

September 2019 Volume 31 Issue 6

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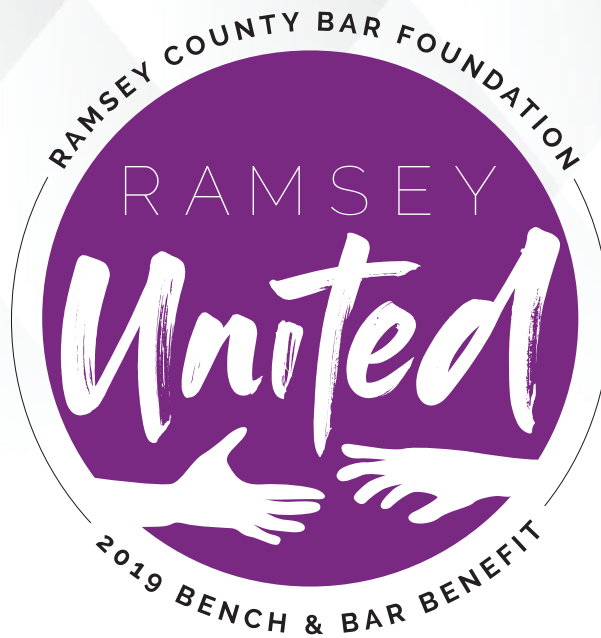
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Saturday, November 2 | St. Paul Hotel

Save the date

RCBA HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 12

The Lexington
est. 1935

Contact Sharon Elmore with any questions:
SElmore@mnbars.org or 651-789-3756.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Green Line Lunch

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Homi
864 W University Avenue,
St. Paul

Fall Kick-Off and Happy Hour Hosted by New Lawyers

Thursday, September 12, 2019
The Fitz
173 Western Avenue North,
St. Paul

Families First Halloween Party

Monday, October 28, 2019
John A. Johnson Elementary
740 York Ave, St. Paul

Bench & Bar Benefit

Saturday, November 2, 2019
The Saint Paul Hotel
350 Market Street, 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 17, 2020
Sundin Music Hall
1531 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul

Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, July 20, 2020
Keller Golf Course
2166 Maplewood Drive,
St. Paul

RAMSEY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION



SATURDAY, NOV 2 @ ST. PAUL HOTEL

Saturday, November 2, 2019
St. Paul Hotel

5:30 pm Reception and Silent Auction
7:00 pm Dinner

Pro Bono Award and Live Auction following dinner
Proceeds benefit the Ramsey County Bar
Foundation and SMRLS



**Tickets are \$85 each or
two for \$150**

Add \$5 per person after October 18

**Table reservations are
available for \$750 for ten
people**

Discounts available for the New Lawyers Table (\$50 per person). Send an email
to info@ramseybar.org

Sponsorship opportunities range from
\$400 to \$7,500.

Donations needed for the live and silent
auctions.

Three menu choices: Shrimp Scampi,
Chicken Piccata with Linguine, Ricotta
Stuffed Cannelloni

Join these organizations in sponsoring the event:

HKM; Larson King; Stinson LLP; Briggs & Morgan, P.A.; Heley, Duncan &
Melandar, PLLP; Wolf, Rohr, Gemberling & Allen, P.A.; Litigation Insights;
Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson, P.A.; Ascherman Law; DecisionQuest

You can register online, or purchase a table or sponsorship:
www.ramseybar.org

Watch for auction preview teasers and get a head-start on your bidding online or
via phone in our preview auction before the event. All online bids will appear on the
paper bidding sheets at the event!

For more information contact SElmore@mnbars.org or 651-789-3756

Renew your membership



The 2019-2020 Bar Year is Here!

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.



A night to unite

Occasionally I forget why I became a lawyer. You get caught up in the calendars, court orders, and never-ending emails. It is just a part of our daily lives. I have to make time to think back to what I wrote in my personal statement that I submitted to get into law school. I wanted to do something to help. I wanted to fight for something. More simply though, I wanted to get away from my then-corporate grind to feel human again. To be moved by a personal story so compelling that it drove me to make a change. I left my cushy corporate gig full of travel and fancy dinner reservations and set foot back in the classroom. While I know we all took different paths in our careers, I know that many of us share that same ambition: to help. To make a difference in whatever shape or form that is.

The truth is, however, not all of us are cut out for the grueling work of legal aid. That work, in my opinion, is coveted by those whose compassion outweighs the want. They are a select group of people who assist those struggling, in one form or another, with the difficulties of life.

I highlight those at Southern Minnesota Regional Services ("SMRLS"). Many of you know that SMRLS provides legal services to low income individuals that need assistance to secure freedom and justice from hunger, sickness, and abuse. SMRLS is the oldest legal aid provider in the state with a 100-plus year history, and the Ramsey County Bar has shared a long partnership with them. In order to be eligible for SMRLS' services, a client's gross annual income must fall at or below 125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. By current standards, this is approximately \$14,000/year for a single person and \$30,000/year for a family of four. Over one-half million Minnesotans live in poverty. And, because of limited resources, SMRLS is currently able to serve only 40% of the individuals who contact the agency for help.

You may not know that SMRLS is the biggest recipient of money raised at the Ramsey County Bar Foundation's Annual Bench & Bar Benefit, receiving half of the donations. The other half is awarded in grants to other law-related charitable organizations such as Children's Law Center, Minnesota Justice Foundation, Tubman Center, and Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers.

Jessie Nicholson, SMRLS CEO, talked about how they use the Benefit proceeds and how they do not take our support for granted. She talked about how SMRLS will use the funds to re-engineer themselves to stay

relevant to the community and their customers as well as to remain accountable to their donors. It is a part of who they are to constantly work to become a better provider.

The Benefit, held in the fall of each year, is the major fundraiser for Ramsey County Bar Foundation. It is a night to honor pro bono service and support the legal services community. This year's benefit is on **November 2 at the St. Paul Hotel**. The Benefit is a way that we can come together on behalf of a profession we love, to help those struggling in our legal community.

Current Co-Chair of the Benefit Committee, Renee Fossen, commented on this: "Given the current divisive climate nationwide, it is important that we as judges, attorneys and collaborators in the legal community fight even harder for those without reasonable access to the services of skilled legal professionals. That's the main reason we've chosen the theme 'Ramsey United.' Even if we don't have the ability to volunteer ourselves, we can support those organizations providing much needed services to those in need in our own backyard. That's what the

Bench and Bar Benefit is all about. Plus, you get to hang out with a bunch of your friends and have a lot fun at the same time."

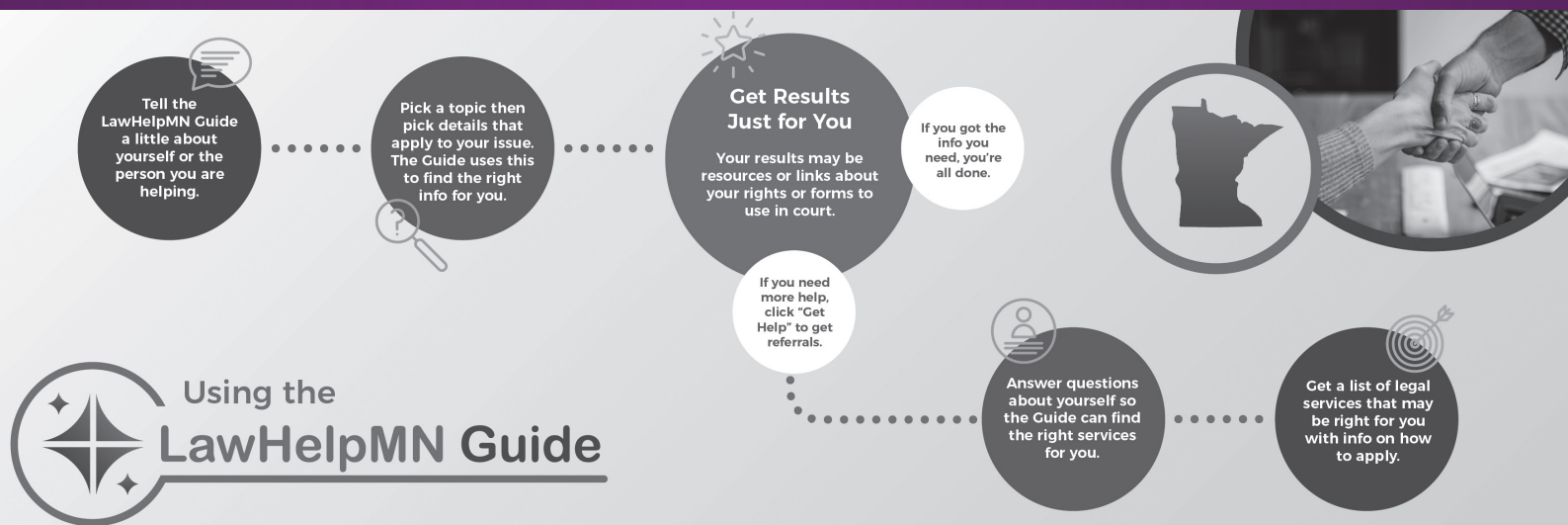
I, too, have found this event to be a great time – competing (and winning!) at the silent and live auctions, catching up with colleagues and judges, and remembering what it was that pushed me to make a change to practice law those many years ago. I love the theme this year and the idea that coming together, united, we can make a difference, just as I had once written about in my law school application. Even if just for one night.

This year, Paul Peterson and Steve Kirsch will be the auctioneers, and will no doubt bring significant liveliness to the event. The St. Paul Hotel will deliver delicious entrees such as shrimp scampi, chicken piccata, and ricotta stuffed cannelloni and there will even be complimentary wine and punch for the start of the social hour. I invite and encourage you to attend, purchase a table, or donate to this event to help support our legal services community. I also encourage you to thank the sponsors that attend and the staff at SMRLS that does this challenging work every day. Let's fill up the room and unite together for a fabulous event. I look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact Sharon Elmore to get a seat or get more information at: **SElmore@mnbars.org**.

**"Southern Minnesota Regional Services ("SMRLS")
... provides legal services to low income individuals
that need assistance to secure freedom and justice
from hunger, sickness, and abuse."**

A Boon for the Legal Aid Community: The New LawHelpMN.org



With the launch of the redesigned LawHelpMN.org in 2019, the legal community at large and the public have rediscovered a singular and comprehensive resource for Minnesotans with civil legal issues. As in the past decade and a half, LawHelpMN offers immediate access to its well-stocked Self-Help Library of fact sheets, booklets, do-it-yourself forms and other legal resources, but now with a cleaner, less complicated interface and an emphasis on the award-winning resources created by the Education for Justice Project of the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition. For legal referrals, the site's Provider and Clinics Directory is now powered by a database of referral information updated in real-time. For the first time, this database of referral agencies includes unbundled services through the Minnesota State Bar Association, as well as mediation services through Community Mediation Minnesota.

These improved features alone make the site worth a visit, but at its core is a tool created to give users a custom experience: the LawHelpMN Guide (the Guide). The Guide provides users with targeted legal information and referrals based on their answers to a series of questions about their issue. By harnessing new technology to create a logic tree,

the Guide narrows a person's legal topic and, if needed, assesses their potential eligibility for services based on location, income and other factors. The result is less time spent sorting through a long list of resources that may not apply to the situation or calling agencies and organizations that may not be able to help. The LawHelpMN Guide is intuitive and easy to use by either the person seeking information or an attorney, advocate, or anyone assisting them.

The staff here at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) have enthusiastically embraced the new LawHelpMN and are involved firsthand in making sure information about our services at SMRLS is up-to-date, accurate, and immediately available, ensuring that those who need us can find us. As a nonprofit we are sometimes limited in the services we can provide. LawHelpMN's Provider and Clinics Directory puts targeted referrals and specific information about other organizations at our fingertips.

By Jessie Nicholson, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

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, September 10, 2019 at Noon.

Homi (Mexican)

864 W University Ave (Victoria St Station)

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at Noon.

Ngon Vietnamese Bistro

799 University Ave W (Victoria St Station)

Join Sarah McEllistrem, RCBA president, and the rest of the RCBA leadership to kick-off the new bar year at The Fitz on Thursday, September 12th!

KICK-OFF & HAPPY HOUR

HOSTED BY THE NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meet the RCBA leaders, learn about opportunities to be involved, and socialize with colleagues over a free beverage and appetizers at the happy hour following the kick-off.

Thursday, September 12

4:30pm – 5pm Fall Kick-off

5pm – 7pm RCBA Happy Hour

Hosted by the New Lawyers

The Fitz, 173 Western Avenue North, St. Paul

Sponsor:  ARECHIGO
STOKKA

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services requests your presence at the 2019

Fall Appreciation Luncheon

InterContinental Saint Paul
Riverfront Hotel

Tuesday, November 26

11 AM - 1:30 PM

Tickets: \$50

Table of 10: \$500

Learn more and register
at smrls.org/luncheon

@smrlsmn

#JusticeMatters



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

The Attorney's Attorney: The Benefits to Working with a Strategic Litigation Consultant

Using a Strategic Litigation Consultant (SLC) can enhance your practice. There are freelance lawyers who do great work, such as research and writing and deposition summaries. But I am talking about high level strategic work on litigation files, including family law. Using an SLC is like having an “of counsel” relationship on demand without the commitment.

Many litigation projects are a great fit for using the services of an SLC. One example is using an SLC to take a mock deposition of a client and to help with the overall strategy and theory of the case. Because the client doesn't know the SLC, the mock deposition will feel like the “real thing.” It enables the client to help get the nerves out and be more prepared. A strong deposition performance can only help the client's case. If the SLC attends the deposition, the SLC can focus on the big picture, such as where opposing counsel is going with the questions. The lawyer defending the deposition can then focus on whether to object to each question. The SLC is the strategic set of ears and eyes.

An SLC is also useful to help lawyers in areas which are outside of the lawyer's comfort zone, such as a family law attorney defending a post-decree motion involving a real estate issue. An SLC who knows real estate law will understand the terminology and nuances and, therefore, can prepare the documents more efficiently. It will also free the family law lawyer to do work in his or her area of expertise. The lawyer can mark up the SLC's bill if he or she chooses to do so.

An SLC can provide value by analyzing motions for other lawyers and suggesting the best way to proceed. That sense of how to approach motions and hearings comes from many years of practice and appearing before numerous judicial officers.

The above examples are actual situations in which an SLC has assisted with cases. While each of these attorneys was experienced and very competent, they found hiring an SLC helpful for select projects. An SLC is also helpful for newer attorneys who don't necessarily know what they don't know. With both experienced and newer attorneys, the SLC fills in gaps of experience and knowledge, as well as provides a second set of strategic eyes.



By Susan Dickel Minsberg, *Susan Minsberg Law Office*. She has been practicing law for over 34 years (27 as a solo) and has worked on a wide variety of family and litigation cases. She has appeared in front of numerous judges in state and federal court, and she has assisted other lawyers as an SLC.

Attorney Referral Service Enrollment Period!

We are currently accepting applications for the 2019-2020 enrollment period. Please consider becoming a member of our Attorney Referral Service, our Modest Means Program, or both! We will help you build your practice by providing quality referrals in your area of practice.

For more details about these programs please contact Thea Anderson, tanderson@mnbars.org or 651-224-1775



Families First Halloween

Join RCBA attorneys, law firms, and local businesses at the Families First Halloween Party. Students from St. Paul east side schools gather with their families for dinner, games, and fun activities.

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS NEEDED 5-8PM

T-shirt sponsor for \$250. Game Sponsor for \$500.
Dinner Sponsor for \$1,000. Sponsors are acknowledged at the event, in the Barrister, and on our website.

Monday, October 28
from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



John A. Johnson Elementary School
740 York Avenue, St. Paul



To sign up, please contact Sharon at
SElmore@mnbars.org or 651-789-3756

JOB SHADOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Ramsey County Bar Association job shadow program provides an excellent opportunity for law students to get a firsthand look at what the legal world is really like outside of law school.

The Ramsey County Bar Association partners with Mitchell Hamline School of Law to provide law students unique job shadow opportunities.

The fall job shadow opportunity will take place on October 17, 18, 21, and 22. Please consider volunteering to have a Mitchell Hamline law school student shadow you for a few hours on one of those days.

Past job shadow volunteers have invited students to observe hearings or client meetings, tour their company or law firm, or just talk about their work over lunch. Lawyers from all size firms or public agencies, prosecutors, public defenders and corporate counsel are all needed.

To volunteer, please contact Steve Marchese at SMarchese@mnbars.org or 612-278-6308.

2019 GOLF tournament

KELLER GOLF COURSE



Thank You Golf Tournament Sponsors

Lunch Sponsor: HKM

Dinner Sponsor: Robins Kaplan LLP

Hole in One Sponsor: Ciresi Conlin

Closest to the Pin Sponsor: Briggs & Morgan, P.A.

Tee Sponsors:

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612-373-9681 or chad@mlmins.com

SEPTEMBER CLE OPPORTUNITIES

Midday Section CLE Opportunities

Register at www.ramseybar.org

Location (unless otherwise noted):

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

Time: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Cost (includes lunch):

\$15 RCBA members;
\$30 non-members

Teleconference Cost:

\$15 RCBA members;
\$30 non-members

Credit: 1 standard credit
applied for

SEP 12 | Trusts & Estates Section: A Demonstration of CLEWills

Presenter: Michael P.
Sampson, Mason LLP

Demonstration of CLEWills,
new automated document
system developed by
Minnesota CLE, companion
to popular *Drafting Wills &
Trust Agreements* book of
forms.

Location: Wells Fargo First
Floor Conference Room, 30
E 7th St. Suite 175, St. Paul

SEP 17 | Real Estate Section: 2019 Real Estate Legislative Update

Presenter: Kevin Dunlevy,
Beisel & Dunlevy, P.A.

What happened in the
2019 legislature regarding
real estate law, and what is
likely to happen in the 2020
legislature.

SEP 25 | Family Law Section: Social Media and its Impact on Family Law

Presenters: Carlo Faccini,
SeilerSchindel; Tifanne

Wolter, Henningson &
Snoxell, Ltd; Hon. Elizabeth
Clysdale, Ramsey County
Court Referee

Topics such as the
admissibility and
authentication of social
media posts, how to find
social media posts that
are relevant to your cases,
strategies to consider when
speaking with clients about
social media, and of course
ethical considerations.

Solo Small Firm Section CLE Opportunities

Register at www.ramseybar.org

Join us for an informal CLE
presentation and networking
gathering at the **Louisiana
Cafe (613 Selby Avenue)** in
St. Paul the fourth Thursday
of every month. The solo
small firm group met in
August and developed a
great line-up of CLEs: time
management; how to deliver
bad news; technology to
help client development;
hiring/retention for the solo
small firm lawyer; Elder/
Estates topics for all solo/
small lawyers, skip tracing,
vulnerable adults, ethics
for solo/small attorneys;

residential real estate
questions, and more!

September 26 | Time Management – Effectively Addressing Demands for Time

Presenter: Matt Ludt, Atticus
Family Law

Several effective strategies to
identifying priorities, planning
them, holding off distractions,
and ending each day better
off than it started.

Credit: 1.5 standard credits
applied for

October 24 | Good Ways Lawyers Can Deliver Bad News

Presenter: Melissa DeLay,
Message Maven at
TruPerception

Working in law is great
when you're winning cases
and your employees are
an industry dream team.
But throw in a difficult
situation—such as telling a
client they lost or explaining
the right processes to an
employee making critical
mistakes—and even the

most successful lawyers can
be at risk of damaging their
reputation and losing their
influence.

Drawing from her book, *The
Truth About Scandal: The
Everyday Guide to Navigating
Business Crises*, DeLay will
show you how to overcome
the most challenging
communication situations.

Credit: 1.5 standard credits
applied for

FREE CLE Opportunity

Register at www.ramseybar.org

**Co-sponsored by the
Ramsey County Law Library
and Ramsey County Bar
Association:**

SEP 16 | Tough Cases: Judges' Hidden Struggles in Dispensing Justice

Presenters: Hon. Gail Chang
Bohr (Ret.); Hon. Edward S.
Wilson (Ret.)

Retired Ramsey County
District Court judges discuss
"tough" cases included in
the book collection, *Tough
Cases: Judges Tell the Stories*

*of Some of the Hardest
Decisions They've Ever Made.*

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Ramsey County
Law Library, 18th floor,
Ramsey County Courthouse,
15 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul

Credit: 1.0 standard credit
applied for

COST: FREE

**There will be no remote
access option for this CLE.**

CLE DISCOUNT Packages!

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, teleconference, on-demand Includes lunch, if applicable.

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OCTOBER CLEs

10/3 Trusts & Estates Section CLE
10/15 Real Estate Section CLE

10/23 Family Law Section CLE
10/24 Good Ways Lawyers Can
Deliver Bad News



Kathleen R. Gearin *Ramsey County District Judge, Retired*



During 26 years as a Ramsey County District Judge, 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, which includes the state Capital, she frequently dealt with politically sensitive cases involving issues such as free speech, 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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