

Minnesota State Bar Association

Programs and Services

Program/Service	Description	Staff Contact
<i>Bench & Bar</i>	The MSBA's monthly professional magazine, <i>Bench & Bar</i> , available both in print and online, provides in-depth coverage of current issues and developments in the legal profession; updates on legislation and court decisions; and news of Association events, programs, and services. It is provided to MSBA members without charge 11 times per year. An index and archive of previously published articles, as well as classified advertisements and a search engine are available online at www.mnbar.org , where you will also find a searchable directory of MSBA members.	Jud Haverkamp 612/278-6333 jhaverkamp@mnbar.org
Board Certified Legal Specialists	The MSBA is accredited by the Minnesota Board of Legal Certification to certify attorneys as specialists. 685 attorneys practicing in civil trial law and real property law have earned the "Board Certified Specialist" designation. In a Minnesota statewide survey, 81% of respondents stated that knowing an attorney was an MSBA board certified specialist would be important to their choice of an attorney because, as stated in a typical survey response, "I would know somebody had already checked into his or her credentials and I wouldn't have to do that." MSBA members receive a \$15 discount on fees.	Jessica Thomas 612/278-6318 jthomas@mnbar.org
Civic Education	The MSBA's Civic Education programs leverage the unique knowledge, skills, and resources of the Bar to educate youth about the rule of law and civic rights and responsibilities. This is accomplished by sponsoring programs such as lawyers in the schools and peer mediation. Additionally, the Committee partners with the Supreme Court Traveling Oral Arguments Program and Kids Voting – MN. By bringing the Bar's expertise and volunteers we make these established programs more successful.	Brian Bell 612/278-6309 bbell@mnbar.org
Diversity Initiatives	The MSBA has two standing committees and two Task Forces working in the area of Diversity. The Women in the Legal Profession Committee has developed six Best Practices in the area of gender equity for legal employers and sponsors the "SAGE Best Practices Recognition Award." The Diversity Committee sponsors a minority clerkship program for law students that has been extremely popular and successful with students	Tram Nguyen 612/278-6316 tnguyen@mnbar.org

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	<p>and employers. The Committee will also roll out a more comprehensive version of the www.mnlegaldiversity.org website this fall. In 2005-06 the MSBA updated the original SAGE survey and expanded it to include race, sexual orientation, religion and disability in addition to gender. Based on the results, the MSBA published a complete Diversity Best Practices Guide for legal employers.</p>	
Continuing Legal Education	<p>Minnesota Continuing Legal Education (MCLE), provides hundreds of high quality continuing legal education programs to help attorneys improve their professional effectiveness and meet licensing requirements. MSBA members receive a discount of up to 17% on MCLE courses and institutes. MCLE also provides books, study materials, video-conferencing, audio tapes, computer disks, and other educational resources. MSBA sections and committees also provide specialized CLE courses, institutes, conferences, and resource materials.</p>	<p>Minnesota CLE 651/227-8266 www.minncle.org</p>
Court Opinions by Email	<p>The MSBA offers four services, free to members, to help you keep current with the newest case law relevant to Minnesota practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State appellate civil decisions - State criminal law decisions - Federal decisions in civil matters - Federal decisions in criminal matters <p>The lists send each published decision in a separate email, so you can easily delete whatever you don't need, while keeping what you do. The subject lines and message bodies are designed to help you see as soon as possible whether you want to read a decision or skip it. The federal list sends published decisions of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, and selected decisions of the U.S. District Court (D. Minn.).</p>	<p>Mike Trittippo 612/278-6339 mtrittipo@mnbar.org</p>
Email Discussion Groups	<p>An Email Discussion Group is like a conference call, whatever one member says or writes goes to all other members of the group. Unlike a conference call, not everyone has to be available at the same time. Each member can read at his or her own convenience, and respond if desired - with responses also going to the entire group. The MSBA offers several discussion groups for specific practices to improve communication among members and to help members help each other.</p>	<p>Mike Trittippo 612/278-6339 mtrittipo@mnbar.org</p>
Family Law Case Summaries by Email	<p>Members may receive summaries of the family law cases decided each week by the Minnesota</p>	<p>Gregory D. Luce 612/278-6340</p>

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	Supreme Court and Minnesota Court of Appeals. Both published and unpublished opinions are summarized by a Minnesota attorney, and each summary shows the type of issue; briefly describes the facts, holding, and rationale of the court; and links to the official text of the full opinion.	gluce@mnbar.org
Fastcase	The MSBA launched Fastcase as a free online member service in September 2007. Fastcase provides members with fully searchable online access to state case law from all 50 states as well as federal case decisions from the federal district courts, court of appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. It provides natural language and Boolean searching and allows users to maintain a personalized research trail as well as options to print in dual column format in Word and PDF. Statutory and regulatory research materials are also available for all 50 states and the federal system, with the Minnesota statutes made fully searchable within the Fastcase system in January 2009	Gregory Luce 612/278-6340 gluce@mnbar.org
Legislative Grassroots	When urgent issues arise at the Capitol that impact members, the MSBA uses CapWiz to quickly and efficiently alert our members about the issue and to provide them with talking points and direct email access to contact their legislators. Our grassroots system gives the MSBA the ability to educate state lawmakers on issues impacting the Minnesota justice system and the legal profession while adding vital support to the MSBA's lobbying efforts.	Nancy Mischel 612/278-6331 nmischel@mnbar.org
Insurance	The MSBA provides interested MSBA members with access to health, life, long-term care, business/office overhead, disability, home/auto employment practices liability, and dental insurance through our administrator, Marsh Affinity Services.	Kameena Anderson 612/278-63 @mnbar.org www.msbaensure.com
mnfindalawyer.com	Previously known as the MSBA's Lawyer Referral Service, mnfindalawyer.com has two primary and interrelated purposes: first, to provide direct client referrals to participating MSBA attorneys; and second, to provide a free online public attorney search and referral service for individuals who have pending or potential legal issues. mnfindalawyer.com, developed in 2004, is exclusively an online lawyer referral system, replacing the prior phone-based system.	Sue Bores 612/278-6325 sbores@mnbar.org
Mailing/Membership Lists	The MSBA makes mailing lists and labels of MSBA members available to qualified and screened organizations as a way to generate	Kameena Anderson 612/278-6326 kanderson@mnbar.org

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	non-dues revenue for database upkeep. Interested MSBA members can also purchase labels. Members who do not wish to be on the mailing list can have their names excluded by indicating their desire on the annual dues billing statement. To obtain information on the purchase of mailing labels, go to our website at www.mnbar.org and click on Mail lists/Labels.	
MSBA Colleagues	MSBA Colleagues is a free, confidential lawyer-to-lawyer information service. It provides an opportunity for an attorney who is unfamiliar with a legal area to consult with an attorney who is more experienced and knowledgeable. The experienced attorney suggests areas to investigate further. Both experienced and newer attorneys are welcome to participate in the service. New this year is an enhanced MSBA Colleagues program that is being launched as part of the new practicelaw. It is web-based and allows users to filter Colleagues from various practice areas, even allowing users to find colleagues who list in several areas at once.	Pat Everheart 612/278-6319 peverheart@mnbar.org
Minnesota State Bar Foundation	The Minnesota State Bar Foundation provides grants to law-related programs and activities. MSBA members are strongly encouraged to provide donations to the Bar Foundation directly, for example through memorial gifts, and through the check-off on the annual MSBA dues statement.	Sue Bores 612/278-6325 sbores@mnbar.org
mndocs	mndocs is a document automation system produced and powered by MSBA staff. It allows a user to assemble more than 250 legal forms in five practice areas, including probate, real property, criminal law, family law and guardianship/conservatorship. Forms are as simple as an Affidavit of Service and as complex as a HUD-1 Settlement Statement or a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.	Gregory Luce 612/278-6340 gluce@mnbar.org
Mock Trial	The MSBA coordinates this popular public education program that gives high school students an inside look at our legal system. Students work with a volunteer attorney coach to prepare and argue a simulated case that involves contemporary legal issues. More than 500 lawyers and judges volunteer each year to be part of this exciting educational experience, serving as attorney coaches and trial judges.	Emily Reilly 612/278-6306 ereilly@mnbar.org
MSBAdvantage	The MSBAdvantage program uses group purchasing power to offer members, their staff and families access to special products or services available exclusively to members or at a	Kameena Anderson 612/278-6326 kanderson@mnbar.org

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	discount. These include: credit cards, car rental, group travel, retirement programs, legal publications, legal research, and more.	
Nine Days in June	This new convention format will be inaugurated in June of 2010. <i>Nine Days in June</i> will consist of full-day CLEs held in judicial districts throughout Minnesota and will conclude with a state-wide event hosted in the metro area. <i>Nine Days</i> will offer members many of the same benefits that the traditional MSBA convention has provided -- an opportunity to improve legal knowledge; network and develop contacts; honor colleagues who have excelled in their contributions to the legal community; and enhance professional skills. The change is that all of these opportunities will be offered closer to home.	Joni Fenner 612/278-6307 jfenner@mnbar.org
practicelaw.org	Provides MSBA members with practice tools that assist in delivering high-quality legal services inexpensively and efficiently. As a free service to members, it continues to be the MSBA's most regularly used online resource, growing substantially in use and content since its inception in 2001. A newly redesigned and restructured practicelaw is launching on September 9, 2009.	Gregory Luce 612/278-6340 gluce@mnbar.org
Pro Bono Development and Access to Justice	In order to meet the ever-growing need for legal services, the MSBA, through its Legal Assistance to the Disadvantaged (LAD) Committee, assists in mobilizing and recognizing attorneys engaged in all facets of pro bono representation. LAD also supports statewide programs providing civil legal services to people who would otherwise be unable to afford it. Members who want to work on access to justice issues or who would like more information about how and where to volunteer are encouraged to get involved with LAD and visit www.projusticemn.org .	Steve Hirsh (Access to Justice) 612/278-6322 shirsh@mnbar.org Pro Bono Development Director 612/278-6308
projusticemn.org	The MSBA, along with the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, administers the website ProJusticeMN.org, which provides Internet-based support for pro bono attorneys and legal aid staff representing low-income and disadvantaged Minnesotans. The website's substantive law resources are broken down into four practice areas: civil law (general), family law, immigration law and real estate. The website features a searchable database to locate pro bono opportunities and includes a CLE calendar and news items related to poverty law.	Brian Bell 612/278-6309 bbell@mnbar.org