

one  
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focus

*Over*

1000

years of client service



Southern Minnesota Regional  
**LEGAL SERVICES**  
Founded 1909



CEO Jessie R. Nicholson, Esq.



Board President J. Scott Braden, Esq.

“To provide a full range of high quality legal services to low-income persons and eligible client groups in civil matters, in a respectful manner which enables clients to:

- Enforce their legal rights;
- Obtain effective access to the courts, administrative agencies and forums which constitute our system of justice;
- Maintain freedom from hunger, homelessness, sickness and abuse;
- Empower persons and assure equal opportunity, thus, helping people to help themselves and become economically self-reliant, to the extent their individual abilities and circumstances permit.

SMRLS, through a diverse, respectful and fair working environment, and legal assistance and community education activities, shall promote and respect the dignity of low-income persons and shall seek new and effective solutions to the critical and common legal problems of low-income persons which arise in a broad community context.”



Dear Friends,

SMRLS continues to successfully serve the low-income and elderly community throughout 33 southern Minnesota counties despite funding challenges and the constant increasing number of eligible clients. SMRLS' innovative rural hotline intake system, community lawyering partnerships with 3M, the Mayo Foundation and law firms such as Briggs and Morgan have allowed it to leverage its limited resources and provide high quality and client centered legal services.



Current programs include American Indian Branch Office, Community Legal Education, Education Law Advocacy Project, Family Law Unit, Government Benefits Law Unit, Housing Equality Law Project, Housing Unit, Immigration and Naturalization Project, Migrant Legal Services, Pro Bono Involvement, Project Hope, and Senior Law Project.

SMRLS' dedicated and highly experienced group of 50+ lawyers, 15+ paralegals and 20+ administrative staff, together with hundreds of volunteer private lawyers carry out its daily mission to respectfully enable eligible clients to enforce their legal rights, access the Courts, maintain freedom from hunger, homelessness, sickness and abuse and ensure equal opportunity.

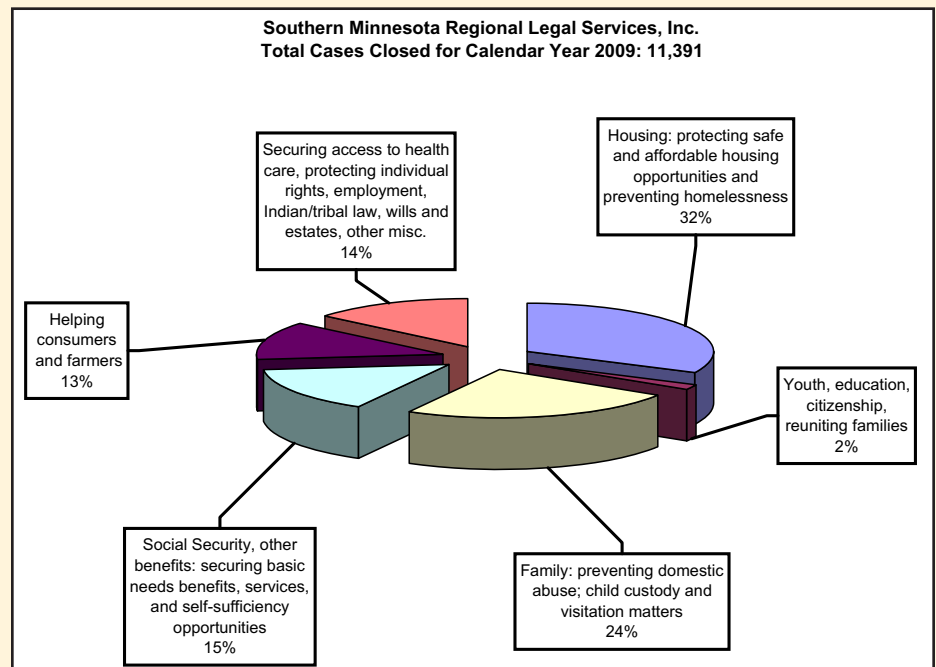
In the past year, SMRLS staff and volunteer lawyers represented more than 11,000 individual clients in family law, housing, public benefits, housing and immigration matters. 20,000 more clients participated in focused community education events on topics such as predatory lending practices and preventative law workshops including Senior Fairs and Will Clinics.

SMRLS, in partnership with its stakeholders, continues to annually evaluate and reinvent itself through its Future's Committee process. SMRLS is committed to focusing its resources, identifying emerging legal issues and prioritizing critical legal needs.

On behalf of SMRLS' CEO, Board of Directors and Officers, I thank you for your generous contributions of time, talent and treasure, which are vital to providing equal justice in the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Scott Braden'.

J. Scott Braden, Esq.  
SMRLS Board President



## 2009 Centennial Gala Luncheon



Katie Kirsch; Abby Kirsch; Steve Kirsch, Murnane Brandt; Brian Kirsch; Amy Sayad; Ismail Sayad; Ruth Kirsch and Steve's grandson, Riley, front

What an amazing finale to **SMRLS' Centennial Year!** The year culminated with the Gala Luncheon Celebration on November 24, 2009 with over 500 guests in attendance. There were many celebratory aspects of this final event of the year, including a special performance during the reception by **"La Musica Ipsa Loquitur"** (a group of three attorneys, one of which was SMRLS former board member Sally Scoggin), the announcement of SMRLS newly formed Alumni Association by co-chair **Hon. Natalie Hudson**, MN Court of Appeals, the debut of SMRLS "Celebrating the Past" video featuring SMRLS current/former staff and many equal justice partners; and the wonderful recognition of two of **SMRLS 25 year attorneys, Kathy Eveslage and Paul Mundt.**

The keynote speaker **Ted Shaw**, former Director-Counsel and President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, was introduced by **Chief Judge Michael Davis**, US District Court and spoke about SMRLS' long record of anti-racism work.

The celebration was highlighted by the **surprise announcement that longtime SMRLS supporter Steven J. Kirsch (Murnane Brandt) was the recipient of the Centennial Lifetime Leadership Award.** Steve has been the chair of SMRLS **Campaign for Legal Aid (CLA)** since 1994. **Under Steve's leadership, the CLA has raised over \$7 million for SMRLS.** Steve's children and grandson, unbeknownst to him, flew in as a surprise and presented him with the much deserved award.

Thank you to all of the table sponsors, which included representation by all four Minnesota law schools. We offer special thanks to the Fulbright & Jaworski law firm for underwriting the keynote speaker's expenses and to Ruth Kirsch and Bruce Beneke for the production of SMRLS "Celebrating the Past" video.

We at SMRLS are deeply grateful for all of our support. Without you, we would not be nearly as effective as we have been in providing quality civil legal services to the disadvantaged. We look forward to partnering with you into SMRLS' next century as we continue to provide the poor with meaningful access to Minnesota's civil justice system.



Chief Judge Michael Davis, US District Court; Jessie R. Nicholson, SMRLS CEO; Kathie Battle Sayles, SMRLS Campaign for Legal Aid Manager and Ted Shaw, Of Counsel, Fulbright & Jaworski

## 2009 Luncheon



Chris Messerly, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi; Sue Holden, Sieben, Grose, Von Holtum & Carey; and Michael Tewksbury, Tewksbury & Kerfeld



Hon. Barry Andersen, Minnesota Supreme Court; Joe Thiels, University of Minnesota Law School; Pat Brummer, SMRLS VAP Coordinator; Mark Bohnhorst, University of Minnesota General Counsel's Office



Gary Hird, SMRLS COO; Alexandra Hennekens and Cheryl Dalby, Executive Director, Ramsey County Bar Association



Ellen Sampson, Leonard, Street and Deinard; Barb D'Aquila, Fulbright & Jaworski; former Chief Justice Eric Magnuson; Briggs and Morgan; and Hon. James Rosenbaum, U.S. District Court



Bill Jepsen, Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben; Justice Esther Tomljanovich (Ret.); and Hon. David Higgs, Ramsey County District Court (and former SMRLS board member)

## 2009 Social Justice Uncorked

The **2nd Annual Social Justice Uncorked** event, once again, proved to be a smashing success. **The event generated over \$100,000.00 for SMRLS' low-income client community.** The evening opened with a silent auction and an opportunity to taste exquisite wines from Argentina and California and socialize with Minnesota's top corporate and firm leadership. **Honorary Chair, Michael Ciresi, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi** was on hand to welcome the evening's firm and corporate guests at the beginning of the live auction. The live auction featured many wonderful experiences and opportunities for bidding, including a private lunch or dinner with **General Mills' General Counsel, Rick Palmore** and **Medtronic's General Counsel, D. Cameron Findlay.**



Wheelock Whitney; Hon. Kathleen Blatz (Ret.); and Mike Ciresi, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi



However, it was the spectacular display of the 100 distinctive bottles that made up the Wall of Wine that stole the show by capturing \$8,000.00. There were many contributors towards the Wall of Wine, however, special recognition to the individual attorneys from **Briggs and Morgan** for contributing over \$400.00 towards the wall and individual attorneys from **Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon & Vogt** for contributing over \$700.00 towards the Wall of Wine. The thrill of the live auction was a perfect setting to debut the **"Rise to the Moment"** video featuring **National Civil Rights Leader Vernon Jordan**, who spoke of the spirit of volunteerism and personally congratulated SMRLS on **100 Years of Quality Client Service.** The evening ended with the smooth sounds of jazz while guests danced the evening away.



Steve Kirsch, Murnane Brandt; Mike Ciresi, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi; Mike Sieben, Sieben Polk; Gretchen Sieben; Kari Dusich; Bernie Dusich, Sieben Polk



Kathie Battle Sayles, SMRLS Campaign for Legal Aid Manager; John Eisberg and Tom Kayser, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi



Gail Olson, MN State Colleges & Universities (SMRLS Board); and Steve Hopkins, Henson & Efron



Dr. Gabriel Ejebe, Cargill; Lilian Ejebe, SMRLS ELAP Supervising Attorney; Maria Luisa Giese, SMRLS Admin Office; and Juanita Hernandez, SMRLS Central Office



Dorcas Michaelson; Jessie Nicholson, SMRLS CEO; and Michelle Miller, Medtronic Vice President/Senior Counsel



Cheryl Beaumier and Steve Wolfe, SMRLS Senior Leadership Attorney

## 2009 Metro Senior Legal Fair



Former Chief Justice Eric Magnuson, Briggs and Morgan; Jessie Nicholson; Hon. Michael Fahey, First Judicial District; and Dean Eric Janus, William Mitchell College of Law

The 2009 Metro Senior Legal Fair was an undeniable success! On September 17, 2009, SMRLS welcomed 325 seniors to the 3rd Annual Senior Legal Fair at the St. Paul RiverCentre. This year SMRLS partnered with William Mitchell College of Law. Through this special partnership, William Mitchell recruited volunteer attorneys to present on healthcare directives to members of the non-English community and presented on a new topic, Top Ten Legal Issues for You or Your Aging Parents.



Tom Zera, SMRLS Senior Legal Fair Project Lead and Gladys Brewton, Senior Coordinator, Jolly Seniors

At the Legal Fair, seniors were able to attend community education trainings on a variety of topics affecting seniors today, receive one to one advice from an attorney, pick up giveaways from over 10 vendors, and receive free flu shots as well as diabetes screening. For those non-English speaking seniors, SMRLS was able to provide Hmong, Vietnamese, Russian, Spanish and Somali interpreters for community education sessions. SMRLS made connections with new community organizations and welcomed two new non-English speaking groups.

On behalf of Jessie Nicholson, SMRLS Chief Executive Officer, and the entire Implementation Team (Bruce Beneke, Andrea Jepsen, Larry Nicol, Kathie Battle Sayles and Steve Wolfe), we want to say a special thank you to all the volunteer attorneys who were kind enough to take time out of their busy schedules to join us. Special thanks to former **Chief Justice Magnuson, U.S. District Court Judge Donovan Frank and UCare General Counsel Mark Traynor** for sharing their wonderful comments and greeting



Hon. Donovan Frank, US District Court; and Mark Traynor, UCare General Counsel



Seniors at registration

senior participants. We are extremely grateful for the support of UCare and deeply appreciate the efforts of Dorsey & Whitney and UnitedHealth Group in another successful Wills Clinic. Thank you to everyone who made the Senior Legal Fair a triumph!

## 2010 Lawyers on Ice



The 2010 Lawyers on Ice hockey event, an annual event held since 2002, was once again held at the Xcel Energy Center. We had four teams made up of over sixty hockey players and each team played two games. The hockey players participating were lawyers, law students, clerks and friends of SMRLS. The games were exciting once again as Team #1, sponsored by **Robins Kaplan/Western National Insurance**, beat Team #4 sponsored by **Flynn, Gaskins & Bennett/Larson • King** in the championship game and Team #2, sponsored by **Meagher Geer/Provo-Petersen**

• **O'Neill** beat Team #3, sponsored by **Fulbright & Jaworski/Murnane Brandt** in the third place game in an overtime shootout.

**Briggs and Morgan, US Bank** and many others provided in-kind contributions to the event. At the top of the list were **Jack Larson, Susan Hubbard and Travis Larson of the St. Paul Arena Company** in arranging and providing the Xcel Energy Center, **Chris Messerly and Patrick O'Neill** in announcing the games, **Dan Kovarik and Dustin Martin** for refereeing the games and **Jim Battocletti and Levy Restaurant** for providing the pasta bar. ~ *Michael O'Neill, Event Chair*



John O'Neill; Mike O'Neill (Lawyers on Ice founder); Joseph O'Neill; Kevin O'Neill; and Joe O'Neill

2010... looking forward

2010 Sponsors



*Save the Date!*

100 Years  
Southern Minnesota Regional  
LEGAL SERVICES

Friday  
October 8, 2010  
Graves 601 Hotel  
6:30 - 10 p.m.

Sponsors:  
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Briggs and Morgan, Medtronic,  
Mairs and Power, Inc. Robins,  
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Get last minute updates on our [new blog!](#)

Honorary Chair  
Michael V. Ciresi, Esq.  
Partner, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi

Live Music

Social Justice  
**UNCORKED!**  
The Premiere Corporate Fund-raiser  
for the Campaign for Legal Aid

Auction

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ROBINS, KAPLAN, MILLER & CIRESI



Live Auction Items

**3M**  
Marschall Smith  
Senior VP, Legal Affairs  
& General Counsel

Marschall Smith Farm Tour & Dinner

 Six guests will enjoy the scenery and wildlife on Marschall's farm near Scandia, MN. Socialize in the library over wine and cheese, toss the ball with the dogs and take a walk through the hay field. The visit concludes with a drive to Scandia for dinner with the locals at Meister's Bar and Grill.

This all-expense-paid trip includes one dozen duck eggs and one dozen brown chicken eggs. Date is negotiable.

3M Innovation Center Tour

 Tour the 3M Headquarters, then see the latest in scientific advances at the 3M Innovation Center. After your tour, enjoy a private lunch with 3M's Executive Vice President, Research and Development & Chief Technology Officer and learn how 3M is driving Innovation. This is a great chance to entertain important clients or just have a great afternoon with friends. Could be a lunch or late afternoon event (with wine and cheese instead of a meal). Date negotiable, up to 8 people maximum.

**Fred Palensky**  
Executive Vice President,  
Research and Development &  
Chief Technology Officer

2010... looking forward

# Campaign for Legal Aid Annual Luncheon

Tuesday, November 23, 2010  
Informal Reception 11:00 a.m.  
Luncheon Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Great River Ballroom  
Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul

\$35 per person

\$450 for reserved table of 10

For more information call 651-228-9823  
or email [cla@smrls.org](mailto:cla@smrls.org)

## Keynote Speaker

Gene R. Nichol, Professor of Law and Director of the  
Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity  
University of North Carolina



*Prof. Gene Nichol*

21st Century Award Recipient Former Chief Justice Eric Magnuson  
Lifetime Leadership Award Recipient Thomas Boardman, Esq.  
Equal Justice Service Award Recipient Winston Hewett



*Former Chief Justice  
Eric Magnuson,  
Briggs and Morgan*



*Thomas A. Boardman, Esq.  
Barnes & Thornburg*



*Winston Hewett, former  
Director of Corporate  
Communications, Opus  
Corporation*

# Unique Giving Ideas

The Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi Law Firm created and has promoted the Attorney of Color Retreat/Meeting since 2003. Robins' attorneys of color nationwide flew in to participate in this annual event. This was the first year that the retreat culminated in a "Pro Bono Partner Bowling Tournament" held in downtown Minneapolis on Friday, October 23, 2009. The following nonprofits were invited to participate: SMRLS, Advocates for Human Rights, Children's Law Center, Legal Rights Center and Neighborhood Justice Center. There were a total of 5 teams, with each team representing one of the nonprofits. The team with the highest average score would receive \$2,000 for their designated nonprofit.



Robins attorneys along with Kathie Battle Sayles (left) and son Trenten as well as Andrea Jepsen (far right) with daughter Miriam.

SMRLS' Board Member Tom Hatch as well as Robins attorneys of color from Minneapolis, Boston and Los Angeles offices, SMRLS East Metro VAP Coordinator Andrea Jepsen and Kathie Battle Sayles were a part of the winning team. At left is a representative picture of the evening and the enormous fun that everyone had all in the interest of promoting diversity, inclusion and equal justice!

Thank you to the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi firm and all of the firm attorneys for their participation. A special thank you to Robins attorney Autumn Nelson for coordinating this event as well as Andrea Jepsen for serving as SMRLS' point of contact and participation in the bowling tournament.

On December 13, 2009, Unity Church - Unitarian collected half of its Sunday offering on behalf of SMRLS, which received over \$1,500.00.

On August 11, 2010, SMRLS RIMS (Fargo) Paralegal Arabella Demeterio designated her honorarium from the Victim Assistance Academy for North Dakota (VAAND) to SMRLS.



On June 13, 2010, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Mankato collected \$390 on behalf of SMRLS.

## “Clients are the reason SMRLS exists”

excerpt from SMRLS Guiding Principles

### CLA Committee Member Stephen Safranski Assists in Naturalization Case

Mr. Tong Her, a refugee from Laos, came to the U.S. with his family in 1979. Mr. Her applied for U.S. citizenship on his own in 2000, but his application was denied, which was why he asked SMRLS for help. SMRLS attorney Lou Her filed his naturalization application in September 2007 and he was interviewed by Immigration in May 2008. One year after he was interviewed, he still had not received an approval notice from Immigration. In July 2009, SMRLS volunteer attorneys from 3M (Carol Peterson, not pictured) and Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P. filed a petition for judicial review of Mr. Her's application with the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. Mr. Her's naturalization application was finally approved in early 2010. Mr. Her was thrilled to finally become a U.S. citizen on February 25, 2010.



Stephen P. Safranski,  
Robins firm, Tong Her and  
Laura Provinzino, Robins  
Firm

*Kathy Eveslage*

Dear Ms. Kathleen: *Senior Law Project Staff Attorney*

*I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with me and handling my case.*

*You made me feel very comfortable and you gave me some hope when everything else looked so bleak.*

*With your expertise and dedication, I am now able to have health insurance and will be able to obtain the necessary care I need.*

*Thank you for all your help.*

*~ SMRLS Client Feedback*

*Paul Onkka*

*Shakopee Office Senior Attorney*

Dear Paul,

*I want to thank you for your hard work in helping me with my unemployment situation. I finally got it resolved -- two weeks ago -- and received the entire back payment amount, back to May. So that was timely and wonderful to be able to celebrate Christmas.*

*I want you to know how much I appreciate people like you who offer your services to help people like me who could not afford to hire an attorney. I consider people like you to be angels on Earth and I thank God for you.*

*May you have many blessings in the New Year. My best wishes to you and your family.*

*~ SMRLS Client Feedback*



Roger Hatch contacted SMRLS' Rochester office requesting assistance regarding his pending eviction from subsidized housing. Mr. Hatch is 65 years old and has multiple health issues including recently diagnosed cancer. His only income is Supplemental Security

Income (SSI).

SMRLS requested an informal grievance review to discuss the termination and the opportunity to review his tenant file. After further review, it was discovered that Mr. Hatch had several legal issues, including public benefits, that affected his housing: loss of electricity, loss of Medical Assistance (MA), loss of PCA services and daily meal delivery along with significant outstanding rental repairs. Mr. Hatch, for approximately three months, was without electricity and spent the majority of his time sitting in the dark. SMRLS contacted the local Community Action Program (CAP) and assisted Mr. Hatch in completing his application. CAP was able to pay his entire balance and get him set up for ongoing Energy Assistance. Further, Mr. Hatch had been without medical treatment for his multiple health issues, including cancer, for several months. SMRLS assisted Mr. Hatch in submitting a new application for medical assistance, for which he again qualified, and is now receiving the critical treatment for his cancer.

Once Mr. Hatch's MA was restored, he began receiving PCA services along with daily meal service. SMRLS assisted Mr. Hatch in sending a 14-day repair letter to his landlord for the repairs that were necessary due to a leaking toilet. The Management replaced the carpet in the apartment and the linoleum in the bathroom and kitchen. They also installed a new toilet and air conditioner. Mr. Hatch remains very appreciative of the legal services he received from former SMRLS staff attorney Chuck Brumbach and Paralegal Mary Vrieze.

## SMRLS CEO Jessie R. Nicholson Receives Hachey Award



Named for the prominent Minnesota personal injury lawyer who died in 1988, the DeParcq dinner honors William Mitchell alumni and friends who have generously contributed to the college. DeParcq was a founder of Minnesota's Courage Foundation (now known as Courage Center), a state representative, member of the Minnesota Judicial Council, and dean of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and made one of the largest gifts in the history of the law school.

Jessie R. Nicholson received the Honorable Ronald E. Hachey Outstanding Alumni Award on September 30, 2009. Established in 1981 in honor of the late Mitchell board chairman, professor, director of alumni affairs and dedicated Mitchell supporter. The award signifies the college's highest individual alumni honor and recognizes exemplary professional accomplishment plus demonstrated commitment to the school, including significant involvement with programs and services in support of students and/or alumni, dedicated service on the board of trustees and/or the alumni association or noted participation as a member of the faculty or staff.

## SMRLS Board Member Matt Benda Featured on Airport Television

By Sarah Stultz | Albert Lea Tribune



Albert Lea lawyer Matt Benda was recognized nationally on airport television in the busiest airports across America throughout the month of November 2009.

Selected by "America's Premier Lawyer" for the national recognition, Benda was also being featured on American Airlines Radio, which airs on more than 40,000 American Airlines flights.

Benda, a southern Minnesota native, is a lawyer with Peterson, Savelkoul & Benda in Albert Lea. He graduated in 1996 from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa, and from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in 1992.

According to a press release, lawyers are selected for the recognition through a nationwide search utilizing peer review organizations, independent research and interviews with top leaders in their fields.

Benda said he received an inquiry from the group, out of California, letting him know that the opportunity was available to him. At first he was somewhat skeptical, but decided to keep an open mind.

"This series gave me the opportunity to promote my profession and my community at a national level," he said. "I think they were looking for someone from the Midwest to profile the profession outside of a big city atmosphere."

His interviews focused on his role as an advocate for his community and his clients.

He said he completed the TV segment at the end of July 2009 when a videographer came to town and filmed him at the Freeborn County Courthouse, and the radio interview was done in mid-August.

The television segment was shown as part of the feed shown on televisions at the airports, as part of the CNN Airport Network. Passengers have the option of listening to the radio interview while on flight.

"I like to think of myself as a community advocate," Benda said in the television segment. "Whether it's the Albert Lea community, the farm community or the business community, my role is to bring different talents together to elevate their objectives. It's important to be more than a lawyer. To best serve your client, you have to be immersed with them in their community."

He said he looked at the recognition as an opportunity to put a positive face on his profession, and to also promote Albert Lea and the small town way of life.

"I found that when working with farmers and businesses and families, it's important to be more than just a lawyer," he said in the television segment. "I immerse myself in the community. I learn their problems and I help them find not just a solution, but the best solution." *Reprinted with permission by the Albert Lea Tribune*

## Recognition



The Minnesota Marine Art Museum in Winona opened July 27, 2006 by long-time SMRLS supporters Bob Kierlin and Mary Burrichter featuring three major art collections, making it a regional and national attraction. On loan to the Museum, the Burrichter/Kierlin Marine Art Collection features oil paintings, watercolors and three-dimensional objects from a variety of countries and periods which were created by many of the world's most important marine artists. The Leo Smith Folk Art Collection consists of distinctive wood carved and hand painted sculptures that capture the spirit of small town river life. These whimsical, colorful sculptures represent and celebrate the flora, fauna and folklore of the upper Mississippi River region. Finally, the Museum's permanent collection features historic marine art,

artifacts and objects ranging from items such as personal letters from Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson to his wife to large stained glass window displayed in the Museum's atrium.

On May 1, 2009 the museum opened a new expansion gallery and educational room. The new gallery features Impressionism and Hudson River school works from Renoir, Monet, Pissarro, Homer, Sisley, Cole, Bierstadt, Buttersworth, Silva, and includes one of Vincent van Gogh's first oil paintings.

### CLA Committee Member John Degnan Named Attorney of the Year



Briggs and Morgan, Professional Association is pleased to announce that shareholder John M. Degnan has been named an "Attorney of the Year" by *Minnesota Lawyer*, one of the Twin Cities legal community's most prestigious honors. He and other recipients were featured in a special insert in *Minnesota Lawyer, Finance and Commerce* and *Capitol Report*.

"John is very deserving of this recognition," says Alan H. Maclin, firm president. "He is an exceptional trial lawyer who balances dedication to his work along with active commitment to pro bono work. He is highly regarded both inside the firm and in the community."

Degnan was selected for the award based on his recent successes and significant pro bono work. Earlier this year, he won a Minnesota Supreme Court case which overturned a Court of Appeals decision and established quasi judicial immunity for court appointed accountants. Degnan also prevailed in a wrongful death suit, where he and his client won a \$2.7 million settlement on the second day of the jury trial. Degnan's active commitment to pro bono work was reflected in his collaboration with local attorneys to reinstate a Vietnam veteran's benefits, and with his successful development of a program to assist Mayo Clinic in-house attorneys with the metro-based portion of their pro bono casework.

### CLA Committee Member Dan O'Fallon Named Attorney of the Year

Dan joined Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, L.L.P. in October 1988 as an associate, became a partner in 1993, and worked almost exclusively on plaintiffs' cases, including product liability, medical malpractice and personal injury cases. In 2009, Dan was named as one of *Minnesota Lawyer's* Attorneys of the Year for his representation with Phil Sieff of the next of kin of James Kosak, a 51 year old man who was a passenger killed in the crash of a Cirrus SR22 near Hill City, Minnesota. In June 2009, an Itasca County jury awarded the Kosak family \$7.4 million. In January 2010, Dan left the firm to join the bench in the 10th Judicial District after being appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty to sit as a district court judge in Anoka County.



During his two decades of practice with the firm, Dan was engaged in representing individuals and families who had suffered catastrophic injury or the death of a family member as a consequence of conduct of some of the most powerful institutions in our society. His efforts to achieve justice regularly pitted him against powerful and well funded members of the pharmaceutical and medical industry, railroads, aircraft manufacturers and the tobacco industry to name a few. He was always up to the task. At the same time, Dan was dedicated to the greater community as illustrated by leadership roles in his church, his children's schools, the "Families First" events for the Ramsey County Bar Association and in supporting SMRLS in many different roles. Dan is most deserving of the recognition accorded him by this award.

**THANK YOU!!**

**SMRLS extends deep appreciation to the following law firms, corporations, foundations, organizations, United Ways, businesses and individuals for their support of the 2009 Campaign for Legal Aid, including matching funds from employers and in-kind donations.**

*If your organization or name has been inadvertently omitted from these listings (despite the care we have taken) or there is another error, please accept our apologies and let us know.*

*Included in these listings are individuals who designated SMRLS as the recipient of their Greater Twin Cities United Way 2009 donations.*

**Champions of Justice (greater than \$45,000)**

**Anonymous Donors**

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3M

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The Saint Paul Foundation

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**Commemorative gifts to the Campaign for Legal Aid  
August 2009 through August 2010 (noted in donor list with \*)**

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Mischa and Barbara Penn's happy occasion  
The Hon. Duane Peterson  
Olivia Thomas and Zachary Thomas  
Jan Werness

**Gifts given in memory of:**

Helen L. Althoetmar  
Jackie Diebel and her volunteer work for  
SMRLS  
The Hon. John Finley  
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**SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES, INC.**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**MARCH 31, 2010**  
**(WITH SUMMARIZED TOTALS FOR MARCH 31, 2009)**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 431,015	\$ 943,404
Investments	1,818,633	1,658,679
Client Escrow Funds	7,129	4,412
Grants and Contracts Receivable	1,345,422	1,429,848
Accounts Receivable	116,982	26,813
Pledges Receivable	1,341,882	1,292,795
Prepaid Expenses	28,256	29,196
Total Current Assets	<u>5,089,319</u>	<u>5,385,147</u>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	426,152	426,152
Leasehold Improvements	223,695	-
Law Library	382,385	382,385
Total Property and Equipment	<u>1,032,232</u>	<u>808,537</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(679,339)</u>	<u>(627,601)</u>
Net Property and Equipment	352,893	180,936
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
	<u>200,005</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 5,642,217</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,566,083</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 240,810	\$ 251,396
Client Trust Deposits	7,130	4,412
Accrued Expenses	648,615	441,952
Total Liabilities	<u>896,555</u>	<u>697,760</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	224,710	1,071,762
Board Designated	3,300,000	2,846,123
Total Unrestricted	<u>3,524,710</u>	<u>3,917,885</u>
Temporarily Restricted	1,220,952	950,438
Total Net Assets	<u>4,745,662</u>	<u>4,868,323</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 5,642,217</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,566,083</u></u>

SMRLS' audit report is available for public inspection.

**SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES, INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010**  
**(WITH SUMMARIZED TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009)**

	2010			2009		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>						
Grants and Contracts	\$ 6,582,217	\$ 1,168,197	\$ 7,750,414	\$ 6,733,852	\$ 1,714,835	\$ 8,448,687
Other Support	1,004,872	-	1,004,872	918,327	-	918,327
Donated Services	706,437	-	706,437	708,765	-	708,765
Program Fees	167,111	-	167,111	183,886	-	183,886
Miscellaneous	90,628	-	90,628	47,095	-	47,095
Investment Returns	134,659	-	134,659	56,874	-	56,874
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	897,683	(897,683)	-	1,860,598	(1,860,598)	-
Total Support and Revenue	9,583,607	270,514	9,854,121	10,509,397	(145,763)	10,363,634
<b>EXPENSE</b>						
Program Services	8,868,532	-	8,868,532	9,071,800	-	9,071,800
Supporting Services:						
Management and General	920,883	-	920,883	933,459	-	933,459
Fundraising	187,367	-	187,367	142,249	-	142,249
Total Expense	9,976,782	-	9,976,782	10,147,508	-	10,147,508
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	(393,175)	270,514	(122,661)	361,889	(145,763)	216,126
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	3,917,885	950,438	4,868,323	3,555,996	1,096,201	4,652,197
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 3,524,710</u>	<u>\$ 1,220,952</u>	<u>\$ 4,745,662</u>	<u>\$ 3,917,885</u>	<u>\$ 950,438</u>	<u>\$ 4,868,323</u>

SMRLS' audit report is available for public inspection.

## *In Memoriam - Angie McCaffrey*



*Angie speaking at the 2000 Campaign for Legal Aid Luncheon*

Low-income persons, refugees, seniors, students, children, SMRLS and our profession lost a dear friend when Angela “Angie” McCaffrey died in her home on January 27, 2010 surrounded by her family, husband Mark Cosimini and their sons Michael and Charlie. It was a deep honor for those of us at SMRLS to know and to work with Angie these many years. She was an incredibly special person and professional and we shall all miss her greatly.

Angie started with SMRLS’ forerunner organization, Legal Assistance of Ramsey County (LARC) in 1977 as a law clerk while attending William Mitchell College of Law. Even as a law student, Angie showed the “perseverance” that would become her “trademark”. Working with Pat Brummer, SMRLS Volunteer Attorney Program Coordinator and Dan Cole of the LARC Board and others, Angie was determined to save and breathe new life into the state’s first legal aid staff/bar association volunteer attorney program (VAP), the LARC/RCBA (Ramsey County Bar Association) program, which was threatened with closure after volunteer participation had dropped from over 150 attorneys in the 1960s to a handful of persons.

Angie and Pat designed the Tuesday night pro bono program to make it easier for private attorneys to volunteer. Angie then became a tireless recruiter of volunteers and public champion of pro bono. She assisted in convincing the RCBA to continue funding for the volunteer program. The net result of Angie and Pat’s hard work was the rebuilding and strengthening of the SMRLS program into the success it is today, which in turn has served as an inspiration to newer pro bono programs throughout the state. Because of her determination, persistence and success, I told Angie she was like a “bulldog” (she liked the comment even when I recently mentioned it to her), as she never let any good program or project go until it was successful.

Angie became a SMRLS staff attorney in 1978. She worked tirelessly on behalf of seniors, juveniles in the SMRLS Juvenile Justice Project and the pro bono program until she left to teach law in 1985, first at William Mitchell and then at Hamline Law School. During her time as a SMRLS staff attorney, Angie represented an estimated 2,000 low-income families on their critical seniors, housing, health, benefits, consumer, juvenile and other matters. She was highly respected by all LARC/SMRLS staff for her hard and excellent work and for her determination, compassion, creativity, support and kindness toward others.

Angie created and directed the clinical program at Hamline and taught law for 25 years. She became recognized nationally as a leading clinical professor on behalf of low-income people. Angie and her clinic students represented many refugees and immigrants and Angie also helped to create SMRLS’ Education Legal Advocacy Project (ELAP) clinic in 1995. ELAP is one of the first programs in the nation to utilize students to assist legal aid in representing low-income children to seek and receive equal educational opportunity. Angie continued to work closely on ELAP even into 2010 and helped it to gain recognition by LSC in their *Equal Justice* magazine.

At her core, Angie was like an angel... a wonderful advocate, teacher and person who cared deeply about others.



*Angie with Prof. Ann Juergens, William Mitchell and Lilian Ejebe, SMRLS Education Law Advocacy Project at the 5th Worldwide Global Alliance Justice Education (GAJE) Conference in Manila, Philippines in 2008*



## SMRLS Office Locations

### St. Paul Central/Administration Offices

55 East 5th St., Suite 400 (Central)  
 55 East 5th St., Suite 1000 (Admin.)  
 St. Paul, MN 55101  
 (651) 222-5863 (Central)  
 (651) 228-9823 (Admin.)

**Mankato Office (Southwest Region)**  
**Legal Advocacy for Older Americans**  
**Minnesota Family Farm Law Project**  
 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 3000  
 P.O. Box 3304  
 Mankato, MN 56002-3304  
 (507) 387-5588

**Refugee/Immigrant/Migrant Services (RIMS) St. Paul**  
 450 North Syndicate St., Suite 285  
 St. Paul, MN 55104  
 (651) 291-2837

**Albert Lea Office/Rural Intake & Hotline Project**  
 132 N. Broadway  
 Albert Lea, MN 56007  
 (507) 377-2831

**Winona Office (Southeast Region)**  
 66 E. 3rd St., Suite 204  
 Winona, MN 55987-3478  
 (507) 454-6660

**Housing Alliance Law Office (Branch of SMRLS-St. Paul Central Office)**  
 Johnson Elementary School  
 740 York Ave.  
 St. Paul, MN 55106  
 (651) 771-9323

**Refugee/Immigrant/Migrant Services (RIMS) Fargo**  
 118 Broadway North, Suite 616  
 Fargo, ND 58102-4947  
 (701) 232-8872

**Rochester Office (Southeast Region)**  
 903 West Center St., Suite 130  
 Rochester, MN 55902  
 (507) 292-0080

**Shakopee Office**  
 712 Canterbury Rd. South  
 Shakopee, MN 55379  
 (952) 402-9890

**Worthington Office (Southwest Region)**  
 421 10th St.  
 Worthington, MN 56187  
 (507) 372-7368

*Partially funded by:*

