

January/February 2021 Volume 33 Issue 1

Looking Ahead with the RCBA Section Co-Chairs

What program for your section are you excited about for 2021?



Samantha Ivey
New Lawyers Section

I am most excited for the Eviction Expungement Volunteer Opportunity

for the New Lawyers' Section. We are working with SMLRS to learn how to do eviction expungements for the upcoming wave of evictions we foresee after the executive order is lifted. We encourage everyone to come to the training!

that I consider a "don't miss," but I was also excited to have Scott Ruhsam on with his CLE regarding complicated probate matters, as well as learning from Robert McLeod regarding capacity issues, something that every estate planning attorney must manage frequently.



Royee Vlodaver and Mike Burke
Real Estate Section

We can't wait to go back to "old school" CLE programs, and are excited for the first

"live" program in 2021 where presenter and all participants are vaccinated, maskless, and less than 6 feet from each other.



Cassandra Suchomel
Solo/Small Firm Section

I am sure every attorney can relate to being asked criminal law

questions despite the area of law you practice in. Given this common predicament, I am excited for our February 25 meeting where we have Adam Kujawa and Benjamin Kroll from Ambrose Law Firm discussing some immediate responses to criminal law questions.

Patty Stotzheim
Trusts & Estates Section - "A View from the Bench" with Referee Olson is the one CLE



Alexandra Haigler
New Lawyers Section

I'm hoping to read at least 20 books for fun in 2021.



What's one goal or resolution—personal or professional—you have for 2021?



Kristin Hendrick
Criminal Law Section

My goal for 2021 (and beyond) is to hold on to all the lessons I learned in 2020.



John Wehrly
Trusts & Estates Section

Our fourth child is due the first week of January and we will have 4

children under 5 at that point. So anyone can guess what my personal resolution is: just to be there for my family.

Amy M. Krupinski
Family Law Section

As we continue to work from home in 2021, my goal is to be mindful of boundaries. When you live where you work, you can always work and forget to live.



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Adeola Adekunle **Family Law Section**

As a personal and professional goal, I want to pay more attention to my mindset and how it is affecting me day to day and trying to adjust when necessary. Additionally, I want to run more when it is safe to do so.



David Drach **Solo/Small Firm Section**

I don't typically make resolutions, but several years ago I saw a bumper sticker that said, "I strive to be the person my dog thinks I am." It might be a bit corny, but I think it's a sound rule to live by.

Nominations for 2021-2022 RCBA Leaders

The RCBA Nominating Committee is seeking a diverse pool of nominees for election to several leadership roles in the organization in the 2021-2022 bar year. Nominations are sought for the following roles:

- RCBA Vice President for 2021-2022 (*will lead RCBA as president in 2023-2024*)
- RCBA Secretary/Treasurer - *One-year term*
- Representatives and Alternates to the Minnesota State Bar Association Assembly - *Six representatives; one-year terms*
- RCBF Board of Directors - *Two open positions; three-year terms*

To nominate yourself for consideration, send a resume and statement of interest by **February 1, 2021** to [Ariana Guerra](mailto:aguerra@mnbars.org) at aguerra@mnbars.org.

Nominations for 2021-2022 Law Day Awards

The RCBA is seeking nominations for this year's Law Day Awards—the Liberty Bell Award and the Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award. More details and nomination forms are available at mnbar.org/rcbaawards.

Nominations are due by **February 1, 2021**.

Contact [Ariana Guerra](mailto:aguerra@mnbars.org) at aguerra@mnbars.org or 612-278-6313 with any questions.

Excellence in Diversity Award

The RCBA Diversity Committee is accepting nominations for the Excellence in Diversity Award. This award is intended to recognize substantial and long-term contribution to the furtherance of diversity and inclusion, civil rights, civil liberties, or human rights. More details and nomination forms are available at mnbar.org/rcbaawards.

Nominations are due by **February 1, 2021**.

Contact [Ariana Guerra](mailto:aguerra@mnbars.org) at aguerra@mnbars.org or 612-278-6313 with any questions.



WELL-BEING AND DOING WELL

As we celebrate turning the calendar page to 2021, we may be so caught up in the joy of saying goodbye to 2020 that we forget about our own wellness. I found until recently that I questioned my well-being; I have been sleep deprived because we failed to train our dog to sleep in a kennel. I have often awakened to a 75-pound lab on my lower legs. Only a short time ago did I decide to be proactive for my well-beingⁱ. Now that I am finally getting decent rest, I notice the positive effect that is having on my energy level throughout the day.

While sleep deprivation may be a relatively minor problem that affects our well-being, many of those in our profession have more serious issues. The Minnesota Supreme Court is dedicated to improving the health of our profession, as demonstrated through launching a Call to Action for Lawyer Well-Being in February 2019. According to the Minnesota Supreme Court websiteⁱⁱ, this initiative came about after the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs and Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation published a studyⁱⁱⁱ which found that lawyers struggle with job dissatisfaction, depression, suicide, social alienation, a diversity crisis, work-life conflict, incivility, a negative public perception, and sleep deprivation. The Minnesota Supreme Court hosted the Call to Action for Lawyer Well-Being conference which was attended by more than 250 attorneys in February 2019.

For those who were not able to attend the conference, and for those looking for resources, please see the Minnesota Supreme Court's list of articles and videos on lawyer well-being, which is found at www.mncourts.gov/lawyer-well-being.aspx. Lawyers can also reach out to Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers to help or provide referrals for a variety of problems. LCL welcomes your call at 651-646-5590 or toll free at 1-866-525-6466 anytime you feel overwhelmed or have a problem that threatens your wellbeing. Its website, www.mnlcl.org, contains valuable information and you can email them through their website if you need assistance.

Another significant challenge to maintaining our well-being during the pandemic is to avoid isolation. I am a solo practitioner (during the pandemic many lawyers have become solo practitioners!). While being in a solo practice has many advantages, a potential disadvantage of solo practice is isolation. To combat this isolation, the Ramsey County Bar Association offers resources and opportunities to serve both fellow bar members and the community. By taking advantage of the opportunity to do volunteer work, you interact with colleagues, refine leadership skills, and have fun while working to improve the quality of and access to the judicial system. Studies have shown that serving others benefits not only the person to whom the service is rendered but also the person providing that service.

As RCBA members, attorneys have many opportunities to get involved in one-time activities or to stay engaged in ongoing Committee or Section work. The first step is to determine how you would like to combine your skills with your interests. The RCBA website is an excellent resource for information on committees such as:

- Bench & Bar Benefit Committee*
- Charity Golf Tournament Committee*
- CLE Oversight Committee
- Diversity Committee
- Ethics Committee
- Fee Arbitration Committee
- Memorials Committee
- New Lawyers' Committee
- Youth and the Law Committee

The *Bench and Bar Benefit and *Golf Tournament Committees need volunteers to plan their events that raise funds for the Ramsey County Bar Foundation which then support many legal and charitable groups to benefit the community.

Members may also participate in the following section activities or volunteer to co-chair sections, which plan CLEs:

- Criminal Law Section
- Trusts & Estates Section
- Family Law Section
- New Lawyers' Section
- Real Estate Section
- Solo & Small Firm Section

I invite you to take full advantage of all your RCBA membership benefits and opportunities for service. Staying engaged benefits everyone's well-being, as well as supporting the profession and the community. I enjoyed my two-year commitment as the Trusts & Estates co-chair, planning and hosting our section CLEs. Bar members typically find committee and sections work rewarding. As RCBA Past President Charlie Clippert said, *"Get involved in a committee or section. You will meet other lawyers who are ready to answer a question or give you practical advice on how to handle an issue. The time commitments are very reasonable. It will help you grow and develop as a lawyer."* I second that opinion and encourage all members to get involved in at least one event per year. Involvement with this group has allowed me to avoid isolation even though I practice with only Rosso—my dog.

May 2021 be a healthy and prosperous new year for you and yours.

ⁱ*My dog hates the over the nose gentle-leader but tolerates the "gentle-leader harness" that goes around his torso. He flees at the mere sight of the "nose" gentle-leader. It now resides at the foot of our bed and dissuades him from sneaking up during the night. Hurray, it worked!*

ⁱⁱ<https://www.mncourts.gov/lawyer-well-being.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ<https://lawyerwellbeing.net>, The National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, *The Path to Lawyer Well Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change*, August 2017.

Foundation Focus: *Bridges to Safety*

The Saint Paul and Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)

In early 2000, a group of community-based and government partners serving victims of domestic violence gathered to determine if Ramsey County would benefit from a drop-in victim services center. They interviewed over 250 victims/survivors of domestic violence, and there was an overwhelmingly positive response: having this center would be greatly welcomed in the community.

This collaboratively run service center ended up serving hundreds of victims each year in many languages using culturally specific providers. Bridges to Safety (BTS) is one of the products of the Partnership for Domestic Abuse Services (PDAS), a collaborative of 18 agencies. It has since been realized that when advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, and the courts involved with protective orders are in constant communication and are located in proximity to each other, victims can receive the services and support they need in one safe location, and ultimately perpetrators of abuse are more likely to be held accountable for their dangerous behaviors. The St. Paul Police is co-located as well, and because of this, advocates can check on the status of arrests and investigations, etc.

The initial victim group surveyed did not want the center to be directly affiliated with the government but wanted security and advocacy, legal services, and more. It was decided at the time, by Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, that the city would donate 5,000 square feet in the Ramsey County Courthouse. Mayor Melvin Carter has continued that commitment to the center.

Bridges to Safety is one of the only domestic abuse service centers in the United States that is a true collaborative of many different organizations working together to end domestic violence. They provide personal and legal advocacy, filing of Protection Orders, civil legal services, police consultation, access to other community partners, and more.

The Saint Paul and Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP) holds the lease for BTS, acts as fiscal agent, employs the Center's coordinators and manages fundraising, and more. Ramsey County donates the phone lines and security. Bridges to Safety's fundraising income is received in in-kind donations from government partners and SPIP, which raises the remainder of dollars needed. All the on-site direct services are provided by the PDAS partners, free of charge.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the service center served 900 unique victims and 1,400 people came in for services each year. A victim could go to the center and be greeted at the front desk. "Staff ensures that Bridges to Safety is a welcoming, secure safe haven where victims are treated with respect and dignity," says Shelley Cline, Executive Director. Every victim will see an advocate. The advocate meets with the victim and conducts safety planning,

connects them to on-site legal aid, works with the Domestic Abuse/Harassment Office in filing for a protective order, looks at immediate crisis needs, and connects them to services. The majority of victims/participants receive follow-up services and ongoing support after their visit to the center.

Because of the pandemic, Bridges to Safety did have to close their center for safety reasons and the immediate staffing needs of its partners. Bridges to Safety reopened in October with a portion of its on-site partners (SPIP, Asian Women United of Minnesota, Casa de Esperanza to date) and is closely connecting remotely with other partners. PDAS partners acknowledge that victims are at an even higher risk of danger now. Domestic violence numbers have gone up and the degree of violence continues to worsen. "The community wants victims to be safe and have access to the critical service they need," says Cline.

Bridges to Safety is now open by appointment only. Unfortunately, they can no longer accommodate child-care because of social distancing. After hours and on weekends, phone calls are referred to SPIP. "Bridges to Safety has been able to remain effective for victims' and their children's safety," said Cline. "And support from funders like the Bar Association has been instrumental to that success."

Even amidst the chaos of the pandemic, Bridges to Safety has been able to not only continue ongoing work but also has not lost sight of new projects. They have been working on how to provide better mental health services to domestic abuse victims. A project model has been created which they hope to get going in the coming months.

BTS and its partner's attorneys and advocates are working at full capacity and beyond. If you are looking to offer pro bono services, please contact SPIP on behalf of Bridges to Safety. Volunteers can work remotely. "So much can be done remotely within the safety of one's own law firm or at home secure office," says Cline. Bridges to Safety is looking for attorney volunteers to help with complex cases such as custody and divorce and incoming housing issues.

If someone is experiencing domestic violence or knows someone who is, please call the Minnesota Domestic Violence Crisis Line at 1-866-223-1111. For non-emergent cases, or for more information on SPIP or Bridges to Safety, please contact Shelley Cline, Executive Director, at 651-645-2824.

By: Amanda Idinge



RAMSEY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

Thank You for Attending the 2020 RCBF Bench & Bar Benefit!

Every November the Ramsey County legal community gathers at the Ramsey County Bar Foundation's largest annual fundraiser, the Bench & Bar Benefit, to raise funds to be given to legal-related nonprofits during the foundation's spring grant cycle.

This year's event looked quite different and was held via Zoom over three days. The RCBF provided CLEs, games, client testimonial videos, and additional programming. The silent auction was put online and was open from Monday to Friday the week of the event.

Thank you to those who supported the Benefit, whether it be from purchasing a ticket, sponsoring the event, or donating or purchasing a silent auction item. Thanks to your donations, the event raised over \$32,000.

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RCBA CALENDAR

MON.

TUES.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT./SUN.

January

				<i>New Year's Day</i> 1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 3
4	5	6	7	8 <i>Executive Committee Meeting</i>	9 10
11	12	13	14 <i>Trusts & Estates Section CLE</i>	15	16 17
<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> 18 OFFICE CLOSED	<i>Real Estate Section CLE</i> 19	<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i> 20	<i>New Lawyers Section CLE</i> 21	22	23 24
25	<i>Golf Tournament Committee</i> 26 <i>Diversity Committee</i>	<i>Family Law Section CLE</i> 27	28 <i>Solo Small Firm Section CLE</i> <i>Law and Lit. Trial Trilogy Trial Act I</i>	29	30 31

For CLE course presenters, descriptions, and registration information, please see page 10.

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>Criminal Law Section CLE</i>	3 <i>CLE Oversight Committee</i>	4	5 <i>Executive Committee Meeting</i>	6 / 7
8	9	10	11 <i>Trusts & Estates Section CLE</i>	12	13 / 14
15 <i>Presidents' Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	16	17	18 <i>New Lawyers Section CLE</i>	19	20 / 21
22	23 <i>Golf Tournament Committee</i> <i>Diversity Committee</i>	24 <i>Lessons from Covid CLE</i> <i>Family Law Section CLE</i>	25 <i>Solo Small Firm Section CLE</i> <i>Law and Lit. Trial Trilogy Trial Act II</i>	26	27 / 28

February

THANK YOU to RCBA's annual sponsors

Gold Level



Silver Level



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 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.

CLE PROMOTIONS

DISCOUNT Packages!

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

Live CLE 10-Pack Pass

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Pass valid for live in-person and live webcast programs of any length.

2020-2021 pass expires June 30, 2021.

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January 14 | Trusts & Estates Section: Recent Changes to Minnesota's Guardianship Law

Panelists: Susan Buckley | Buckley Law Office; John Kantke | Volunteers of America, MN and WI; Robert McLeod | Best & Flanagan; Anita Raymond | Volunteers of America, MN and WI

Join us for a panel discussion about the recently changed guardianship law.

January 19 | Real Estate Section: Buying and Selling Lakeshore Property in Minnesota

Presenter: Paul B. Kilgore | Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.

Hear from longtime Duluth real estate attorney on buying and selling lakeshore property, including title, access, land use, liability, and riparian rights issues.

January 21 | New Lawyers Section: Remote Courtroom Best Practices and Tips - How to Effectively Use Zoom for Trials, Presentations, Depositions, etc.

Presenters: Thomas S. Johnson | Judicial Law Clerk; Alexandra Haigler | MN House of Representatives; Andrew Dobin | Fish & Richardson

Tips for effectively using Zoom for different aspects of litigation practice.

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

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

January 27 | Family Law Section: Do Overs, Mulligans, and Second Chances Winning Strategies for Post-Decision Motions

Presenter: Michael Boulette | Barnes & Thornburg LLP

In this session, we'll review common forms of post-decisions motions, the best uses of each, their necessity (or not) for keeping issues alive on appeal, and common mistakes lawyers make in post-trial motions.

Thanks to our sponsor: Soberlink

January 28 | Solo Small Firm Section: Insurance Claims 101 for the Non-Insurance Lawyer

Presenter: Jenneane L. Jansen | Jansen & Palmer, LLC

The basics of insurance claims from an experienced insurance law practitioner whose practice focuses on appeals and motions, mainly in the areas of administrative law, insurance coverage and insurance bad faith.

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

Credit: 1.5 standard credits applied for

January 28 | Law and Literature Trial Trilogy | Trial Act I - "A Jury of Her Peers"

Panelist: David Schultz | Hamline University

The first CLE of the Law and Literature Trial Trilogy will discuss Susan Keating Glaspell's short story, "A Jury of her Peers." Works will be sent in advance and must be read before the program.

Credit: 1.0 Elimination of Bias credit applied for

Cost: \$10 RCBA, MSBA, and HCBA members; \$30 non-members

February 2 | Criminal Law Section: Impacts of Minnesota State Law on Civilian Oversight of the Police

Presenters: Imani Jaafar | Office of Police Conduct Review; Ryan Patrick | Interim Minneapolis City Auditor

A discussion of civilian oversight of police in Minneapolis and how state law impacts what access lawyers and the public have to information on police misconduct cases across Minnesota.

Cost: FREE for RCBA members

February 11 | Trusts & Estates Section: The View from the Bench

Presenter: Hon. Joel Olson | Ramsey County Probate Court Referee

Hear about current issues, and answers to your questions about probate practice in the current environment.

February 18 | New Lawyers Section: Visual Design for Lawyers - Simple Tools for Creating Powerful Presentations

Presenters: Kate Razavi | Faegre Drinker; Chad Drown | Faegre Drinker

In this fast-moving and fun session, the Faegre Drinker Design Lab will share simple design tools that any lawyer can use—inside and outside the courtroom.

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

February 24 | Lessons from COVID - Best Practices for Interviewing, Hiring, On-Boarding, and Orienting Remotely

Panelists: Leanne R. Fuith | Mitchell Hamline School of Law; Nancy Lochner Howard | Fredrikson & Byron P.A.; Racey Rodne | McEllistrem, Fargione, Rorvig, & Moe P.A.

Discussion will include framework and principles for successful orientation of new attorneys, generally and virtually, with special attention to inclusivity in our COVID times.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Credit: 2.0 standard credits applied for

Cost: \$10 RCBA, MSBA, and HCBA members; \$25 non-members

February 24 | Family Law Section: Nonmarital Issues in Divorce

Presenter: Thomas W. Harjes | Baker Tilly US, LLP

Old and new nonmarital issues in divorce and examples of nonmarital tracing for different assets.

February 25 | Solo Small Firm Section: Immediate Responses to Criminal Law Questions

Presenters: Adam Kujawa | Ambrose Law Firm, PLLC; Benjamin W. Koll | Ambrose Law Firm, PLLC

Hear from two criminal law practitioners about how to respond to calls with criminal law inquiries, before you even refer the caller/client to a criminal attorney.

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

Credit: 1.5 standard credits applied for

February 25 | Law and Literature Trial Trilogy | Trial Act II - "The Witness"

Panelist: David Schultz | Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies, Hamline University

The second CLE of the Law and Literature Trial Trilogy will discuss Ann Petry's short story, "The Witness." Works will be sent in advance and must be read before the program.

Credit: 1.0 Elimination of Bias credit applied for

Cost: \$10 RCBA, MSBA, and HCBA members; \$30 non-members

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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.

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