



Volunteer News



Ken Kohnstamm, Minnesota Attorney General's Office; Steve Wolfe, SMRLS; and Lori Swanson, Minnesota Attorney General at the Minnesota Attorney General Fundraiser which was held on December 17, 2009.

The Minnesota Attorney General's office held its 7th annual fundraiser for SMRLS on Wednesday, December 17, 2009 in St. Paul. Attorney General Lori Swanson spoke eloquently about SMRLS' work, about the unique position of the Attorney General's office as the largest law firm in St. Paul, and of its extra responsibility to help support SMRLS considering the significant migration of large firms to Minneapolis. Thirty-three staff members wrote individual donation checks, and the total amount raised from 7 years of Attorney General office fundraisers was reported at over \$20,000. SMRLS is extremely grateful for the support of Attorney General Swanson and her team and also for the organizational work on this very successful event by Ken Kohnstamm, who received assistance from Ben Feist, Tom Vasaly and Ann Cohen.

Briggs and Morgan Attorneys Defend Client's Rights on Appeal

SMRLS is pleased to announce another great result obtained by Briggs and Morgan attorneys for a SMRLS client. The client, while severely ill, was influenced to transfer his interest in his home to a party who then attempted to evict the client. Working together, Briggs and Morgan attorneys Dan Cole, Margaret (Mardi) Savage and Brooke Swenson defended against the eviction and asserted a number of claims on behalf of the client. The trial court issued an order for judgment in favor of the client, finding that the other party engaged in fraud. The court granted the client a "rent-free life estate" in the home, which was subsequently interpreted by the court to mean that the opposing party was responsible for all expenses related to the home, including mortgage payments, association dues, property taxes and utility bills. The opposing party appealed, arguing that the trial court lacked jurisdiction to interpret the phrase "rent-free life estate," or in the alternative, that the trial court misinterpreted the phrase. The trial court's judgment was affirmed in all respects. Thank you to the Briggs and Morgan law firm for this excellent and just result!



Mardi Savage



Dan Cole



Brooke Swenson