



Minnesota
State Bar
Association

Member Services Guide

2014-2015

“ Our objective is to serve you, our members, and help you succeed in meeting your professional goals. ”



Tim Groshens
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Minnesota State Bar Association is your professional association. This Member Services Guide shows the many membership services that you will enjoy through the MSBA, and illustrates how we are working hard to meet your professional needs.

Our goal at the MSBA is to make membership indispensable to Minnesota lawyers. To accomplish that goal, we constantly strive to offer the best programs and services to our members. Look through the pages in this guide for information on Fastcase®, our free-to-members online legal research tool; member discounts on section CLE programs; publications like *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, Legal News Digest and section newsletters; MSBAdvantage discount programs; our government affairs and access to justice programs; and practicelaw, our one stop location for our electronic practice tools. You'll find that if you take advantage of just a few of these services each year you will more than cover the cost of your annual membership dues.

If you have questions about anything contained in this guide, or about your membership in general, please do not hesitate to call us at **(800) 882-6722** or **(612) 333-1183**.

Finally, if you have any suggestions for how we can better serve you, please contact any of our staff members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Groshens".

PS: I am often asked by members “How can I get more involved in the Association?” The Association is complex and includes leadership positions, sections councils, committees, task forces, and districts. At any given time, we probably have five hundred plus volunteers active in the Association, some giving a couple of hours a year and others like the president contributing hundreds of hours a year. The answer to getting involved is not always simple. It depends on how much time you have; what your interests are; and what openings are currently available. Here is my invitation to you. If you are have free time and are considering volunteering for bar association work, call or email me. I would be happy to spend time talking to you about different opportunities. Working with other members to advance the legal profession can be a fun and rewarding experience.

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Publications

Bench & Bar of Minnesota



IN PRINT

This award-winning professional magazine provides in-depth coverage of issues and developments in the legal profession, updates on legislation and court decisions, news of the MSBA, and other information of value and interest to Minnesota attorneys. Standing columns cover recent developments in multiple areas of the law, professional responsibility, new books and resources for attorneys, and news of people and events. Articles range from technical analysis of new statutes and trends to practice tips and guidance for litigators and transactional attorneys alike.

ONLINE

Bench & Bar online at mnbenchbar.com includes archives of previously published articles, links to the digital edition, a searchable online membership directory, and quick access to job opportunities, office space, and other products and services through the Opportunity Market.

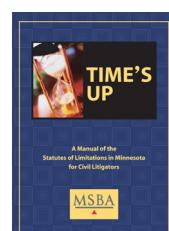


Section Newsletters and Resources

Many MSBA sections publish specialized newsletters for their members online. In addition, sections offer the following valuable resources:

- Email lists that help you keep up to date on changes and trends in your area of practice
- Judges' Courtroom Preferences database
- Minnesota Title Standards book
- Select ADR online directory of mediators and neutrals
- Time's Up manual of statutes of limitation

SELECT
ADR



Capitol Connection

A weekly email publication sent to all members during the legislative session. It highlights major happenings at the Capitol, progress of MSBA legislation, and updates on bills of interest to attorneys.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

MSBA Section CLEs

In addition to being great for networking, MSBA committees and sections sponsor a variety of accredited CLE programs—usually lasting one to three hours. The cost to members is minimal and sometimes free. Typically the courses are taught by industry leaders from around the state and country. A complete calendar of programs can be found on mnbar.org.

Nine Days in June

Nine Days in June: The Unconventional Convention is the merger of a traditional, annual convention and a newer, extremely successful district bar outreach program. The first eight days are low-cost, high-quality full-day CLEs presented in each of the eight outstate judicial districts. All lawyers are encouraged to participate in Day Nine, which includes a full day of CLEs and a reception hosted by the MSBA and area law schools. Day Nine is held in the metro area.



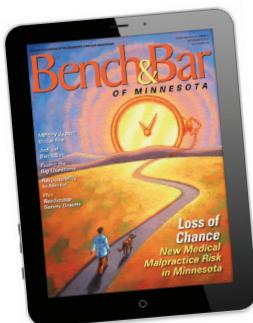
Minnesota CLE

Minnesota CLE (MCLE) is a subsidiary created by the MSBA to provide high-quality legal education programs to help attorneys improve their professional effectiveness and meet licensing requirements. MSBA members receive a discount of up to 20% on MCLE courses and institutes. MCLE offers seminars throughout the state, webcast programming, hard copy and online Deskbooks, an Online Library of course materials and forms, and other educational resources. Visit MCLE's website at minnkle.org or call (651) 227-8266 or (800) 759-8840 for more information.

Professional Development

Committees and Sections

The opportunity to join and participate in the work of committees and sections is among the most effective and rewarding benefits of membership in the Minnesota State Bar Association. Participating in committees and sections helps you develop and enhance your practice and professional skills; provides you with opportunities to propose and comment on legislation or rules related to the law; gives you the ability to develop lifelong professional relationships; and helps you become a leader in the profession. For more information or to join a committee or section, call us at **(800) 882-6722** or **(612) 333-1183**.



Career Services

Looking for a qualified legal professional to join your staff? Are you an attorney looking to make a change? Visit the MSBA's Opportunity Market in *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, both print and digital editions.

Specialty Certification

Since 1987, the Minnesota State Bar Association has been approved as an independent professional organization for certifying lawyers as legal specialists. Through testing, peer review from lawyers and judges, and documenting experience, the MSBA Legal Specialist Certification Program measures a lawyer's expertise in a specialty area. Although many lawyers limit their practice areas, only lawyers who successfully complete the application process and continue to meet all program standards may call themselves MSBA Board Certified Legal Specialists. Certification is open to both members and nonmembers.

Certification is offered in the following areas:

- Civil Trial Law
- Real Property Law
- Criminal Law
- Labor and Employment Law

For more information on certification, please check the MSBA website at **mnbar.org** or call us at **(800) 882-6722** or **(612) 333-1183**.

Fewer than 3%

of all registered attorneys in Minnesota are certified specialists in their field.

Here's your chance to stand out!



Serve the Profession



Government Relations

The MSBA is the collective, persuasive voice of the legal profession at the Capitol. Our year-round lobbying staff joins with contract in-session lobbyists to vigorously advocate on behalf of our member attorneys and legal professionals. We provide technical assistance to legislators and spearhead issues that are of interest or concern to the profession. In every budget cycle we give clear voice to the support of funding the justice system, working to ensure adequate funding for the courts, public defenders, and civil legal services.

The MSBA promotes an active legislative agenda, working with related stakeholders to advance technically sound, well-grounded policy proposals via our organization's carefully crafted legislative positions. Sections and committees within the membership engage in the legislative process as well by proposing MSBA sponsored legislation that is practice-area specific, and in some cases advance legislative positions

in their own name. Members are kept apprised of legislative developments in a timely fashion through regular communications and the availability of staff to field questions and address concerns. MSBA membership provides a proven, well-honed vehicle to engage in the legislative process and articulate the interests of our profession.

Pro Bono Development

The MSBA is committed to closing the justice gap for low income Minnesotans by connecting members with opportunities to serve legal services clients. Through presentations, trainings, recognition and articles, the MSBA promotes the value and importance of pro bono work, as expressed in Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The MSBA also supports **ProJusticeMN.org**, a collaboration with the Legal Services State Support Center and Pro Bono Net designed to provide a central online resource for pro bono lawyers.

ProJusticeMN.org provides access to an extensive library of forms and practice materials, news items, an events calendar, a directory of pro bono and legal service providers and postings of new pro bono opportunities. Membership to the website is free for pro bono lawyers, legal services staff and law students. If you are interested in learning more about how you can assist pro bono clients, please contact the MSBA's Pro Bono Development Director.

...and Promote the Public Good

North Star Lawyer

The Minnesota State Bar Association is proud to recognize members who provide 50 hours or more of pro bono legal services per year as North Star Lawyers. Lawyers who serve the poor without charge should be celebrated. By generously donating their time and talent, they change lives. They help people who otherwise could not afford counsel achieve justice. The Minnesota State Bar Association is tremendously proud of our members who render free legal services to low-income persons. In 2014, over 950 members have been certified as North Star Lawyers, and received public recognition through statewide media.

Minnesota State Bar Foundation

The Minnesota State Bar Foundation provides grants to law-related programs and activities. Its mission includes support for legal assistance to the disadvantaged, improvements in the administration of justice, law-related education, and public interest legal work. The Bar Foundation is organized as a nonprofit corporation, and its board of directors is selected by the MSBA Assembly. MSBA members are strongly encouraged to provide donations to the Foundation. To download a grant application or donate to the Foundation, visit mnbar.org. Donations may be made directly to the Minnesota State Bar Foundation or through a check-off on the annual MSBA dues statement. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

Mock Trial

For the past 28 years, the MSBA has coordinated this popular public education program that gives high school students from more than 80 schools (110 teams) across Minnesota an opportunity to get an inside look at our legal system. Students work with their teacher and attorney coaches to prepare and argue simulated cases involving contemporary legal issues. More than 600 lawyers and judges volunteer each year to be a part of this exciting educational experience by serving as coaches or by serving as judges for the competition throughout Minnesota. Some of the lawyers who volunteer to coach teams or judge mock trials today began their mock trial involvement as high school students.



MINNESOTA STATE
BAR FOUNDATION

high school
**MOCK
TRIAL**
Minnesota State Bar
Association

Fastcase

Fastcase

Membership in the MSBA provides you with free access to one of the best online legal research services, Fastcase. Normally \$995 a year, members receive access to primary law from all 50 states, and deep federal coverage going back to 1 U.S. 1, 1 F.2d 1, 1 F. Supp. 1, and 1 B.R. 1. Included are cases, statutes, regulations, court rules and constitutions, along with access to a newspaper archive, legal forms, and a one-stop PACER search of federal filings through a partner.

Fastcase uses powerful citation analytics like the patent-pending Forecite technology to identify useful cases that go beyond a user's specific search. Recognizing that judges have a firm grasp of the case law, Fastcase instantly analyzes every search you perform to see whether the cases returned by your search rely heavily on any cases that don't exactly fit your search terms.

According to the 2013 ABA Technology Survey, Fastcase has the most popular smartphone app among lawyers, with more downloads than the closest competitors combined. The Fastcase mobile-sync feature allows MSBA members to save favorites from the road or in court for later printing, or to send desktop favorites to a virtual trial notebook on Android™ phones or tablets, iPhone®, or iPad®.

Fastcase works with you, whatever device you use & wherever you go!

The image shows a laptop displaying the Fastcase website interface and a smartphone displaying the Fastcase mobile application. A hand is holding both devices. A red speech bubble is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the text above. The laptop screen shows a list of legal cases with details like decision date, page count, and authority check percentages. The smartphone screen shows a similar list with a higher authority check percentage of 100%.

Fastcase
Smarter legal research.

Online Practice Tools

practicelaw

Stay current and connected. **practicelaw** is one of Minnesota's largest collections of resources for lawyers. The members-only site includes legal forms, trust accounting guides, links to statutes and court rules, and Jump Starts. All free to MSBA members.



mndocs

Generate documents quickly and cost effectively with more than 250 forms in practice areas including business law, guardianship/conservatorship, criminal, family, probate and real property. Fully automated, mndocs collects your client information and case-related data, and then generates documents across libraries—eliminating the need to retype the same information many times.

Legal News Digest

Receive a weekly enewsletter that compiles a week's worth of legal news into a web-based digest with links to newspapers, magazines, websites, blogs and journals worldwide. It also contains CLE opportunities and law-related special events.

mnfindalawyer.com

Enhance your practice development efforts with a profile listing on **mnfindalawyer.com**. This web tool is the MSBA's online lawyer search and referral service for the public. The service is free to the public. Your potential clients search by type of case, location, language or keyword.

CourtOps

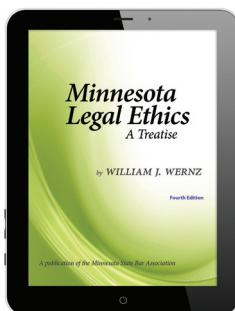
(COURT OPINIONS BY EMAIL)

Keep current with the latest court decisions with CourtOps. This member-only, free service delivers all published appellate opinions from Minnesota and the U.S. Eighth Circuit courts to you, by email within hours of their release. Easy-to-organize tags and headings let you keep only what you need and delete the rest.

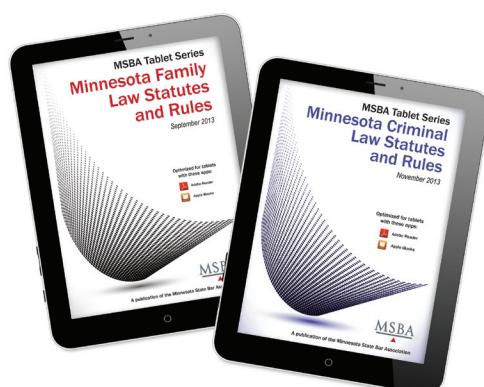
Online Practice Tools

eBooks

- Benefit from the depth and breadth of experience and wisdom evident in *Minnesota Legal Ethics*, an ebook from William E. Wernz. Authored by one of Minnesota's foremost legal ethics attorneys, the resource explores Minnesota-specific legal ethics (especially the Rules of Professional Conduct) from every angle, including investigation, prosecution, defense, advice, administration, drafting, writing, and teaching.



- MSBA Tablet Series – An exclusive member benefit. Ditch the bulky courtroom reference and save over \$100. *Minnesota Family Law Statutes and Rules*, along with *Minnesota Criminal Law Statutes and Rules* are separate primary law resources, each in a quick access format and optimized for viewing on iPads and Android tablets running one of these free apps: Adobe Reader® (iOS and Android) or iBooks® by Apple® (iOS).



Member Discounts through MSBAdvantage Partners

MSBA members receive substantial savings on many programs aimed at helping you and your practice. By supporting these partners, you enhance your support of the MSBA. For more information on any of these services please visit the MSBA website at mnbar.org

AAA of Minneapolis

Rely on the standard for travel and roadside assistance. MSBA members save up to \$21 on a new Basic AAA membership.



American Bar Association Publications

MSBA members save 15% on business and legal publications through the ABA Online Store. Choose from a variety of best-selling legal publications, journals, books on tapes and MP3 or podcast downloads.



ABA Retirement Fund - Retirement Planning

What's inside your 401(k) may surprise you. Find out why thousands of law firms of all sizes use the ABA Retirement Funds Program as their 401(k) provider.



GoNext - International Travel

Go Next provides MSBA members with high quality, value travel to dynamic destinations around the globe. Discounts are available to members and their immediate family.



Member Discounts through MSBAdvantage Partners

LawPay - Credit Card Processing

Trust your transactions to the only payment solution recommended by over 70 bar associations. Correctly safeguard and separate client funds into trust and operating accounts. Funds are never commingled. Get the ability to accept credit card payments, attract clients, improve cash flow, and reduce past-due collections.



Minnesota Lawyers Mutual

Minnesota Lawyers Mutual is a key source for professional liability insurance and useful practice management information. Founded in 1982 by members of the MSBA, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company (MLM) provides professional liability insurance and risk management services for the legal community.



MSBAInsure

Secure your family with insurance from Mercer Consumer (formerly Marsh). Affordable discounted insurance plans that include: term life, individual/family medical, small group medical, dental, disability income, business owners' insurance, workers' compensation, employment practices liability insurance, auto/home and long-term care.



T-Mobile

MSBA members get savings for their whole family. Receive a \$25 reward card for every device purchased or upgraded, activation of a new line of service, or addition of a new line to their account.



MSBA



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