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People&Practice

Renee C. Rubish, of Maschka, Riedy & Riesen Law Firm in Mankato, has been named as an MSBA Board-Certified Civil Trial Law Specialist. The certification program is administered by the Minnesota State Bar Association and approved by the State Board of Legal Certification.

The Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association elected new officers at their annual meeting on August 17, 2012. Lisa R. Griebel, shareholder at Terhaar, Archibald, Pfefferle & Griebel LLP, is the association’s new president. Griebel succeeds Mark A. Solheim of Larson•King LLP. Mark A. Fredrickson, a partner at Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson, was elected as vice-president; Dylan J. Ebert of Quinlivan & Hughes PA was elected as treasurer; and Richard C. Scattergood of Stich Angell Kreidler & Dodge PA was elected as secretary.

A number of honors and awards were bestowed at the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association’s annual meeting including the 4th Annual Deb Oberlander New Lawyer Award, given to Jessie Sogge, Rajkowski Hansmeier, Ltd. Also honored was Troy A. Poetz, Rajkowski Hansmeier, Ltd, who received the 2012 MDLA President’s Award. Mark A. Solheim of Larson•King LLP received an Exceptional Performance Award from Chicago-based DRI. Richard P. Mahoney of Mahoney Dougherty and Mahoney PA, received the MDLA Founder’s Award. There were also three Amicus Brief Award recipients; Thomas H. Boyd of Winthrop & Weinstine, PA, Richard J. Thomas of Burke & Thomas, PLLP, and Douglas J. Brown of Brown & Carlson, PA.

Hinshaw & Culbertson has been awarded the Defense Research Institute’s (DRI’s) annual Law Firm Diversity Award for 2012. Hinshaw was selected for its having achieved
significant success in the area of law department management, demonstrated a commitment to increase diversity within and outside its legal departments, and made significant civic contributions. Established in 2002, the DRI Law Firm Diversity Award recognizes one DRI member law firm that has achieved outstanding diversity goals.

- The Saint Paul Jaycees announced Elyssa Weber as the Jaycees’ 2013 president. Weber is an attorney for the League of Minnesota Cities, where she works exclusively in the field of workers’ compensation. She became a member of the Saint Paul Jaycees in 2003 and has held various positions including membership vice president and Minnesota state legal counsel.

- Robert Vischer, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, will become the new dean of the school. Vischer became an assistant professor at St. John’s University School of Law in New York in 2002, teaching there for three years until joining St. Thomas as an associate professor. He was promoted to professor in 2010. Vischer will succeed Neil Hamilton on January 1, 2013.

- Heimerl and Lammers, LLC announced that Joshua W. Laabs has been hired as an associate attorney. He received his JD from Hamline School of Law. Laabs’ practice will focus on the areas of workers’ compensation, personal injury, and employment retaliation claims. Previously he worked as a law clerk at the firm.

- Joe Thompson has joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP as a partner in the corporate department. Thompson focuses his practice on advising agribusiness, food processing and renewable energy clients on joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, divestitures and related commercial transactions.