representatives to Minnesota State Bar Association Assembly -

Hon. Shawn Bartsh, Mike Bradley, Hon. Juan Hoyos, Sarah McEllistrem, Tom Plunkett



Words cannot adequately express my sadness and grief over the senseless killing of George Floyd. I am shocked by the horrible acts of those who are supposed to protect and serve the community. I asked myself “What can I do in light of these circumstances of pain and suffering?” and, as the incoming Ramsey County Bar President, “What can the Bar do as well?”

The first step was expressing our condemnation of George Floyd’s killing. The MSBA, HCBA, and the Ramsey County Bar Association emailed a statement to all its members. I hope you have had a chance to read the entire statement but particularly the last paragraph, which emphasizes that our professional organization is committed to equal access to justice, reprinted below:

The Bar Associations envision a state where no person must fear the police and where arrest and use of force by law enforcement are last resorts, not first options. The peace and wellbeing of our community relies on trust in our system of justice. We pledge to participate in the healing that must come after the events of the last week, and to lift and support the voices and actions of others working towards the goals of equal access to justice and equal administration of public safety for all people. The Bar Associations further renew their commitment to their vision of being leaders in achieving equal justice for all.

Statements condemning the violent death of George Floyd are not enough. As a profession, we must educate ourselves about inequities in the justice system in order to correct them. The bar associations are offering educational programs such as the “Business as Usual Webcast” with Athena Hollins, Esq., Senior Director of Diversity and Foundations for the bar associations. In this webcast, Ms. Hollins discussed MSBA’s response to the killing of George Floyd, and how bar associations can address inequities in the justice system. Some ideas Ms. Hollins recommended included hosting an online community forum to teach bar members about the issues and how we can be of help; examine the roles of existing committees; and publish resources on the MSBA website. MSBA has recently launched a resource page for members interested in providing legal assistance or working for institutional change in the wake of the Floyd case. This page has great ideas for members of the bar to help the community by listing organizations that need volunteers, providing links to websites for commentaries, ally guides, and bias worksheets to educate oneself about the issues and identifying organizations in need of financial support.

Another excellent local resource is the University of Minnesota Press. From now until August 31, the University of Minnesota Press is offering free online downloads of books on racial justice. Some of the titles in this collection are: *Tell Me Your Names and I Will Testify* (Carolyn Lee Holbrook), *Hope in the Struggle* (Josie Johnson), *The Denial of Antiracism-Multiracial Redemption and Black Suffering* (Costa Vargas), *Voice of Rondo, Degrees of Freedom/The Origins of Civil Rights in Minnesota, 1865-1912* (William Green).

The *New York Times* published a valuable article entitled “America, This is Your Chance” by Michelle Alexander. Ms. Alexander advises,

“We must face our racial history and our racial present...There are many excellent books, articles and films that can help to put our racial moment in context. A good place to start if you are new to racial justice history and advocacy is Ibram X. Kendi’s trio of books, *How to be an Antiracist*, *Stamped From the Beginning*, and *Stamped*”; Paul Butler’s book *Chokehold* is an excellent exploration of police violence against black men—past and present.”

I tried to obtain the aforementioned books (either e-downloads or the physical edition) from Ramsey County Library and Saint Paul Public Library, but there are anywhere from 30 to over 100 holds on most of them. I then contacted Sara Galligan, M.S.L.S., J.D., Director of the Ramsey County Law Library, to check out what resources our local library offers. Ms. Galligan mentioned the following titles which are currently in circulation:

- *Between the World and Me* (Ta-Nehisi Coates)
- *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* (SunYung Shin)
- *How to be an Antiracist* (Ibram Kendi)
- *Just Mercy* (Bryan Stevenson)
- *The Myth of Race/ The Reality of Racism: Critical Essays* (Mahmoud El-Kati)
- *The New Jim Crow* (Michelle Alexander)
- *So You Want to Talk about Race* (Ijeoma Oluo)
- *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* (Robin DiAngelo)

She encourages RCBA members to contact her via email at sara.galligan@co.ramsey.mn.us with recommendations of what should be added to the collection. She also recommends watching for an upcoming Ramsey County Law Library Blog featuring a discussion of materials available addressing racial injustice. The library has a courier service to obtain books from the Minnesota State Law Library, too. Although this is by no means an exhaustive summary of resources, it is a good starting point.

The killing of George Floyd and the subsequent protests and moving memorials have demonstrated that the perception of justice is very different for people of color. As a profession, we are responsible for ensuring that all communities trust the system of justice. In order to work together to participate in the healing, to restore trust in the justice system, to lift and support the voices of others working towards goals of equal access to justice and equal administration of public safety for all people, *we need to take time to listen*. The Bar is providing free webinars and educational materials. It is up to us to take advantage of these resources, understand the lack of trust in the justice system and work to restore trust in the justice system for all participants.

George Floyd Resources Page:
www.mnbar.org/resources/george-floyd-resources/

University of Minnesota Press E-Library:
manifesto.umn.edu/projects/project-collection/racial-justice

Welcome New RCBA Vice President: *Kenya Bodden*



Some may hesitate to take on a new leadership role during a year of unprecedented challenges and changes, but not Kenya Bodden. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Bodden has always been driven to help others through difficult times.

Bodden grew up near the Twin Cities after moving to Minnesota from Oakland, California. With seven siblings, he was no stranger to lending a hand and looking out for others. In school, the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* resonated with his service-oriented mindset, and he knew then that he wanted to become a lawyer. Like that story's main character, Bodden knew he "wanted to help people in a significant way at a bad time in their life."

After graduating from high school, Bodden began his journey to becoming a lawyer at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul. While studying there, he gained exposure to the law by helping West Publishing transfer its collection of legal resources to its now well-established online research platform. He also started dedicating his free time to helping individuals and families experiencing hardship by volunteering for African American Family Services, a Minneapolis-based non-profit organization.

As a student at William Mitchell College of Law (now Mitchell Hamline School of Law), Bodden clerked for the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office. He also volunteered at the Red Wing Juvenile Correctional Facility and served as a student attorney for the LAMP (Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners) Clinic. After earning his law degree in 2001, Bodden started his career in litigation at a small Minneapolis firm, where he tried his first case just a few months after being hired. He helped countless

individuals in personal injury and criminal defense matters before transitioning to in-house trial attorney positions with two national insurance companies.

Now, Bodden works at Larson • King, LLP, where he focuses his litigation practice on the areas of products and business liability and personal injury defense. He also serves as a board member of the Children's Hospital Association, working with that organization's fundraising committees. Bodden lives in Saint Paul with his wife and two kids. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with them by going on bike rides and enjoying all that the city has to offer.

Bodden is motivated by the challenges of being a litigator, "knowing you've got to go in there and do something tough . . . and you may be the only one who will stand up at that time." He is looking forward to standing up in his new role with the RCBA "to continue the great work that's been done before me." He hopes to carry on the organization's tradition of "making an impact and being a positive force for change in the legal profession." Bodden wants to continue building up the community, bringing everyone into the conversation and helping influence social change. With his passion for service and long history of advocating for others in difficult times, he will undoubtedly be an asset to the RCBA as we continue to learn from each other and strengthen and support our community.

By: Wendy Merritt | Attorney at Larson • King, LLP



LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

Free. Confidential. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Helping Lawyers,
Judges and Law Students
throughout Minnesota**

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL
HELP WITH:

alcohol • drugs • mental health
financial • marital • family • career

651-646-5590

help@mnlcl.org

www.mnlcl.org

**24-hour crisis assistance
at 888-243-5744**

Excellence in Diversity Award: MHSL Mobile Law Office

The RCBA Diversity Committee has selected the Mitchell Hamline School of Law Mobile Law Office as the recipient of its annual Excellence in Diversity Award.



The MHSL Mobile Law Office has bridged the gap between the often unnavigable legal system and the people of the greater Twin Cities area. It empowers law students to further their reach into their community and deliver quality information and assistance to those self-representing in the bureaucratic maze which is our legal system. By extending their knowledge and legal acumen to those most in need, the MLO protects those without a voice in the legal system, and creates a community of support and legal equity within the Twin Cities. With the recent pandemic and the killing of George Floyd, the need for such service for those often under-served by typical law and order, has become even more apparent. The role of legal professionals in relationship to their communities has always been to serve, and the unique accessibility of the MLO is a necessary manifestation of that essential role. The program has established itself as such within the community, causing the number of clients seeking assistance to steadily increase as its reputation spreads. The MLO removes the transportation barrier by meeting clients in the community and providing a valuable service and resources, and in return, a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on, “real world” practicum experience. When the bus arrives at the libraries, they are often greeted by a line of smiling faces as its very presence and availability serves to foster and facilitate change, growth, and justice by offering services to community members where they are.

The people living in the Twin Cities come from all walks of life, and often enter the legal system at a disadvantage—not having had the resources to study law and master its intricacies. Those seeking justice or compromise from a point of marginalization are even more vulnerable to exploitation and need the assistance of those in their community fortunate enough to receive a robust legal education. MH’s students are engaged and dedicated because they believe whole-heartedly in MLO’s mission, “to provide free legal assistance to individuals who may otherwise encounter obstacles to receiving needed services.” Our legal system is wrought with disparities in overt and covert ways—whether intentional or inadvertent. The MLO plays an integral role in shining a spotlight on the interplay between racism and socioeconomic status, and how those designations are interpreted by society at large. While gaining internship and job experience, students soon realize that community outreach and engagement through advocacy are necessary ingredients for creating change and making a positive impact in our community. Additionally, students receive invaluable real-world experience by confronting the implicit and systemic biases and injustices inherent in the riddles presented to them by the community members on a first-hand basis. Like most law students, MH’s students are eager to make a difference and the MLO gives them an opportunity to be effectual and actually witness change as their dedication and hard work transform lives in real time.

The MLO would like to thank students Aretha Haynes, Tim Kelly, and Laura Sweeney for continued dedication to the program.

By: Geri Sjoquist | Supervising Attorney for the MLO

CLASSIFIED ADS

Achieve Your Goals.

Attorney coach/consultant Roy S. Ginsburg provides marketing, practice management and strategic planning services to individual lawyers and firms.
Contact: roy@royginsburg.com or 612-812-4500.

Mediation Training in St. Paul.

The transformative approach. Family, Civil and Advanced plus New 1-day Negotiation Course. Highly-rated curriculum and instructor. Register now for early-bird rates.
www.transformativemediation.com
Contact: Dan@simon-mediation.com or 612-824-8988.

MON.

TUES.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT./SUN.

July

		1	2	3 CLOSED	4 4th of July	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Real Estate Virtual Networking Event	22 Family Law Section CLE	23 Solo/Small Firm CLE	24	25	26
27	28 Diversity Committee	29	30	31		

August

					1	2
3	4	5 CLE Oversight Committee	6 Solo/Small Firm Virtual Discussion	7	8	9
10	11	12 Law in the Time of COVID CLE	13 Trusts and Estates CLE	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Diversity Committee Real Estate Section CLE	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JULY/AUGUST 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 or call (651) 222-0846.



RCBA will be offering flexible CLE packages again for the 2020-2021 CLE season. Watch your weekly emails for pricing and availability.

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

July 21 | Real Estate Section: Virtual Brown Bag Networking Event

Moderators: Royee Vlodaver, Vlodaver Law Offices, LLC; Michael Burke, Michael J. Burke Law Office

Informal networking discussion.

Cost: FREE for all attendees

July 22 | Family Law Section: Uncharted Waters: Family Law Jury Trial

Presenters: Victoria Elsmore, Collins, Buckley, Sauntry & Haugh, PLLP; Amy Krupinski, Collins, Buckley, Sauntry & Haugh, PLLP

A family law jury trial was held in Ramsey County in February of 2020. The attorneys who represented the biological father will discuss the path to jury trial, the current state of the law in Minnesota that allows for jury trials, and where we go from here. The case is on-going, so the information given will be broad.

July 23 | Solo Small Firm Section: Digital Marketing for Solo/Small Law Firms

Presenter: Sacha Awwa, Director of Marketing, How to Manage a Small Law Firm

Internet use is up 70% in the past few months and you can focus your marketing strategies accordingly. Hear tips focused on effective digital marketing for solo/small law firms.

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

Credit: 1.5 standard credits applied for

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

Thanks to our sponsor: ARAG Legal Insurance

August 6 | Solo Small Firm Section: Virtual Discussion

Join colleagues to plan this year's section activities and to discuss current topics facing solo/small practitioners.

Discussion: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE for all attendees

August 12 | Law in the Time of COVID: Virtual Court and Administrative Practice

Moderator: Brad Colbert, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Panelists: Hon. Sara Grewing, Ramsey County District Court;

Hon. Mark Ireland, Ramsey County District Court

Susan Minsberg, Susan Minsberg Law Office

Hon. Eric Lipman, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings

CLE Presentation: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Credit: 2.0 standard credits applied for

Cost: \$30 RCBA members; \$40 non-members

August 13 | Trusts and Estates Section: Estate Planning Practice in Time of COVID—Lessons Learned

Presenters: Adam Rohne, Wells Fargo;

Richard Baum, Safe Harbor Estate Law

What are the lessons learned from navigating estate planning practice while social distancing, working remotely, and taking necessary precautions to protect clients and law office staff? What are the best approaches to transitioning to re-entry, as the pandemic subsides, and we experience partial opening-up?

CLE Presentation: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



RAMSEY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

2019-20 IMPACT REPORT

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

\$42,500

Advocates for Human Rights
\$1,000

Bridges to Safety
(St Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project)
\$4,000

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

Children's Minnesota
\$1,000

Civil Society
\$6,000

Collaborative Community Law Initiative
\$2,000

HOME Line
\$1,000

Innocence Project of Minnesota
\$1,000

Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul
\$1,000

International Institute of Minnesota
\$500

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

Minnesota Wills for Heroes
\$1,000

Standpoint
\$2,000

Tubman
\$2,000

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



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES

\$21,469



LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

\$6,000

The RCBF awarded six 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

Meet RCBF President: *Paul D. Peterson*

What would you like the legal community to know about the Ramsey County Bar Foundation?

I want our community to know the good work done by the RCBF. While SMRLS is our primary recipient with 50% of the Benefit's proceeds being directed there, there are many organizations we help every year. These organizations provide legal support and assistance to many segments of our community in need of such services. Our local legal community's generosity allows for our support of these great RCBF grant recipient organizations.

This will be your second year serving as president of the RCBF, how did you first become involved with the association/foundation?

My involvement with the Association began early in my career. After finishing a Judicial clerkship I went to work for the firm of Murnane, Conlin, White & Brandt in St. Paul. The partners there put a great emphasis on public service and service to the profession. So volunteering for the RCBA and SMRLS was almost a given in that culture. The first committee I worked on was the Judge's Dinner Committee, which was a lot of fun. Other committee and section work followed and eventually I became involved as a board member and officer. When I joined the RCBA board I found an opportunity to serve on the board of the RCBF and eventually was asked to serve as president. I have always thoroughly enjoyed being involved.

How has the foundation evolved over the years, and what changes do you see in the coming years?

The Foundation has continued to do a better and better job of placing the funds it generates into the hands of organizations that serve the needs of the community well. My hope for the coming years is that we generate even more funding and that we encourage more organizations to seek funding to help the community.

How does your personal experience and background affect your work with the foundation?

I was taught by my parents from an early age that service to others is crucial to a full life. They led by example as two individuals who were very involved in pursuing multiple volunteer efforts in their community. My view is that if I can contribute just a little by my efforts on behalf of the RCBF it benefits many because of the great organizations we support and the many people they help. I am grateful for the blessings I have in my life that allow me to be able to help others.

What is your favorite RCBA activity and why?

The Judges' Dinner is probably my favorite, but all of the

activities are a lot of fun. The Judges' Dinner is very unique due to the quality and humor of the bench in Ramsey County. The willingness of the judges to participate and poke fun at themselves is very unique. They are great sports and it is a fun evening. When I have been involved in writing the skits and bits for the Dinner it has been a bit nerve-wracking but also very enjoyable.

What is the most rewarding part of working with the foundation?

Our committee convenes one meeting each year to review grant applications and come up with a list of proposed grants for the RCBA Board to approve. It is one of the most enjoyable days of my year! By reviewing those applications, we have the opportunity to see the great work so many do to help those in our community. The strength, creativeness and caring demonstrated in those applications—even the ones we aren't able to fund—are inspiring. As RCBF President I have concluded that meeting each year by asking "Have you spent a better period of time doing so much good as we have during this meeting?" The answer is obvious when you get to see how much good we can do as an Association and Foundation.

The foundation gives half the proceeds from the Bench & Bar Benefit to SMRLS. Why is SMRLS so important in the Ramsey County community?

SMRLS is a key safety net. As we have been reminded by recent events, a lack of fair access to our system of justice is a cancer to our community. SMRLS also fits the mission of the RCBF in that it provides direct legal services to those in need. If you want to be inspired about our legal community and its ability to be a cause for good, shadow a SMRLS lawyer or one of its volunteers.

How can members support the work of the foundation this year?

Donate, donate, donate.

You can support the RCBF through the dues check-off when renewing your annual RCBA membership, at bar events during the year, or online anytime at www.ramseybar.org. If you have fundraising ideas, please reach out to the bar staff.



Thank You to the 2019-2020 RCBF Board of Directors

Susan Buckley
Angela Brandt
Ref. Elizabeth Clydsdale - *Treasurer*
Cheryl J. Dalby - *Secretary*
Monica Dooner Lindgren

Renee Fossen
Sarah McEllistrem
Hon. Kelly Olmstead
Paul D. Peterson - *President*
Thomas Plunkett

Thank You for Attending Member Appreciation Day

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:



BE PART OF THE BARRISTER: WRITERS WANTED

Interested in writing for the RCBA's *Barrister* newsletter? We're always looking for members to write profiles of new judges, award recipients, and foundation grantees. Or if you have an idea for practice tip articles of interest to other bar members, let us know.

Please follow up with Barrister Editor Bethany Lenderink, blenderink@mnbars.org, with article ideas or if you are interested in writing opportunities.



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

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.

333 South Seventh Street • Suite 2550 • Minneapolis, MN 55402
jamsadr.com.minneapolis • 612.332.8225



MINNESOTA Lawyer Referral

What you can expect:

Expanded Marketing to
Attract Clients

Pre-screened Referrals
Delivered by Trained Staff

An Expanded Reduced Fee
Program with an Updated
Fee Schedule

New Opportunities for
Unbundled Services

More Narrowly Tailored
Client Referrals

Online Opportunities for
Self-Referrals

The New Referral Service You Oughta Know

The Ramsey and Hennepin County Bar Associations recently merged their existing referral services into a new and enhanced program, the **Minnesota Lawyer Referral and Information Service (MNLIRIS)**. The creation of this program allows us to consider new, innovative ways to meet the needs of today's legal consumers. Now is the time for you to get involved.

Trained members of the MNLIRIS staff communicate with over 1000 legal consumers a month connecting them with vetted member attorneys or other appropriate resources. In previous years, our referral services have delivered over 1.5 million dollars in business. Our enhanced new program will only continue to expand. Your business cannot afford to miss out.



Client Line: 612-752-6699 Attorney Line: 612-752-6660

mnlawyerreferral.org



332 Minnesota Street
Suite W-710
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 2466

RCBA OFFICERS

Susan Buckley
President

Monica Dooner Lindgren
President-Elect

Kenya Bodden
Vice President

Elizabeth Clysdale
Secretary-Treasurer

Sarah McEllistrem
Past President

BARRISTER STAFF

Bethany Lenderink
Editor and Layout

Joseph Satter
Editor

Cheryl Dalby
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you to **OUR PARTNER:**



You can trust 30+ years
of experience protecting lawyers.



There is a reason MLM is the **only** professional liability insurance carrier endorsed by the MSBA.

Put your trust in the carrier
created by lawyers,
run by lawyers,
exclusively serving lawyers.

- Works exclusively with lawyers professional liability insurance
- Specializes in solo to mid-size firms
- Returned over \$49 million in profits to policyholders since 1988
- Offers an array of services to mitigate risks

Protecting Your Practice is Our Policy.™

Get a fast quote today!
www.mlmins.com
or contact Chad Mitchell-Peterson
612-373-9681 or chad@mlmins.com