



2015 Public Law Section Awards

On May 15, 2015, the Public Law Section presented its annual awards of excellence. The following articles are from presentation comments made at the awards ceremony or from nomination letters submitted on behalf of the recipient.

Rosalie E. Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence: Honorable Waldemar B. Senyk



The Honorable Waldemar B. Senyk

Comments from the nomination letter submitted by Heather Brandborg.

I nominate Judge Waldemar Senyk for the Rosalie E Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence. I have known Judge Waldemar Senyk since I began my employment with the Otter Tail County Attorney's Office in June of 2005. Judge Senyk has been a judge in the Seventh Judicial District since 1997. Judge Senyk is a dedicated public servant and judge and is committed and dedicated to upholding the laws of the State of Minnesota, maintaining public safety, allowing victims a voice, and balancing a defendant's rights and ensuring those rights are protected. Judge Senyk is highly regarded in the Otter Tail County community as a reasonable, dedicated, thoughtful judge.

Judge Senyk is a 1979 graduate from the University of Minnesota School of Law. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was employed at the Otter Tail County Attorney's Office as an assistant from 1979 to 1989 and then as County Attorney from 1989 to 1997.

Judge Senyk is the judge that presides over Otter Tail County's DWI court and has been a strong advocate to expand that court into further needed areas. He is a dedicated team member attending our weekly staffing and presides over the court proceedings in which he has genuine interest in the participants' lives and wants them to achieve success. Judge Senyk has also been a longtime champion of the Children's Justice Initiative and continues to serve on that committee in Otter Tail County to work to improve children's lives. Through his time on the bench, Judge Senyk has demonstrated his dedication to projects which improve the justice system in Minnesota for which your award's namesake, Justice Rosalie Wahl, also advocated.

Judge Senyk is extremely well versed in the law and writes detailed and well thought out decisions for the parties before him. Judge Senyk is extremely competent in the law and demonstrates a high degree of professionalism in his courtroom and within his personal character.

Judge Senyk is highly regarded by all of his colleagues, attorneys who appear before him and agencies throughout the county. Judge Senyk is very knowledgeable and gifted as a district court judge. Judge Senyk sets a great example to all attorneys who appear before him and certainly has taught me a great deal about the law, procedure and justice in Minnesota. Judge Senyk's legal skills, knowledge, dedication, and work ethic are commendable and inspiring. I highly recommend Judge Waldemar Senyk for the MSBA Rosalie E. Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence.



Award presented to Judge Senyk by David Hauser.

Previous Recipients of the Rosalie E. Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence

- 2014 *Hon. Thomas Kalitowski*
- 2013 *Hon. J. Thomas Mott*
- 2012 *Hon. Kathleen Gearin*
- 2011 *Hon. Harriet Lansing*
- 2010 *Hon. John Rodenberg*
- 2009 *Hon David S. Doty*
- 2008 *Hon. Russell A. Anderson*
- 2007 *Hon. John P. Smith*
- 2006 *Hon. Ann Montgomery*
- 2005 *Hon. Allan W. Klein*
- 2004 *Hon. John R. Tunheim*
- 2003 *Hon. Joanne Smith*
- 2002 *Hon. Renee L. Worke*
- 2001 *Hon. George A. Beck*
- 2000 *Hon. J. Earl Cudd*
- 1999 *Hon. Leslie May Metzen*
- 1998 *Hon Kenneth F. Fitzpatrick*
- 1997 *Hon. George H. Hoey*

Julius E. Gernes Prosecutor Award of Excellence: Karen S. Mara



Karen Mara

Award presentation and comments by Mary Ellen Heng.

Karen Mara is a career prosecutor and 29-year veteran of the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office. Karen currently works on our Special Prosecutions Team, focusing on the Citywide Top 200 most chronic offenders in Minneapolis. Karen has also distinguished herself as a leading expert and educator in the area of drug recognition and driving while under the influence of narcotics.

Karen has trained hundreds of law enforcement officers, drug recognition officers and attorneys as a faculty member in more than 50 driving-while-drugged trainings and continuing education courses. In 1994, Ms. Mara argued the landmark DWI case *State v. Larry Klawitter*, before the Minnesota Supreme Court. In that case the Supreme Court ruled that the horizontal gaze nystagmus test need not be subjected to a *Frye/Mack* hearing. Karen has also helped to draft and advocate for new legislation which would strengthen prosecution of driving under the influence cases.

Ms. Mara is a dedicated prosecutor and public servant. It has been a privilege to work with Ms. Mara over the past 17 years and it is my honor to present her the Julius E. Gernes Prosecutor Award of Excellence.



Award presentation by Mary Ellen Heng. Award accepted on Karen Mara's behalf by Zenaida Chico.

Previous Recipients of the Julius E. Gernes Prosecutor Award of Excellence

2014 *G. Paul Beaumaster*
2013 *William Klumpp, Jr.*
2012 *Eric Leonard*
2011 *Mark S. Rubin*
2010 *Minneapolis City Attorney's Office Domestic Assault Team*
2009 *Gail Baez*
2008 *Jeffrey R. Edblad*
2007 *Susan E. Gaertner*
2006 *Cary William Schmies*
2005 *Steve Redding*
2004 *Kathryn A. Santelmann*
2003 *Larry M. Collins*
2002 *Al Zdrasil*
2001 *Alan J. Harris*
1999 *James C. Backstrom*
1998 *Dianne A. Ward*
1997 *John R. Speakman*
1996 *Conrad I. Freeberg*

**Public Attorney Award of Excellence – Attorney Working in a Government Agency:
Elizabeth B. Hayes and Patricia Winget**



Elizabeth Hayes

From the nomination letter submitted by Justin Kaufman.

Please note Ms. Hayes is currently in the process of transitioning to her new role as the State's Acting Chief Procurement Officer. As a result, I felt it would remiss for me to interrupt her work to seek information for this nomination. I am providing information herein based on my experience and knowledge of her past. There is undoubtedly additional information that should be provided, and I apologize for its absence.

Ms. Hayes received her undergraduate degree from Cornell College in 1990 and her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in 1995. After graduation, Ms. Hayes began work for a local law firm. In 1997, she was offered a position as an Acquisition Management Specialist to assist the Department of Administration in its statutory oversight role for state contracts. In the 17 years Ms. Hayes has been with the Department of Administration, she has been repeatedly

promoted, first to a more senior role, and then to the role of Contracts Manager, overseeing all professional and technical services contracts for the State of Minnesota executive branch. On April 2, 2015, Ms. Hayes was appointed to the role of Acting Chief Procurement Officer for the State of Minnesota. In that new role, she is responsible for the entirety of the division that oversees state procurement, contracting, and purchasing.

In her role at the Department of Administration, Ms. Hayes has not only excelled in her role as de facto in-house counsel, but serves in many regards as the chief counsel for the executive branch on issues related to procurement, procurement ethics, and the statutory and contractual requirements surrounding public procurement. To support that enormous undertaking, Ms. Hayes has maintained a staff of attorneys and paralegals to assist in the day-to-day operations and counsel.

I began working for Ms. Hayes in January 2007 after being hired as the state's first negotiations specialist with the Department of Administration. It has been an honor to continue to work with Ms. Hayes, to assume the role of Negotiations Manager, and to now serve as the Acting Contract Manager. When I first came to work for the state, I anticipated a brief tenure. However, the leadership, support, and opportunities I received from Ms. Hayes, and continue to receive, have kept me with the Department. I have been privileged to work with Ms. Hayes daily for the last eight years, and look forward to many more. In a time when public employees are often viewed with disdain, Ms. Hayes exemplifies the honor, integrity, and commitment that should and must exist among state employees.

While her leadership and experience speaks for itself, Ms. Hayes has also been at the forefront of countless issues that have faced the State. She has been the go-to for legal and procurement issues through-out the Department of Administration, the State of Minnesota executive branch, and often for issues before the legislature and Governor's Office. Despite that level of involvement, Ms. Hayes has always remained behind the scenes, downplayed accolades, and moved on the next challenge with humility. If there is a question anywhere in the State related to procurement or procurement ethics, Ms. Hayes is undoubtedly an expert.

In 1998, with the assistance of Ms. Hayes, the State of Minnesota passed its most substantial procurement reform measure in decades. In the time since then, she has been involved in nearly every piece of legislation and resulting implementation concerning state contracts and procurement.

Ms. Hays has also routinely served as a protest official for the State of Minnesota, reviewing agency conduct and practices concerning public procurements, and issuing opinions and recommendations concerning the procurement and its legal status. Most notably, she served as the protest official when an unsuccessful responder to the 35W bridge contract was not pleased with the selection of another responder. Ms. Hayes immersed herself in the subject matter and documentation for weeks, as she often does, before submitting her final determination. Due in no small part to the efforts of Ms. Hayes, the State of Minnesota has a national reputation among practitioners and scholars as a state with a highly ethical and innovative procurement process. She is a sought after panelist by national procurement organizations, has received national awards (as part of a team) for her efforts, and has been a requested guest lecturer on cooperative purchasing by the George Washington University School of Law.



Award presented to Elizabeth Hayes by Justin Kaufman.



Patricia Winget

Award presentation and comments by Lynn Belgea.

Patricia Winget is being recognized today with the 2015 Public Attorney Award of Excellence for a lawyer practicing in a government agency. Jerry Seinfeld once said that “a lawyer is basically a person that knows the rules of the country. We’re all throwing the dice, playing the game, moving our pieces around the board, but if there is a problem, the lawyer is the only person who has read the inside of the top of the box.” To me, that’s Pat.

I’ve known Pat since I started working at the Minnesota Department of Health in 2006. As an attorney for MDH, there are two important aspects of her work. One, she’s the Commissioner’s delegate for deciding contested cases, maltreatment hearings, and other administrative hearings. Two, she’s the department’s rules coordinator, responsible for the development and adoption of MDH’s rules. Both of these roles demand that she’s read the inside of the top of the box. I’m pretty sure she’s memorized the inside of the top of the box. In both instances, she has to be scrupulous about process and integrity.

Pat is recognized as a state-wide expert in the Minnesota rulemaking process under the Administrative Procedure Act and in administrative law matters. She has served the public and the profession through her leadership in various capacities in the MSBA Health Law and Administrative Law Sections. She is a current member of the executive council of the Ad Law Section. She is also active in the Interagency Rules Committee (IRC), which is a working group of state agency staff that meets to discuss common issues related to rulemaking. She is currently the editor of the Minnesota Rulemaking Manual, a publication that, I assure you, does not fit on the inside of the top of the box. She has also served as course co-chair of the IRC’s annual rulemaking seminar for at least the past 7 years. Pat has testified before the Legislature as a

technical expert on rule-making and the APA and is a frequent contact for people with questions about the rule-making process.

This past summer, Pat began involvement in a project to update the treatise *Minnesota Administrative Procedure*. Under the supervision of former Chief Administrative Law Judge George A. Beck (the original author) and William Mitchell law professor Mehmet Konar-Steenberg, a group of volunteer administrative law attorneys are producing a third edition of the treatise. In addition to being responsible to edit a number of chapters herself, Pat called on her professional contacts to volunteer to serve as chapter editors. The culmination of this project will be an online edition of the updated treatise, hosted by William Mitchell College of Law, free to practitioners and the public.

In my nine years working with Pat, I've found her to be a dedicated public lawyer. She exemplifies the commitment to public service and the public practice of law recognized by the Public Attorney Award of Excellence. She is always willing to help new ad law practitioners locate and understand what's written on the inside of the top of the box. She is a person of great integrity who always respects the human element in the administrative process. I am honored by the opportunity to present this award to Patricia Winget.



Award presented to Patricia Winget by Lynn Belgea

Previous Recipients of the Public Attorney Award of Excellence: Attorney Working in a Government Agency

- 2014 *Katherine A. Engler*
- 2013 *Ann Stiem Ahlstrom*
- 2011 *Debra Swaden*
- 2009 *Stephen A. Shakman*
- 2008 *Virginia Rae Bly*
- 2007 *Allen E. Giles*
- 2006 *Dennis Wade Erickson*
- 2005 *Gail M. Olson*
- 2004 *Kenneth A. Nickolai*
- 2003 *Richard A. Wexler*
- 2001 *Thomas W. Anderson*
- 2000 *Laura D. Kadwell*
- 1999 *Ann Russell*
- 1998 *Michael B. Johnson*
- 1997 *Julie M. Brunner*

**Public Attorney Award of Excellence – Civil Attorney Working in a Public Law Office:
Gregory G. Brooker**



Greg Brooker

Award presentation and comments by Corrine Heine.

When I nominated Greg Brooker, I knew he was deserving of this award. But at the time I nominated him, I didn't know enough. So in preparing to make this presentation, I decided to get a more complete picture of Greg, in order to do him justice. Now, after having learned more about him, I am in deep regret – not for having nominated Greg – but for having known such a small part of what makes him deserving of this award.

Ask yourselves – what does “excellence” mean for a public attorney? Does it mean a high level of competence as a lawyer? Making significant contributions to the law? Seeking betterment of the profession through active participation in the bar? Or perhaps serving people in need? Regardless of how excellence is defined, Greg meets the definition.

For nearly his entire legal career, Greg has devoted himself to the representation of government entities. First, at a private law firm known for its representation of cities, then as an assistant city attorney in Bloomington, and, since 1999, as an attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota. Within the A.G.'s office, He has risen from an assistant US attorney to chief of the civil division, to the First Assistant U.S. Attorney, a position that he has held since February 2014. For his work on the Tom Petters case, Greg received the U.S. Attorney Award of Excellence in 2011. More recently, he received Minnesota Lawyer's 2013 Lawyer of the Year award, for his work on the LGBT bullying case against the Anoka-Hennepin School District. As an attorney, he has demonstrated a high level of competence.

Greg has also made significant contributions to the law. He has been an adjunct law professor at Hamline Law School since 2001. He's published six articles on a wide range of legal subjects in various publications, including the Hamline Law Review, Minnesota Bench & Bar, Minnesota Cities Magazine and The Public Lawyer.

Active participation in the bar? Hands down, he is excellent on that score. He's served on the governing body of the bar association at every level of government. Hennepin County Bar Association governing council. Minnesota State Bar Association board of governors. Board of directors of the Minnesota chapter of the federal bar, governing council of the Government and Public Sectors Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association. He currently serves as the chair of that division of the ABA. And I haven't even mentioned the bar association work of

which I was aware. Greg has been an active member of the MSBA Public Law section for many years, where he served on the governing council off and on for a total of 10 years, served as chair from 1998-2000, and has remained active in committees of the Public Law section (such as the newsletter committee), even when he was not on the governing council.

And serving the needy? Greg has been a public law section volunteer for Loaves & Fishes, helping serve meals to the disadvantaged on the first Wednesday of alternating months, dating back to 2001. He's also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and is an active member of his church where, yes, he also served as a board member and president.

I am honored to present the Public Attorney Award of Excellence to Greg Brooker.



Award presented to Greg Brooker by Corrine Heine.

Previous Recipients of the Public Attorney Award of Excellence: Civil Attorney Working in a Public Law Office

- 2014 *Eric D. Larson*
- 2013 *John L. Kirwin*
- 2012 *Gregory J. Wiley*
- 2011 *Jocelyn F. Olson*
- 2010 *Anthony C. Palumbo and Robert E. Asleson*
- 2009 *Christie B. Eller and John T. Kelly*
- 2008 *Jay M. Heffern*
- 2007 *Kenneth E. Raschke, Jr.*
- 2006 *Douglas J. Gregor*
- 2005 *Joan D. Humes*
- 2004 *Toni Beitz*
- 2003 *Mark J. Ponsolle*
- 2002 *David R. Ornstein*
- 2001 *Robert A. Stanich*
- 2000 *John L. Kirwin and Desyl Peterson*
- 1999 *William P. Donohue*
- 1998 *Alan C. Williams*
- 1997 *Richard S. Slowes*
- 1996 *Beverly Jones Heydinger*

Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Awards: Steven B. Liss, Robert D. Goodell and Virginia Rae Bly



Steven Liss

Award presentation comments by Michael Vanselow and Paul Cady.

Comments by Michael Vanselow

I am truly honored to be here today to help present the Minnesota State Bar Association-Public Law Section's "Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Award" to Steve Liss. I was told to keep my comments very short since I could easily go on a LONG TIME about Steve and his impressive accomplishments in the public practice of law.

I worked very closely with Steve over the last 20 years in various capacities – colleague, supervisor, and even client. Steve's legal career spans more than three decades – in the House Research Office, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, and the Minneapolis Public Schools – all are replete with outstanding contributions to public service and the public practice of law in Minnesota.

One of the true highlights of Steve's career was working with me on the 18-month Mother of All Mediations to achieve a very successful resolution of the NAACP v. State of Minnesota educational adequacy litigation. To achieve this outstanding result, Steve had to work with and address the interests of hundreds of major public stakeholders with greatly different agendas and had to employ a level of creativity in crafting solutions and compromises that I have never seen in other lawyers.

Suffice it to say, I cannot think of any public law attorney more deserving of the "Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Award." Steve's career has been a model of Public Service, Dedication, Creativity, Diplomacy, Professionalism and Integrity. In fact, at Steve's recent 65th birthday party, I gave him a bumper sticker I made that I thought pretty much says it all – namely, "WWSD" – WHAT WOULD STEVE DO? When faced with the really tough public issues of our day, that's the best question for all of us to ask to figure out the right thing we should do.

Finally, stay tuned because Steve's public service work is not over. He plans to continue to serve the public interest in different ways in his retirement and the best may be yet to come. I also predict that Steve will be the oldest guy ever to win the Tour de France. Minnesotans are truly lucky to have such a class act working in their interests.

Comments by Paul Cady.

In recognition and appreciation of outstanding public attorney service, I was pleased to nominate Steve B. Liss for the Douglas K. Amdahl Public Career Achievement Award. I have known Steve since 2011, his last leg of public service, when he became General Counsel for the Minneapolis Public Schools and I was serving as General Counsel for the Anoka-Hennepin School District. As professional colleagues, I have admired his legal knowledge and skills as well as his dedication and commitment to public service. He has established a long record of expert advice and counsel on matters of education policy and governance.

Steve is a model public attorney who provides quality counsel and advice to his client, community and colleagues. He practices with a high standard of professional responsibility and ethics. He has distinguished himself in the public practice of law.

Mike Vanselow highlighted most of the important bio details. After graduating magna cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center in 1980, Steve served as the Honorable Myron Bright's law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals. Following his clerkship, Steve was in private practice as an associate at a civil rights law firm in Washington D.C. When Steve's wife accepted an offer as a law professor at the University of Minnesota law school, Steve began his public attorney service in Minnesota.

From 1985 to 1990 Steve served as Counsel to the Minnesota House of Representatives including Counsel to the Labor/Management Relations Committee responsible for advising and drafting legislation for labor and employment matters.

From 1990 to 2006 Steve served as an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General. During that time, Steve had several significant and outstanding contributions. In 1994, he served as General Counsel to the Minnesota State College and University System during the merger of the systems. While serving as General Counsel to the Minnesota Department of Education, Steve coordinated and successfully mediated the lawsuit between the NAACP and the State of Minnesota challenging the adequacy of the education system in Minnesota.

As a result of relationships built and developed with the NAACP mediation, in 2006 the Minnesota Public Schools solicited Steve to join and serve the Superintendent and School Board as Chief of Policy and Operations, Chief of Business and Operations, and General Counsel. During his tenure there, Steve was responsible for bringing the community and staff together to coordinate the development and building of the new district office located in the northeast Minneapolis community. In 2014, Steve served as co-chair of the MDE's Task Force on the development of new integration and achievement rules.



Award presented to Steve Liss by Michael Vanselow and Paul Cady.



Robert D. Goodell

Award presentation and comments by Andrew Jackola.

It is my honor to introduce Robert Goodell as a recipient of the Douglas K. Amdahl Career Achievement Award. Bob Goodell retired early this year after almost 40 years of practice, 28 of which with the Office of the Anoka County Attorney. Bob is a “lawyer’s lawyer” – the kind of guy who loved his job, who was damn good at it, and who still loves to talk about the law. And he has a lot to talk about:

- He tried over 120 cases to verdict;
- He obtained convictions in countless murder and child sexual abuse cases;
- He prosecuted some of the most notorious crimes in the history of Anoka County;
- He even had a brush with infamy when – as a defense attorney – he secured a reversal at the Supreme Court in favor of Roger Caldwell – a name many of you will recognize from the Elisabeth Congdon murder case.

But his most important discussions of the law occurred in his mentorship of attorneys at the Office of the Anoka County Attorney. Goodell freely shared his knowledge and experience with anyone seeking guidance. But his advice never came easily. He rarely “gave” an answer to a question – instead serving as a guide on a journey to the answer. Ever the prosecutor and professor, Goodell always had the right question to “flip the switch” that would turn on that little light bulb above someone’s head signifying the revelation of a profound breakthrough.

Bob was a proud public servant and frequently told his colleagues at the County Attorney’s Office, “You’ve got the best job in the world. You get to wear the white hat and fight on the side of good.” Doing “good” guided Bob in his career. He led the Ethics Committee at the County Attorneys’ Association for over 15 years, wrote ethics materials that are seminal works, and was a sought-after resource on questions of professional ethics.

Bob’s daughter is graduating from college tomorrow, so he couldn’t be here today. So I will now introduce Assistant Anoka County Attorney Wade Kish, who will accept the award on Bob’s behalf.



Award presented by Andrew Jackola. Award accepted on Robert Goodell's behalf by Wade Kish.



Virginia Rae Bly

Award presentation and comments by Gregory Gray.

Good Morning.

Thank you for inviting me here and for giving me the opportunity to present this award to my colleague and friend Rae Bly.

This award relates to public service and we all understand how difficult working in the public environment is. Having said that, working at the Department of Human Services (DHS) is even more difficult than most public service. Rarely a day goes by when DHS is not being sued, chastised by elected officials or insulted in the press. Many cannot function in an environment like DHS but it is an environment where Rae has dedicated thirty years of her professional life.

There are so many of Rae's accomplishments that I could talk about today. Rae is the founder of the DHS Compliance Office. The Compliance Office is the focal point for program and process integrity and Rae was thoughtful enough to see the value of such an office at DHS. In addition, to the Compliance Office, Rae is the founder of the DHS Management and Policy Division, she has been the DHS Ethics Officer and has headed the Contracts, Appeals and Rulemaking areas of DHS. Needless to say, Rae is talented. However, more important than sheer talent, is Rae's willingness to mentor others, including me. She is one of the wise elders that everyone throughout the agency turns to for advice on difficult matters.

Rae's accomplishments are even more amazing considering the fact that she entered DHS at a time when women attorneys were not particularly appreciated. In those early years Rae was denied the opportunities that were given many of her male counterparts. Those early experiences may have led lesser individuals to leave, but I believe those experiences motivated Rae to make sure the path of other women attorneys and others who were "different" (whether that difference was gender, race, disability or something else) was more equitable than the path she had to take.

There is much more I could say about Rae but I've only been given 2 minutes, so let me close by reading a portion of an e-mail I received just the other day. The e-mail was written by someone who has worked closely with Rae when she headed our Appeals Division but the sentiment offered relates to all the work Rae has done. The e-mail reads, in part:

"One of Rae Bly's best skills as Appeals Division Director was actively recruiting smart, caring, public service-oriented people who represent diversity so that our clients—who are often terrified about losing their benefits and entering an unfamiliar legal process--would see judges who looked like the world—different colors, shapes, sizes, orientations, world views and experiences. This is a gift of quiet integrity from Rae that keeps on giving. "

It has been both a pleasure and privilege to work with Rae and I'm confident I speak for everyone at DHS in the belief that Rae is more than qualified to receive this award.

Thank You.



Award presented to Rae Bly by Greg Gray.

Previous Recipients of the Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Award

- 2014 *Frederick T. Friedman, Thomas A. Fitzpatrick, Stephen J. Bubul, Nancy McLean*
- 2013 *Steven C. Moon, Mary E. Miller*
- 2012 *John LeFevre, Judith Rehak, Richard Slowes*
- 2011 *Steven M. Gunn*
- 2010 *Hon. Lawrence Cohen, Jan Petersen*
- 2009 *David J. Kennedy*
- 2008 *Lane Ayres, Hon. Allen Oleisky, Jeanne Schleh*
- 2007 *Quy T. Dam, Karel Lee Moersfelder, Michael R. Dean*
- 2006 *James Lammers, Alan Mitchell*
- 2005 *Philip J. Olfelt*
- 2004 *Carl Conney, Wayne G. Johnson, Eldon G. Kaul, Clayton LeFevere*
- 2003 *William E. Falvey, William E. McGee, John D. Tierney*
- 2002 *Hon. Gary L. Crippen, LeRoy Jackson, Hon. Kenneth J. Maas*

2001 *Hon. Douglas K. Amdahl*
2000 *Hon. Doris Ohlsen Huspeni, Phillip B. Byrne*
1999 *Hon. A. M. Sandy Keith*
1998 *hon. Esther Tomljanovich, James N. Bradford, Floyd B. Olson*
1997 *Hon. Rosalie E. Wahl, Stanley G. Peskar, William R. Kennedy, Julius E. Gernes*
1996 *Earle T. Anderson, Jr., Robert R.W. Johnson, Hon. Jon L. Lunde, Lloyd J. Moosbrugger*

There were not 2015 recipients of the P. Kenneth Kohnstamm Pro Bono Attorney Award of Excellence or the William E. McGee Public Defender Award of Excellence. Previous recipients of these awards have been:

P. Kenneth Kohnstamm Pro Bono Attorney Award of Excellence

2013 *Nancy McLean*
2011 *Beverly Jones Heydinger*
2010 *Ann E. Cohen and Gerald T. Hendrickson*
2008 *Kathie L. Battle-Sayles*
2007 *Patrick Burns*
2006 *P. Kenneth Kohnstamm*

William E. McGee Public Defender Award of Excellence

2014 *William M. Ward*
2013 *Michael F. Cromett*
2012 *Connie Iversen and Patrick Valentini*
2011 *Daniel Sadowski*
2010 *Patrick Kittridge*
2009 *Lisa Kristine McNaughton*
2008 *F. Richard Gallo, Jr.*
2007 *Noreen C. Phillips*
2006 *Daniel M. Scott*
2005 *Brad Colbert*
2004 *Paul G. Thompson*
2003 *Richard G. Carlson*
2002 *Ronald Greenley*
2001 *Cynthia T. Daley*
2000 *Larry Hammerling*
1999 *Manley Zimmerman*
1998 *Harry Newby, Jr.*
1997 *Candace Rasmussen*
1996 *Fred Friedman*