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**Federal Bar  
Association**  
Minnesota Chapter

# Bar Talk

## President's Welcome Message

*By Dan Hedlund*

Dear Members:

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the 2021–2022 bar year for the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Through my many years of involvement with the Chapter in several leadership roles and with the national organization as an Eighth Circuit Vice President, I have consistently been impressed with all the FBA has to offer to its members.

Of course, our Chapter provides the usual offerings that most bar associations do, such as top-notch professional, educational, and networking opportunities to members of the legal community. In addition, it offers programs



directed toward the nonlegal community as part of the Chapter's Community Outreach Committee. And, although perhaps less easy to measure, one of our Chapter's greatest

*President's Welcome, continued on page 2.*

## Tributes to Judge Kyle from His Law Clerks

*By Anita Terry*



Senior U.S. District Judge Richard H. Kyle passed away on June 22, 2021. He served on the federal bench for 25 years, from his appointment in 1992 to his retirement in 2017.

It is difficult to capture in a few sentences the essence of the Honorable Richard H. Kyle. Demanding, warm, funny, energetic, early-riser—adjectives just don't do him justice. In the following remembrances, though, we who were lucky enough to be his law clerks attempt to describe the man we all know as the Judge.

### **Leah Janus (2004–2006):**

I have many memories of my years working with Judge Kyle. He taught his clerks so much about lawyering, judging, and trial work; he was a wonderful mentor. I still think regularly about lessons I learned from him, insights he shared with me, and the saying that hung on the wall in his chambers: "All Crises Pass."

He clerked for Judge Devitt, who was a mentor to him. Judge Devitt was a nationally respected district court judge and the Chief Judge of the District of Minnesota for many years. Judge Kyle often referred to Judge Devitt's much read "Ten Commandments for the New Judge," which in-

*Judge Kyle Tributes, continued on page 2.*

*President's Welcome, continued from page 2.*

strengths is the opportunities it provides for members to build and develop their personal relationships with each other. This Chapter's ability to bring together members of the judiciary, people in government service, and private practitioners, whether at meetings, legal-education programs, or social events, is truly first-rate.

This past year has been a challenging one for the Chapter as the pandemic altered so many things—the way we hold our events and the way in which we all practice law and administer justice. Although these have certainly been trying times for all of us, it has also been inspiring to see how Chapter leaders have adapted to these limitations and, in the process, innovated in ways that have impressed all of us. For example, when faced with the requirement to meet remotely, the Monthly Meeting Co-Chairs improvised and implemented virtual luncheons. These meetings—complete with breakout rooms to simulate attendees' lunch table experience—included an impressive array of speakers from all over the country, many of whom the Chapter would otherwise have been unlikely to obtain in person due to time and cost constraints. As we start this year off remotely, the new Co-Chairs are picking up today right where we left off last year. This is just one example of the exemplary work undertaken by last year's officers, Board members, co-chairs, and committee members. The Chapter is deeply thankful to you all for your hard work and commitment under difficult circumstances.

*President's Welcome, continued on page 9.*

*Judge Kyle Tribute, continued from page 1.*

cluded: "remember that a lazy judge is a poor one." Judge Kyle's work ethic was legendary. He was in his chambers well before 6 a.m. six days a week. His first hearing of the day was generally at 8 a.m. He issued every single memorandum opinion within 30 days of oral argument—without fail. He expected his clerks to keep up with him, though we were generally allowed to start the day closer to 7 or 7:30 a.m. When he spent an occasional week in Florida during the winter, his clerks would receive FedEx packages from him containing his handwritten edits to our draft orders, and a little sand. The work did not stop. He ran his chambers in this way with clarity of purpose—absolute respect for all parties who sought justice in his courtroom.

Judge Kyle was an excellent trial judge. He was a trial lawyer before becoming a judge, and that experience carried through to his judging style. He respected litigation tactics and strategy, but not gamesmanship. He maintained calm and confident control of the courtroom. He oversaw some of the most high-profile trials in D. Minn. throughout his years on the bench and was well-respected for his handling of such cases.

We were so lucky to have Judge Kyle on the bench for so many years. He will be missed by all.

**Jim Zappa (1992–1994):**

Kyle clerks commonly agree that Judge Kyle distinguished himself as wanting a personal relationship with his clerks, during the clerking tenure and after we departed chambers. What is more, he invested in it: calling or writing to check in on career and family, offering (and always accepting) invitations to connect over breakfast, lunch, or a late afternoon beverage. More than once, he

provided some needed encouragement to pursue a career move or to be more patient in my career.

Beyond being a pleasure to work for and a true mentor, the Judge created a unique sense that we were family—his court family. For me, that sense of family was most strong at the court family gathering that occurred each summer. The gathering was at the Judge's house, in the Kyle family screen porch, backyard, and pool. As our court family grew in number, the summer gatherings included spouses and offspring. They were full of children splashing, a dozen simultaneous conversations, and laughter. In every way that matters, a real family reunion. And at the center of it was the Judge, the head of our family.

As a court family, we also suffered losses, none greater than when our treasured colleagues Liz Cumming and Bob Riley lost their battles with cancer. In particular, the Judge showed Liz immense compassion and caring. I like to think that they have found each other in the next life, reminiscing of days in court and keeping Riley out of trouble (trying, anyway).

**Kathryn Landrum (2008–2010):**

My clerkship with Judge Kyle was my first real job, and after connecting with a few prior clerks, I knew the position was going to be demanding. I was told that arriving after 7 a.m. was frowned upon and that the unwritten rules required coming into work most Saturday mornings. I also heard that if my research and writing did not meet Judge Kyle's high standards, my clerkship could be cut short.

But while I knew the job was going to require long hours and high standards, I didn't know the type of mentorship

*Judge Kyle Tribute, continued on page 10.*

## Clerk's Corner

By Kate Fogarty

The United States District Court for the District of Minnesota is excited to embark on a bold new mission to bring a best-in-nation model of civics engagement and education to the Twin Cities. The Justice and Democracy Centers of Minnesota will open its first location inside the Warren E. Burger Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in St. Paul in early summer of 2022. The Center will provide an interactive, museum-quality center for students, educators, community groups, and the public to visit to learn about the judiciary and its role in our democracy. This will be only the fourth such center inside a federal courthouse in the country and one of the first fully run by a district court. The Court then plans to open a second center inside the Diana E. Murphy U.S. Courthouse in Minneapolis in 2023 and is committed to building a space, both in-person and online, that is equitable and inclusive, where diverse voices and topics on the importance of the rule of law are celebrated. Kickoff work with our two main vendors, Split Rock Studios for the physical space and Social Driver for the website, began in July and

will continue through the ribbon-cutting ceremony next year. The Court is thankful to the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association for its partnership on this project. The Centers' mission statement is as follows:

The Justice & Democracy Centers of Minnesota exists to promote public understanding of the rule of law and the role of an independent judiciary in our democracy through free, accessible, and equitable educational programming, both virtual and in-person.

For additional information on supporting the Centers, please email [Rebecca.Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov).

The long-awaited Fergus Falls Courtroom restoration project has begun. Plans include restoration of the original bench and creation of a lower bench, witness stand, and jury box. The original chandeliers will be renovated, and new carpet will be produced to match a sample of the original carpet. Plaster repair and corridor renovations are also part of the project. The project is anticipated to be complete by the end of the calendar

year. During the project, in-person hearings and trials will be scheduled in the adjacent courtroom.

In operational news, the Court updated the protocols for [In-Person Hearings](#) and [Jury Trials](#) on July 23. The changes reflect another loosening of courtroom restrictions. While restrictions were dialed back, the Court is closely monitoring emerging news and guidance around the COVID-19 Delta variant and will review and adjust all protocols as necessary. These updates, as well as other current and future protocols related to Coronavirus Guidance, can be found [here](#).

In staffing news, Andrew Pieper has joined the District as the new Chief Deputy Clerk of Court. He comes to the District Court with almost ten years of court experience. Most recently, he was Deputy District Administrator for the Minnesota Judicial Branch – Fourth District (Hennepin County), where he oversaw infrastructure and professional services. He fills the role that Tricia Pepin served in since 2013 until she became the new Clerk of Court for the District of Minnesota Bankruptcy Court. ■

*Kate M. Fogarty is Clerk of Court for the District of Minnesota.*

## Chapter Summer Social Is First In-Person Gathering in a Year

By Bar Talk Editors

On August 11, 2021, the Special Events Committee (in a normal year, the planners of the annual Judges' Dinner Dance) held a Summer Social at Urban Growler in St. Paul. The social was a wonderful, casual opportunity to see colleagues after over a year without in-person Chapter events. The Chapter recognized Vildan Teske for her strong leadership during this unprecedented year and welcomed Dan Hedlund as Chapter President, effective September 1. The group also raised a glass to congratulate Chapter member Anh Le Kremer, who will be installed as the President of the national FBA at the Annual Meeting & Convention in Miami on September 25. Anh told the crowd that the Minnesota Chapter is the best Chapter, and Chief Judge Tunheim concurred. In a moment of Minnesota-ness, many expressions of, "Thank you for all you

do," followed by, "Oh no, thank *you* for all you do," were exchanged between Chapter officers, committee chairs and other Chapter leaders, Anh, and members of the bench. ■





## Annual Minority Judges Reception Celebrates Its Eighth Year

By Bernadette Senyana



On July 15, 2021, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota hosted the Annual Minority Judges Reception, along with the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers, Somali American Bar Association, Minnesota Women Lawyers, Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association, Minnesota Lavender Bar Association, Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Minnesota American Indian Bar Association, and Twin Cities Diversity in Practice.

After a yearlong hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minority Judges Reception was a much-needed celebration and opportunity to reconnect. The event took place on

the Outdoor Plaza of the Diana E. Murphy United States Courthouse and had close to one hundred people in attendance. After over a year of limited face-to-face interaction, members of the legal community and their friends came out to recognize the many newly appointed minority judges. Chief Judge John R. Tunheim gave the opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of diversity on the bench and recognizing Judge Michael J. Davis for being the first to host the reception in 2013.

In addition to celebrating the increasingly diverse bench, the event also acknowledged and celebrated the unanimous passage of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act. The Act was spearheaded by Minnesota's very own United States Senator Tina Smith, who was in attendance at the reception. Judge Wilhelmina M. Wright spoke about the significance of June 19th, known as Juneteenth, in American history as the day enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were finally told they were free. This was two and a half years after the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation declared all slaves free. Chief Judge Tunheim, Judge Wright, and Judge Davis thanked Senator Smith for her work in helping pass the Juneteenth legislation and presented her with a beautiful gavel. Senator Smith gave special thanks to Ms. Opal Lee, who at 89 years old walked halfway across the country to raise support for the recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday. Today Juneteenth is the most popular annual celebration of emancipation from slavery in the United States. ■

*Bernadette Senyana is an attorney at Best & Flanagan LLP, where she practices business law with a focus on mergers and acquisitions, non-profit and tax-exempt organizations, and in-house legal counsel support. She is also the Co-Chair of the Newer Lawyers Committee for the Minnesota Federal Bar Association.*

## Duluth Lynchings Seminar Focuses on Legacy of Racial Violence and Lessons for Justice and Reconciliation

By Kyle W. Wislocky

Attorneys, judges, professors, state and local leaders, and community members gathered remotely on June 14 for the live-streamed seminar "Understanding Our Duluth Lynchings: Racial Violence in America and the Road to Justice and Reconciliation." The program, jointly produced by the Collaborative Legal Community Coalition, Minnesota Humanities Center, and TPT, examined the history of racial violence in Minnesota and elsewhere and discussed lessons to be learned in the continuing struggle for racial justice.

June 15, 2021, marked the 101st anniversary of the Duluth lynchings, in which three Black men—Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, and Isaac McGhie—were wrongly accused of assaulting a white woman, taken from a Duluth jail cell by a mob that numbered in the thousands, and lynched. No one was ever charged in relation to the lynchings. The program traced a legacy of racial violence and oppression in Minnesota and elsewhere leading up to the 2020 murder of George Floyd and the present day.

Opening the seminar was a presentation by University of Baltimore School of Law and Georgetown Law Professor John Bessler, who provided historical background on the Duluth lynchings. He detailed not just the events in Duluth, but

*Duluth Lynchings, continued on page 6.*

## The Tulsa Race Massacre: Its Significance 100 Years Later and the Connection to the Duluth Lynchings

By Sheri L. Stewart

On June 14, 2021, the FBA co-sponsored an event entitled “Understanding Our Duluth Lynchings: Racial Violence in America and the Road to Justice and Reconciliation.” This article will focus on the portion of the program regarding the Tulsa Massacre of 1921, which was presented by Dr. Duchess Harris, JD/PhD. Dr. Harris is a Professor of American Studies and Political Science at Macalester College in St. Paul.

The Tulsa Massacre occurred on June 1, 1921. In light of its 100-year anniversary, Dr. Harris explained that the 1921 Tulsa Massacre is considered one of the worst incidents of racial violence in the United States, yet the atrocity remains one of the least-known events in American history. The massacre left 300 people dead, 800 injured, and over 10,000 homeless and/or displaced. She emphasized that the 100th anniversary of the massacre is significant in many ways and that at the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial, President Biden revealed a racial equity plan. Its focal points include addressing racial discrimination in the housing market, creating an agency to address inequity

in home appraisals, and investing in communities of color through the American Jobs Plan.

As Dr. Harris explained, the personal testimony of Viola Ford Fletcher, the oldest living survivor of the massacre, detailed the horror of the event. On May 19, 2021, two weeks after her 107th birthday, Ms. Fletcher testified in front of Congress. She explained she was seven years old at the time of the massacre, which shattered her world. She said the massacre forced her to leave Tulsa and start over. She worked as a service worker most of her life for white families and did not make much money because she did not go to school past the fourth grade.

Based on Dr. Harris’s assessment, property lost from the legacy of “Greenwood” (also known as “Black Wall Street”) totaled \$1.8 million in 1921. In today’s dollars, the loss to the neighborhood likely would be over \$27 million. Dr. Harris focused her presentation on how reparations and/or repair could remedy the economic injustice and injury by funding initiatives that benefit the massacre’s descendants who are still alive today. There is a great push by advocates in this space for changes to the K-12 curriculum to explain

*Tulsa Race Massacre, continued on page 6.*

## Highlights from the 2021 Kick-Off Social Event and Golf Tournament

By Pete McElligott and Joe Cassioppi



After a hiatus last year, the golfers of the Minnesota Chapter of the FBA picked up where they left off in 2019 with good cheer, laughter, and plenty of errant shots. Town & Country Club played host to the Kick-Off Social Event and Golf Tournament this year and did not disappoint. Although the greens were slick, a few players (Andrew Leiendecker and Kyle Kroll) flirted with a hole-in-one. While no one qualified for the Ryder Cup team, the weather was fantastic, and the camaraderie was better than Tiger in his prime. Congratulations to the winning team: John Bisanz, Brad Koranda, Jake Kendricks, and Martin Norder, as well as the contest hole winners.

Thank you to all of the participants and sponsors! A tremendous thanks to all those who helped plan and execute the event. If you are interested in serving on the planning

committee for the 2022 event, please contact Pete McElligott ([pmcelligott@anthonyostlund.com](mailto:pmcelligott@anthonyostlund.com)) or Danielle Mair ([danielle\\_mair@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:danielle_mair@mnd.uscourts.gov)). ■

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*Joe Cassioppi is a shareholder in the Business Litigation Department at Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., where he focuses his practice on fiduciary litigation.*

*Duluth Lynchings, continued from page 4.*

other racially-motivated violence in Minnesota, including lynchings and state-sponsored executions of Native peoples and Black people. Professor Bessler explained that he grew up in Minnesota but did not learn about the Duluth lynchings in school, a sentiment echoed throughout the day, as multiple speakers emphasized the importance of education in the struggle for racial justice.

Relatedly, attorneys Jerry Blackwell and Corey Gordon presented on their successful work to obtain Minnesota's first-ever posthumous pardon for Max Mason, who was wrongly convicted of the same assault allegations that preceded the lynchings. Mr. Mason was pardoned three days before the 100th anniversary of the lynchings. The speakers highlighted the role pardons can play to shine a light on injustices of the past and correct injustice now. Dr. Rogier Gregoire spoke about the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 in Duluth to commemorate the lives of the three men. He spoke on the importance of utilizing public space to confront modern Americans with a history that is frequently either forgotten or mechanically removed from the story we tell ourselves as a people.

The program extended beyond Minnesota as well. Professor Duchess Harris presented on the Tulsa Race Riot; Judge Richard M. Gergel of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina presented on Sgt. Isaac Woodard, a decorated Black World War II veteran who, on his journey home through the United States in 1946, was arrested, beaten, and blinded by a local chief of police while in police custody. Judge Gergel presented on how this incident, among others, served as a touchpoint for President Truman to form the first presidential commission on civil rights. Judge Gergel also spoke about the judge who oversaw the police chief's trial to acquittal by an all-white jury, Judge J. Waties Waring, Judge of the U.S. District Court

for the Eastern District of South Carolina. Judge Waring, a son of a Confederate veteran, was moved by the brutality Sgt. Woodard faced to become a trailblazing judge to rule in favor of civil rights; Judge Waring is known for handing down an influential 1951 dissenting decision in a school-segregation case that helped lay the groundwork for the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

The seminar concluded with remarks from Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. Mr. Stevenson focused on truth telling and repair as essential tools to furthering the cause of racial justice. He explained that we craft our identity as Americans through the history we tell and accordingly called for an "an era of truth telling" in which we honestly examine America's history of racial genocide against Native peoples, the legacy of slavery and lynchings, and the continuing effects of racial disadvantage in the areas of education, housing, banking, media, entertainment, government, voting, and the legal system.

His remarks also focused on the intergenerational effects of systemic racial injustice. As one example, Mr. Stevenson traced the ineligibility of veterans of color to receive benefits under the post-World War II GI Bill that white veterans have enjoyed to the present day. Mr. Stevenson explained that this type of discrimination is not merely historical, but has led to people of color facing intergenerational challenges transferring wealth, the effects of which persist to this day.

Mr. Stevenson ultimately called upon those in attendance for action, emphasizing that steps toward repair and racial justice must be "local and immediate." He reminded all present that a commitment to law must mean a commitment to justice and that when law does not serve justice, each person has a duty to respond. ■

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*Kyle Wislocky is an associate at Ciresi Conlin LLP, where he focuses on business and other civil litigation. He is a member of the FBA.*

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*Tulsa Race Massacre, continued from page 5.*

the events of the Tulsa Massacre. Still, there have been no reparations paid and no criminal accountability for the actors who participated in this massacre.

Regarding reparations, Dr. Harris explained how many individuals do not understand reparations are not just about money. Reparations also seek to acknowledge past trauma, to repair memories by providing a memorial or commemoration to individuals who have lost their lives, and/or to create monuments to remind people of what happened and that it must never happen again.

Dr. Harris explained how the massacre fits within United States history from the Reconstruction Era to passage of the Civil Rights Act. She described how omitting African Americans from history affects the feeling of belonging, being represented, and receiving equal protection under the law. For example, the American schools' curriculum often omits how

*Tulsa Race Massacre, continued on page 7.*

*Tulsa Race Massacre, continued from page 6.*

Black veterans were treated. Black World War II veterans did not benefit from the GI Bill to help them build their homes. So, while homes were for sale in suburbia, Black veterans could not buy those homes to create wealth in their African American communities.

Dr. Harris's book, *The Tulsa Race Riot (Freedom's Promise)*, teaches about the Tulsa Race Riot for K-12 students. She has used her book to educate her college students as well. Public schools in Tulsa, Oklahoma, only started to incorporate the history of the massacre into their curriculum in 2020. Her book also exemplifies how racial discrimination permeates several aspects of society. This interconnection is evident because the racial discrimination in housing that followed the 1921 massacre is directly correlated with the lack of wealth transference among Blacks in Tulsa. The gap between Blacks and whites when it comes to wealth transference is evident in the Black community. Wealth existed in the Black community in Tulsa during the 1900s because oil was discovered and white men who ended up working in oil fields depended on Black businesses to make

sure there was commerce, which created an interdependent relationship. But the Tulsa Massacre disrupted Black wealth transference.

According to Dr. Harris, her mentor Mr. Manning Marable, a now-deceased professor from Columbia University, would call the Tulsa Massacre a "cumulative disadvantage" to the Black community in Tulsa because the businesses were destroyed. More specifically, a cumulative disadvantage means that a sizable income does not equal wealth because there is a lack of wealth passed down from one generation to the next. Essentially, Blacks are being locked out of relationships, contracting, and business opportunities to build generational wealth. She tied in this concept locally by explaining that 70 percent of Black Minnesotans still cannot attain middle-class status.

Ultimately, the government has a huge role to play; it's not all about finances, but also teaching about the Duluth Lynchings as well as the Tulsa Massacre. Doing so will help each respective state move forward while also helping our nation to heal and move forward. ■

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*Sheri Stewart is an employment and commercial law litigator at Bassford Remele.*

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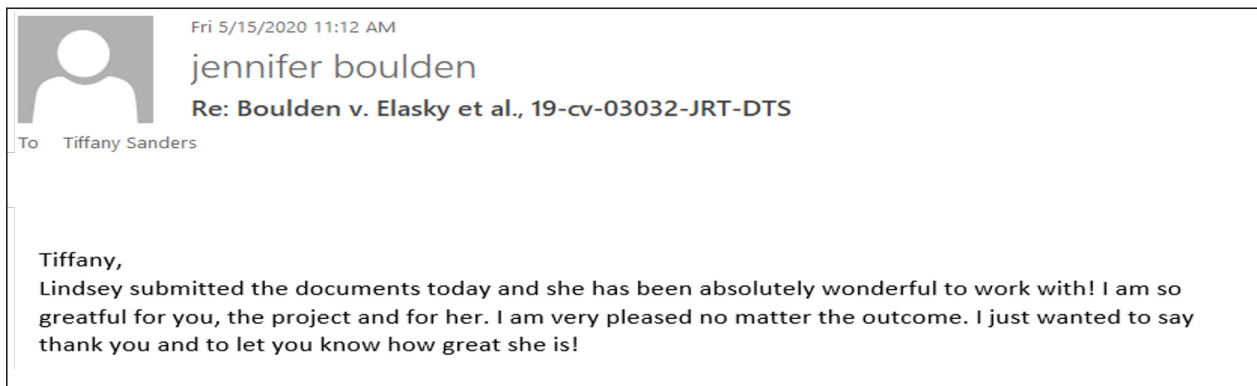
## Positive News from the *Pro Se* Project

*By Tiffany A. Sanders*

In an effort to spread much-needed positive news, I am taking a different approach in this *Pro Se* Project column and sharing feedback I have received during the pandemic from Judges, *Pro Se* Project litigants, and volunteer attorneys about their experiences with, observations of, or involvement in the *Pro Se* Project. Despite the obstacles we have all encountered during this pandemic, attorneys have graciously continued to volunteer through the *Pro Se* Project to help others and improve access to justice in our federal courts. I hope you enjoy reading about the *Pro Se* Project in their words. I anticipate you will be as thankful as I am for the tremendous work of the generous volunteer attorneys who have sustained the *Pro Se* Project during extraordinarily challenging times.

### **Boulden v. Elasky et al., 19-cv-03032-JRT-DTS**

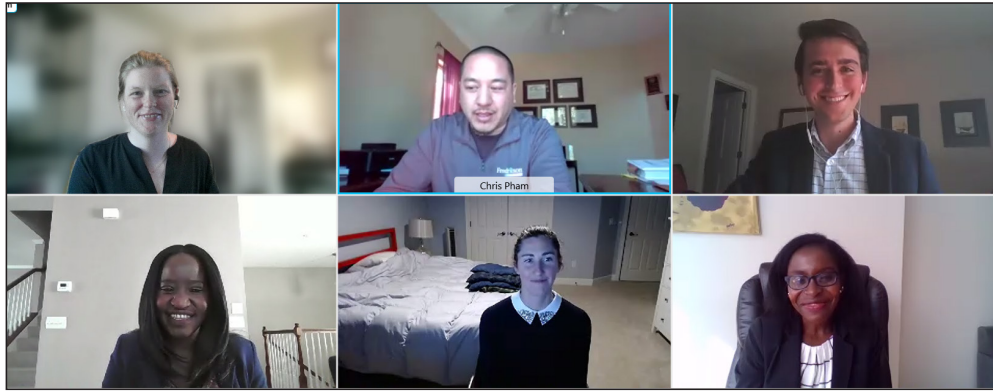
Volunteer attorney: Lindsey Krause (Nichols Kaster, PLLP)\*





## NLC Panel Discussion Gives Newer Lawyers Tools to Pursue Nonprofit Board Service

By Alyssa Leary



On May 26, 2021, the Newer Lawyers Committee (NLC) for the FBA Minnesota Chapter sponsored a panel discussion about nonprofit board service in the Twin Cities. Inspired to pursue their passions outside of or adjacent to their legal practices while serving their communities, the panelists discussed how to identify nonprofit board service opportunities and what to expect when pursuing them.

The panelists included Paige Stradley, Chris Pham, and Esther Agbaje. Paige, a partner at Merchant & Gould, serves on the board of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA). Chris, a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron, serves on the Mitchell Hamline School of Law Board of Trustees. Esther, an associate at Ciresi Conlin and a State Representative, serves on the board for Sickle Transplant Alliance Research. The event was moderated by the Newer Lawyers Committee's Drew Page, an associate at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, who was able to share anecdotes from his experience on the board of directors for Blue Water Theatre Company, where he previously spent time as an actor.

The diverse experiences of the panelists contributed to an informative discussion about the professional and personal rewards that come with serving on a board as a newer lawyer and some common pitfalls to avoid. Chris described how nonprofit board service was not only personally rewarding, but presented professional and networking opportunities that may not otherwise have been available to him. Due to his experience on several different boards, Chris was able to compare the various roles a new board member could take on.

Paige described her unique role on a legal committee for the organization she serves. While she is cognizant not to provide legal advice in this capacity, she is able to utilize her legal prowess to recommend and evaluate cases and even get her firm involved as outside counsel if needed. Esther assuaged attendees' concerns about personal financial contributions that may be required of board members and provided advice on how to tactfully approach colleagues, friends, and family members to satisfy the fundraising component that may be required by many organizations.

While each panelist shared these unique perspectives, there were common takeaways for newer lawyers. First, do not be afraid to turn down an offer for a position on a board that may not be the right fit for you. You have a busy schedule and forcing yourself into a role simply to pad your resume or be polite to those in your network would ultimately be a disservice to the nonprofit organization.

Second, ask a lot of questions before joining a board. While the organization's mission may look good on paper, you may disagree with how it is achieving its objectives. Moreover, organizations have very different expectations of their board members. For example, some require fundraising, some require active decision making and regular phone calls, and some may require neither. Recognizing those expectations before you accept a position is an important first step to being a successful board member.

Finally, the best way to get involved? Reach out. Many organizations may not be advertising openings but are willing to add individuals to their board if they are passionate about the organization's work and excited to contribute.

If you missed the event, the NLC prepared a handout to help newer lawyers think through board service opportunities; it is available [here](#) and includes more information about the panelists' board service and legal careers. ■

*Alyssa Leary is an associate at Zimmerman Reed LLP representing plaintiffs in complex litigation involving defective products, consumer fraud, and unfair competition.*



*President's Welcome, continued from page 2.*

The Chapter's success this past year would not have been possible without the incredible leadership of President Vildan Teske. Despite the many setbacks we all encountered, not once did she waver in her enthusiasm to not only keep the Chapter on track but to expand its outreach and impact. For her dedication and commitment, we are all truly grateful.

Vildan has carried on a tradition of excellence of many past leaders whom I have had the pleasure to work with over the years. I hope that I am able to sustain this level of excellence, and I feel confident that I can with the superb slate of leaders and board members that will serve with me this year. Thanks to the Chapter's Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, this year's leadership slate looks to be the most diverse to-date—and perhaps not surprisingly, also looks to be the strongest.

For new members in the Chapter, I encourage you to explore the numerous committees that present opportunities for involvement in the Chapter—many of these have been around for years, such as the Legal Education Seminar, Special Events (Dinner Dance), and Monthly Luncheons, and others have been adopted by the Chapter more recently, such as the Community Outreach (hosting events such as Court Camp) and Mentorship Committees. For those of you who have held leadership positions in the past, I ask that you continue your involvement in all the Chapter's good work. Although we are all busy with our day-to-day practices, I strongly recommend you reach out and offer your service to one of the many committees offered by the Chapter. You all are what make the Minnesota Chapter special and are the reason we perennially receive awards from National for being one the best chapters in the country.

Not only does our Chapter receive awards from the national organization, but our members play a big role there as well. The President of the National FBA this year is our own Anh Le Kremer, who will be the first Minnesota member and the first Asian American to serve in this role. We congratulate Anh on this momentous achievement and wish her the best this year as National President. In addition, former Chapter President Tara Norgard serves as Chair of National's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Tara led the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the Chapter and helped create the Chapter's Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, with major contributions from former Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chairs Judge Leung and Vildan Teske. This year we plan to apply to host a future National FBA Annual Meeting and Convention, which will further bolster our Chapter's status on the national stage.

And I ask of all members—present and former—if due to the pandemic, you have let your membership lapse or you know someone who did, please renew your membership or ask a colleague to do so.

And as a member, please consider attending the Chapter's many events, including the annual golf tournament, the Judges' Dinner Dance, the Legal Education Seminar, the monthly luncheon meetings (including those for newer lawyers), or one of the programs put on by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee or by one of the Chapter's practice groups such as Intellectual Property; White Collar Crime; or Mass Tort, MDL, and Class Actions. If you are interested in something different than brief writing, join this award-winning publication—*Bar Talk*. And of course, please consider volunteering your time to take a case with the Pro Se Project; it will help you develop your skills as a lawyer, help the Court manage its docket more efficiently, and, most importantly, help a client in need as they navigate our judicial system.

Never content to stand still, the Chapter recently partnered with the District Court to assist with the planning and funding of two Justice and Democracy Centers to be placed in the St. Paul and Minneapolis Courthouses. This public/private partnership seeks to create centers focused on civic education, specifically “to promote public understanding of the rule of law and the role of an independent judiciary in our democracy through free, accessible, and equitable educational programming, both virtual and in-person.” The Chapter is proud to stand arm in arm with the Court in this important endeavor. In addition, in another first, the Chapter is helping sponsor an Indian Law Seminar on October 15 in conjunction with National's Indian Law Section and the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association.

None of us knows what this year will bring in terms of in-person or remote events. Although we are all hopeful that things will “return to normal,” regardless of the situation, I am confident that this Chapter will continue to be the shining North Star of the Federal Bar Association.

Be well. ■

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*Dan Hedlund is the 2021–2022 President of the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He is a member at Gustafson Gluek PLLC, where he focuses his practice on antitrust and consumer protection class actions.*

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*Judge Kyle Tribute, continued from page 2.*

and sponsorship Judge Kyle would provide me for long after my clerkship ended. I also didn't know that I was about to have a lot of fun at work, both inside and outside of chambers. This fun included after-work beers in Judge's chambers (with Judge Kyle drinking Dewar's, of course), coming into work to find a chocolate muffin sitting on my desk (stolen by the Judge from the treats intended for juries), and road trips to the Duluth courthouse wherein Judge Kyle insisted on driving the team and having group dinners.

But most of all, what I didn't know was how much I would learn from a two-year clerkship that has served me throughout my career as an attorney. My fondest memories of the Judge involve me sitting in front of his desk to discuss the cases before him. I learned so much about what it meant to be a lawyer and also what good judging looked like. I will miss Judge Kyle dearly, but his legacy will live on because of the excellence he demanded from himself and everyone around him.

**Amy Gernon (2002):**

Judge Kyle taught me how to be a better human. Here are my top three lessons.

Take time to write letters. Judge Kyle was quick to write a letter of thanks or praise. I answered many calls from people thanking him for his letters, and I saw copies of his letters to others. When I finished clerking, he wrote to my parents, saying, "I know Amy is too old for a note to her parents, but . . ."

Respect other people's time. Judge Kyle was mindful of jurors' time. He insisted that attorneys argue motions outside of the time when the jury was there. He was available to the attorneys before 8 a.m., during lunch, and after the jury left for the day. Judge Kyle also disliked attorneys being late to hearings. When they would offer excuses about unpredictable traffic or other foreseen circumstances, he would ask, "Would you have allowed sufficient time if you had to catch a flight to Hawaii?"

Visit the sick and pay respect to the deceased. His law clerk Michelle told me that while she was in treatment for cancer, Judge Kyle called her weekly. When his clerk Liz Cumming was in hospice, Judge Kyle visited her nearly every day. When my dad died in 2019, Judge Kyle called until I answered.

**John Ursu (2002–2004):**

From my first day as a clerk, it was clear that I had hitched myself to a one-man rocket docket. In his courtroom, justice was never delayed or denied. It was as if he was enforcing a heretofore unknown constitutional guarantee that lawyers be on time, orders be issued in thirty days, and workdays begin at the crack of dawn. We sat through twelve trials and endless motion hearings together. Not one started late. We had so much fun.

At the end of Judge Kyle's funeral service, we clerks lined the aisle at St. Mark's Cathedral as his family carried his ashes out the door. It was impossible to think that this giant of a person could be in that little box. But of course, he wasn't. You could see him all over the faces of his family. And for us, the clerks, his way of thinking is so engrained—and we channeled him for so long—that it is impossible to know where he ends and we begin.

Judge Kyle wouldn't want me to say that he was a beautiful person and I loved him. But he was a beautiful person and I loved him. I will miss him so much.

**Marc Betinsky (2006–2017):**

I had the distinct pleasure of serving for more than eleven years as Judge Kyle's "career" law clerk. The time I worked for "Sarge" was among the best since I graduated from law school, and the memorable moments and cases—the Tom Petters criminal trial, the Chris Kyle (no relation!)/Jesse Ventura American Sniper defamation trial, and so many in between—were too many to count. But the personal moments, whether celebrating holidays together, eating lunches, having beers, or watching the Super Bowl on a small hotel TV as we prepared for trial in Duluth, were even more numerous—and more special.

Over our decade-plus tenure together, chambers took on the feel of a small law firm, and the Judge and I settled into a symbiotic relationship, a rhythm and flow as I aided his disposition of cases and he taught me something new almost every day. Indeed, each day and each case brought a new challenge and a new opportunity, and I am grateful for everything I learned, all of which has made me a better lawyer and, more importantly, a better person.

*Judge Kyle Tribute, continued from page 10.*

As we lawyers know, the world of litigation is a morass of paper, motions, trials, and deadlines, and despite outside appearances, judges are not immune from the stressful effects of the same. But Judge Kyle always managed to put that stress aside and do his job with impartiality, fairness, and, most of all, kindness. He made sure not to allow a frustrating lawyer, an overly needy pro se litigant, or even a reversal by the Eighth Circuit to infect his thinking, and he unfailingly performed his job with grace and humility, always cognizant of the awesome power he wielded simply with his pen.

As the tributes above attest, a clerk becomes something of a family member when working for a judge, and the “Kyle family” is no exception. Each of us had our own unique takeaways due to the ever-changing nature of the matters before the Court, our backgrounds and experiences when we joined chambers, and “RHK’s” own evolution as a jurist. Each of us is not only a better advocate for our clients due to our time with Judge Kyle, but also a better spouse, parent, colleague, and member of our community, wherever that might be. We will all miss the annual summer gatherings by the Judge’s pool, the occasional breakfast get-togethers, the ever-expanding size of the Kyle holiday card as more and more grandchildren were added to the family, and just the simple pleasure of receiving a birthday card or an email from the Judge, knowing that he felt all of us were indeed part of his “Kyle family.” And I know I speak for all of us in that family when I say: rest easy now, Sarge. Your race is done, and by all accounts, you won it by a mile. ■

*Anita Terry had the honor of clerking for the Hon. Richard H. Kyle from 1999–2000. She now serves as the career law clerk for the Hon. Paul A. Magnuson, a job she secured because of Judge Kyle’s recommendation.*

## NLC’s Chief Judge Luncheons for Law Students Return, with Virtual Option

*By Liz Scheibel*

After canceling last year’s iteration due to COVID-19, the Newer Lawyers Committee’s annual series of luncheons with the Chief Judge for law students returned on July 9, 16, and 23, 2021. As in years past, summer associates, clerks, and interns gathered in Chief Judge Tunheim’s courtroom at the Diana E. Murphy United States Courthouse in Minneapolis to have lunch and hear from Judge Tunheim in a more casual atmosphere than one normally finds in a courtroom. New this year was an online option for one of the sessions, allowing remote attendance—a project that would have likely seemed too difficult a couple of years ago but now felt like part of the routine. The series was attended by about 150 people in total. Not new this year was the care the Chief Judge put into giving a thorough introduction to the District of Minnesota so that students will have some familiarity with how things work when it’s time to come to court.

Chief Judge Tunheim also provided advice for newer lawyers and shared some of the many good anecdotes of life in the courtroom that he has accumulated between his time as an advocate and on the bench. Chief Judge Tunheim made particular note of the Pro Se Project—and Pro Se Project Coordinator Tiffany Sanders herself spoke at one of the sessions—as a program that allows this District to more widely open its courthouse doors to all and offers wonderful pro bono opportunities to newer lawyers. In-person attendees had the opportunity to tour the Chief Judge’s



chambers after the program, including taking in the lovely view from the outdoor terrace.

Even more so than other events, this series benefitted from the work of many: Cassandra Jacobsen, NLC Co-Chair, planned all the sessions. Karen Moldenhauer handled all of the arrangements from the Court’s end. Several NLC members volunteered their time to help host each session. The Communications Co-Chairs handled the additional needs that came with a series of events with multiple attendance options. Several others in Chief Judge Tunheim’s chambers helped things run smoothly, as did the Court Information Services staff for the remote attendees. Our partners at the various law firms, government offices, and law schools helped students find these events. And, the most important piece, Chief Judge Tunheim made his guests feel welcome and excited about their futures in this District. Thank you all! ■

*Liz Scheibel was too embarrassed to admit she had no idea why the divisions within the District of Minnesota start with the 3rd or even what the divisions meant, but now she knows, thanks to Chief Judge Tunheim’s law student luncheons. Despite her ignorance, she is term clerk to Judge Eric Tostrud and was Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright’s pandemic clerk.*



## May's Newer Lawyers Committee Luncheon Highlighted Judge Ann Montgomery

By Donna Reuter



During May's Newer Lawyers Committee luncheon, Judge Ann Montgomery treated attending lawyers to four lessons from her four decades on the bench. In addition to sharing memorable moments from her legal career, she marveled at the incredible changes she has observed since becoming a judge in the 1980s.

One of the highlights of Judge Montgomery's career has been her self-described love of talking to newer federal lawyers. Judge Montgomery stated that she is a keen judge of character and likes to read and interact with people. "I'm under no delusions that anyone would think I'm the smartest judge on the bench or the best writer. But I can read people."

This quality has served her well as she believes she has always hired the best law clerks and has the distinction of being a "truth wizard." These qualities have contributed to the following four lessons she shared with attendees.

Lesson one: brevity is underrated. Judge Montgomery explained that this applies to both briefs and oral arguments. She stressed that being succinct and stating one's position clearly are the most persuasive methods of advocacy. The best oral arguments the Judge has heard are those that use only half the time if half the time is all that is needed. "You don't have to use every page and every minute that you are allotted." The Judge has observed that the difference between an average lawyer and an exceptional lawyer is the ability to determine which arguments should be addressed in oral arguments and which should not.

On the subject of brevity and brief writing, Judge Montgomery is of the mind that good writers can write short briefs. "If I had longer I could have written a shorter brief" is true in the Judge's opinion because of the value of editing. She also told the audience that they could be reasonably certain that in the District of Minnesota the judge has read your brief. Judge Montgomery will tell the parties directly if she has not read their briefs fully.

*Judge Montgomery Luncheon, continued on page 13.*

*Pro Se Project, continued from page 7.*

### Langama v. Healthcare Services Group, Inc., 20-cv-00619-SRN-HB

Volunteer attorneys: Abou Amara and Phillip Kitzer (Teske, Katz, Kitzer & Rochel, PLLP)\*



Wed 6/17/2020 6:02 PM

Hildy Bowbeer

Langama v. Healthcare Services Group - 20-cv-619

To Tiffany Sanders (proseproject@q.com)

I'm very happy to report that we were able to get this case settled today, thanks to Abou Amara and Phillip Kitzer of the Teske Katz firm, who worked pro bono with Ms. Langama through the Pro Se Early Settlement Conference Project, and to the defendant, who was willing to agree to and engage in good faith in an early settlement conference. Abou and Phillip were wonderful with Ms. Langama, and it was clear that they worked every bit as hard to prepare and advocate effectively for Ms. Langama as if they had been regularly retained on a paid or contingent basis. (Indeed, their work is not yet over, since they'll also be reviewing the draft settlement agreement and working with Ms. Langama to secure her signature.) Thank you very much for securing their assistance for this case.

*Pro Se Project, continued on page 13.*

*Judge Montgomery Luncheon, continued from page 12.*

For the second lesson, the Judge also urged attendees to “hesitate or pause” during oral argument. Judge Montgomery stated that lawyers “don’t have to fill the air with words.” She recommended hesitating, as pulling words together is a good signal to the listener that the speaker is carefully considering her words, and judges “like to take a sip of water.” She wants the attorney to talk to her during oral argument and dislikes when lawyers read their briefs or feel like they have to read their briefs. In addition to drafting strong headings in a brief, the Judge stated that attorneys should have an over-arching theme to their presentations. The theme “doesn’t have to be clever, but it should be catchy.”

The third lesson Judge Montgomery shared is that attorneys should “over protect your reputation with the court. Your reputation is really key.” She said that it is silly to think that judges don’t talk about lawyers—from time to time they do. She urged attorneys in the audience to strive to be viewed as someone the court can trust and always be a truth-teller to the court. If the court asks you something that could cause tension with the client, just say so. Don’t be misleading because it is hard to later restore a lost reputation.

The fourth piece of advice Judge Montgomery offered was to under-promise and over-deliver. She advised attorneys to “keep expectations low and then exceed them.” She warned not to over-promise but to always over-prepare. She explained that preparation includes knowing the facts and the law, but it also includes knowing small logistical things like courtroom layout. The judge added that attorneys should always read the judge’s practice pointers, practice using the technology, and arrive early. Judge Montgomery also warned attorneys to never “take cheap shots at opposing counsel.” She assured the audience that the judge will pick up on that, and she doesn’t need anyone’s help determining who is being difficult.

Finally, the Judge offered an extra fifth lesson: be active in the Federal Bar Association as it is a great way to make connections and is a great organization. Judge Montgomery closed the luncheon by fielding questions from the audience. ■

*Donna Reuter is an associate attorney at Dorsey & Whitney LLP with a practice focusing on health care litigation and intellectual property law.*

*Pro Se Project, continued from page 12.*

### **D.S.S. v. Ramsey County et al., 19-cv-00157-DSD-HB**

Volunteer attorney: David Hashmall (Felhaber Larson)



Thu 7/2/2020 2:48 PM

**Hildy Bowbeer**

**FW: 0:19-cv-00157-DSD-HB D.S.S. v. Ramsey County et al**

To Tiffany Sanders (proseproject@q.com)

Just a quick note to let you know about another Pro Se ESCP success, this one in the DSS v. Ramsey County case in which one of your volunteers, David Hashmall, assisted the defendant, who had been denied representation by Ramsey County in connection with the incident that gave rise to the complaint. We had a settlement conference scheduled for Monday. Ramsey County settled with plaintiff, and that paved the way for Mr. Hashmall to broker a deal for Mr. Fiebiger. It’s important to remember that help for otherwise unrepresented defendants can be really important too!

Thanks, as always, for your thoughtful efforts in pairing these litigants with great volunteers.

Have a wonderful holiday weekend!

*Pro Se Project, continued on page 14.*

*Pro Se Project, continued from page 13.*

**Galloway v. Menards, 19-cv-03131-PJS-HB**

Volunteer attorney: Megan Odom (Ciresi Conlin LLP)



Tue 11/24/2020 7:26 AM

**Patrick Schiltz**

**Deseria Galloway v. Menards, Case No. 19-CV-3131 (PJS/HB)**

Dear Ms. Odom,

Judge Bowbeer emailed me last night to let me know that this case had settled and to describe the incredible work that you did – pro bono – on behalf of Ms. Galloway.

I just want to add my thanks to Judge Bowbeer's. You went "above and beyond" and not only achieved a result that was likely far better than Ms. Galloway could have achieved for herself, but helped this Court at a time when we are stretched very thin.

I am proud that you are a member of our bar. Thank you again for your service.

Patrick Schiltz

**Schwan's Company et al. v. Cai, 20-cv-02157-JRT-HB**

Volunteer attorney: Phillip W. Goter (Fish & Richardson PC)



Tue 1/5/2021 4:59 PM

**Rong Cai**

**RE: Schwan's Company et al v. Cai, 20-cv-02157-JRT-HB**

To: proseproject@q.com  
Cc: 'Phillip Goter'

Dear Ms. Sanders,

Thank you so much for your efforts in finding an attorney for me and that's great news. I have received your below email message, the attached letter of referral, and I have gotten your voice message as well. I really appreciate your time and effort. It is great news to me indeed that Mr. Goter is willing to consult with me. I am looking forward to discussing my case with Mr. Goter and I will provide updates on the status of my case.

**Shackelford v. Fed Ex Corporation, 20-cv-00683-JRT-BRT**

Volunteer attorney: Elizabeth Fors (Robins Kaplan LLP)



Fri 1/29/2021 6:24 AM

**Becky Thorson**

**Settlement in Shackelford v. Fed Ex 20-683**

To: John Tunheim; proseproject@q.com

Hi Chief Judge Tunheim and Tiffany,

I held a settlement conference in this pro se case yesterday. Plaintiff was represented by Elizabeth Fors at Robins through the Pro Se Project. It settled on confidential terms.

Tiffany, thanks for connecting Mr. Shackelford with counsel. Ms. Fors did an excellent job.

Thank you! Have a good weekend.



*Pro Se Project, continued from page 14.*

**Sorenson et al. v. Sorenson, 20-cv-02121-MJD-DTS**

Volunteer attorneys: Adine Momoh and Kelly Maxwell (Stinson LLP)

February 25, 2021 voicemail message: "Hi Tiffany, this is Eric Sorenson. We talked to Adine Momoh yesterday and they are taking our case and representing us. So, an incredible ton of thank yous for getting that sorted. So, yea, we are represented by Adine at this point. Thought I'd let you know. Thank you much. Bye."

**Briesemeister v. Johnston et al., 19-cv-00297-ECT-KMM**

Volunteer attorneys: Charles Nauen and Stephen Owen (Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP)

Timothy Briesemeister  
1111 Hwy 73  
Moose Lake MN 55767

February 27, 2021

Tiffany A. Sanders, Esq.  
Coordinator, *Pro Se* Project  
Federal Bar Association  
P.O. Box 24378  
Minneapolis MN 55424

**Re: Briesemeister v. Johnston et al., 19-cv-00297-ECT/KMM**

Dear Ms. Sanders,

I am pleased to be able to write to you that Charles Nauen and Steve Owen of the Lockridge Grindal Nauen, P.L.L.P. law firm have agreed to take my case, as confirmed by Mr. Owen in a phone conference yesterday, Feb. 26.

I am informing you of their decision as you asked in your letter to me of January 27, 2021, so that you could inform the court, though I suspect that Mr. Owen or Mr. Nauen have already done so.

In any event, I am very grateful for your assistance in helping me acquire legal representation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Tim Briesemeister*

Tim Briesemeister

**Unum Life Insurance Company of America v. Larson et al., 19-cv-01163-DSD-KMM**

Volunteer attorneys: Stephen Lucke and Eric Weisenburger (Dorsey & Whitney LLP)



Wed 5/12/2021 11:37 AM

weisenburger.eric@dorsey.com

Unum Life Insurance Company of America v. Larson et al., 19-cv-01163

To proseproject@q.com

Cc Lucke.Steve@dorsey.com

Hi Tiffany,

I hope you're doing well. Steve Lucke and I wanted to give you the update on the Unum v. Larson matter that we received from you about a year ago—we resolved the case with a positive result for Beth's son and Rhianna. Thank you for your hard work in organizing projects like these, and I look forward to working with you again in the future.

*Pro Se Project, continued from page 15.*

\* Law firms are listed according to where the volunteer attorneys worked at the time of accepting the *Pro Se Project* cases. Lindsey Krause is now with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. Abou Amara is now with Gustafson Gluek PLLC. Phillip Kitzer is now with Kitzer Rochel, PLLP.

Pro bono legal assistance makes a difference for individuals who would otherwise not have access to legal advice. If there were ever a time we needed lawyers to fulfill their pro bono publico obligation, it is now. Thank you to all the generous attorneys who volunteered through the *Pro Se Project* in 2020 and so far in 2021—despite the pandemic.

<b>Abou B. Amara, Jr.</b>	<b>Katherine A. Herman</b>	<b>Megan L. Odom</b>
<b>Stephanie M. Balmer</b>	<b>Joseph Herriges</b>	<b>Edward C. Olson</b>
<b>Jerri C. Adams Belcher</b>	<b>Erin L. Hoffman</b>	<b>Stephen M. Owen</b>
<b>Beth E. Bertelson</b>	<b>Christian V. Hokans</b>	<b>Colin J. Pasterski</b>
<b>Amy E. Boyl</b>	<b>Jake M. Holdreith</b>	<b>Russell S. Ponessa</b>
<b>Jonathan M. Bye</b>	<b>Cassandra Jacobsen</b>	<b>Christopher Proczko</b>
<b>Karl L. Cambronne</b>	<b>Kelly A. Jeanetta</b>	<b>Brian T. Rochel</b>
<b>Daniel J. Cragg</b>	<b>Christopher Johnson</b>	<b>Anne Rondoni Tavernier</b>
<b>Joseph T. Dixon, III</b>	<b>Erick G. Kaardal</b>	<b>Paul M. Shapiro</b>
<b>Peter Doely</b>	<b>Seung Sub Kim</b>	<b>Austin J. Spillane</b>
<b>Andrew S. Dosdall</b>	<b>Phillip M. Kitzer</b>	<b>Richard E. Student</b>
<b>Robert T. Dube, Jr.</b>	<b>Lindsey Krause</b>	<b>Keiko L. Sugisaka</b>
<b>Donald C. Erickson</b>	<b>Zorislav R. Leyderman</b>	<b>Anju Suresh</b>
<b>J.D. Feriancek</b>	<b>Rick Linsk</b>	<b>Eliot T. Tracz</b>
<b>Fay Fishman</b>	<b>Stephen P. Lucke</b>	<b>Zane Umsted</b>
<b>Scott M. Flaherty</b>	<b>Katherine L. MacKinnon</b>	<b>Ryan Vettleson</b>
<b>Elizabeth Flanagan</b>	<b>Kelly Maxwell</b>	<b>Peter H. Walsh</b>
<b>Elizabeth M. Fors</b>	<b>Leaf Dilts McGregor</b>	<b>Shawn J. Wanta</b>
<b>R. Mark Frey</b>	<b>Adine S. Momoh</b>	<b>Chuck Webber</b>
<b>Lora Friedemann</b>	<b>Scott A. Moriarity</b>	<b>Gerald S. Weinrich</b>
<b>Timothy L. Garvey</b>	<b>Ann Motl</b>	<b>Eric Weisenburger</b>
<b>Heather M. Gilbert</b>	<b>Todd Murray</b>	<b>Thomas Wheeler</b>
<b>David A. Goodwin</b>	<b>Charles N. Nauen</b>	<b>David L. Wilson</b>
<b>Phillip F. Goter</b>	<b>Mary M. Nikolai</b>	<b>Thomas Witt</b>
<b>Margaret M. Grathwol</b>	<b>Tara C. Norgard</b>	<b>John C.R. Wittmer</b>
<b>Daniel E. Gustafson</b>	<b>Edgar R. Ocampo</b>	

*For more information on the Pro Se Project or to volunteer, contact Tiffany Sanders at [proseproject@q.com](mailto:proseproject@q.com) or 612.965.3711.*

## Opportunities for Involvement in the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Interested in getting involved in the Minnesota Chapter of the FBA?

A full list of committees and initiatives is available on the Chapter's [website](#), and all groups welcome members who wish to get involved, so feel free to reach out to the respective contacts with questions.

The following committees are currently actively seeking new members or volunteers for their initiatives and therefore offer especially good opportunities for Minnesota FBA involvement.

**Bar Talk Newsletter Committee:** Bar Talk seeks new Committee members to: proofread Bar Talk just before publication 4 times a year; write 1-2 articles per year (topic, length, and deadline determined with your input - no unwanted, surprise assignments); and help the Editors brainstorm ideas for articles, authors, and changes to Bar Talk, as needed. Committee meetings 0-2 times per year. This is a fairly low time commitment where you work with nice nerds and have an opportunity to get your name in front of your FBA colleagues. No Bluebooking skills required! Contact the Bar Talk Co-Chairs/Editors: Kelly Fermoye ([kelly.fermoye@faegredrinker.com](mailto:kelly.fermoye@faegredrinker.com)), Megan Odom ([MLO@ciresiconlin.com](mailto:MLO@ciresiconlin.com)), and Liz Scheibel ([emcavert@gmail.com](mailto:emcavert@gmail.com)).

**Class Action, Mass Tort, and Multidistrict Litigation Practice Group:** The Class Action, Mass Tort, and Multidistrict Litigation Practice Group welcomes new members! The Committee has worked to develop programming that is of interest to members of the federal bench and bar who are involved in complex litigation. We welcome attorneys of all experience levels, practice areas, practice settings, and on both sides of the “v.” Judge Becky Thorson, Rory Collins, and Stacey Slaughter co-chair the Committee. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Stacey ([sslaughter@robinskaplan.com](mailto:sslaughter@robinskaplan.com)) and Rory ([rory.collins@faegredrinker.com](mailto:rory.collins@faegredrinker.com)).

**Golf Tournament Committee:** The Chapter's Annual Golf Tournament and Social Event is a long-standing annual tradition that brings together members of the bench and bar in a late August celebration filled with friendly competition and camaraderie. To get involved with planning, sponsorship, registration, or tournament logistics, please contact Co-Chairs Pete McElligott ([pmcelligott@anthonyostlund.com](mailto:pmcelligott@anthonyostlund.com)) and Danielle Mair ([Danielle\\_Mair@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Danielle_Mair@mnd.uscourts.gov)).

**Mentorship Committee:** The Mentorship Committee is seeking volunteers to join the Committee or to serve as mentors for law students and high school students interested in the legal profession. Mentors may also, but need not, join the Committee. Please contact co-chairs Kristen Marttila ([kgmarttila@locklaw.com](mailto:kgmarttila@locklaw.com)) and Chelsea Walcker ([chelsea.walcker@usdoj.gov](mailto:chelsea.walcker@usdoj.gov)) with questions or to volunteer.

**Newer Lawyers Committee:** The NLC seeks new members. Some members come and go every year: not-so-new lawyers move on while new lawyers join the profession. The NLC is the perfect introduction to FBA activities and bar association involvement. Committee members can take more active, visible, or time-consuming roles (e.g., speaking at events, directly working with more experienced attorneys and judges) or take smaller, behind-the-scenes roles, as they prefer. This is an active Committee where everyone can meaningfully contribute. You decide if you are a “newer” lawyer; there is no rule about who can be a member. Contact Co-Chairs Bernadette Senyana ([bsenyana@bestlaw.com](mailto:bsenyana@bestlaw.com)) and Liz Scheibel ([emcavert@gmail.com](mailto:emcavert@gmail.com)) with questions or to join. Not-so-new lawyers: consider referring a colleague to us.

These committees need you! Contact them and get to work!



## Upcoming Events:

**September 23-25, 2021**  
*FBA Annual Meeting*

**October 13, 2021**  
*Monthly Luncheon*

**October 15, 2021**  
*Indian Law 2021  
Conference*

**October 27-29, 2021**  
*Eighth Circuit Judicial  
Conference*

**November 10, 2021**  
*Monthly Luncheon*

**November 18, 2021**  
*FBA Federal Practice  
Seminar*

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*Editors-in-Chief*

**Kelly J. Fermoye**  
**Elizabeth M.C. Scheibel**

**Megan L. Odom**

*Editor*

**Gerri Rishel**

*Bar Talk* is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, published quarterly by the *Bar Talk* Committee. For any inquiries or article suggestions, please contact **Kelly Fermoye** ([kelly.fermoye@faegredrinker.com](mailto:kelly.fermoye@faegredrinker.com)), Elizabeth Scheibel ([emcavert@gmail.com](mailto:emcavert@gmail.com)), or Megan Odom ([MLO@ciresiconlin.com](mailto:MLO@ciresiconlin.com)).

A special thank you to **Gerri Rishel**, Courtroom Deputy to Senior United States District Judge Michael J. Davis, for her proofreading expertise, and to Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, for formatting this issue.

*Want to get involved in the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association? Visit <http://www.fedbar.org/Chapters/Minnesota-Chapter/Chapter-Initiatives.aspx> for a full list of committees and information about how to get involved.*

## Online Registration:

The Minnesota Chapter of the FBA utilizes an online registration system for the monthly Minneapolis Club luncheons. A registration link will be sent to you via e-mail for each luncheon. One feature of the system is the automatic calendar entry; just click "Add to Calendar" from the registration system or your confirmation e-mail. Registration coordinators have the option to register multiple attendees in a single registration.



**Federal Bar  
Association**  
Minnesota Chapter