

STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA

May 2026
NEWSLETTER

Notice of Annual Business Meeting of the State Bar of South Dakota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Business Meeting of the State Bar of South Dakota will be held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on June 26, 2026, commencing at the hour of 8 o'clock a.m. This notice is given pursuant to Article IV, Section 4.4.b of the Bylaws of the State Bar of South Dakota to all Active and Inactive members thereof. Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of May, 2026.

State Bar of South Dakota



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STATE BAR MEMBERS

You are invited to provide
ideas or concerns to

State Bar Officers & Commissioners

President: John Richter, John.Richter@state.sd.us

President Elect: John Burke, jburke@tb3law.com

Commissioners: 1st Cir- Justin Johnson, jjohnson@cityofmitchell.org

2nd Cir- Emily Maurice, emilym@halbachlawfirm.com

3rd Cir- Anthony Teesdale, tony@teesdalelaw.com

4th Cir- Kimberly Kinney, kim@kinney-law.com

5th Cir- Gerald McCabe, jerry.mccabe@state.sd.us

6th Cir- Ellie Bailey, e.bailey@riterlaw.com

7th Cir- Matthew Naasz, mnaasz@gpna.com

At Large: 1st Cir- Teramie Hill, teramie.hill@usd.edu

2nd Cir- Amber Mulder, amber.mulder@siouxfalls.gov

4th Cir- Sarah Covington, sarah.covington@westriverlawandmediation.com

5th Cir- Stacy Johnson, sjohnson@rwwsh.com

6th Cir- Kristen Edwards, kristen.edwards@state.sd.us

7th Cir- Steven Blair, steven.blair@state.sd.us

State Bar of South Dakota

May 2026

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President's CORNER

John T. Richter

Connection: The Call to Leadership and Shaping Our Future

From John Richter, President of the State Bar of South Dakota

Dear Members of the State Bar,

Connection has been our guiding theme this year. Whether by sharing our talents with law students or by ensuring every member's voice is heard, our connections make the State Bar of South Dakota stronger. As we approach the time of year when Bar leadership positions and Commission roles become available, I want to connect this theme to something vital to our future: stepping forward to lead.

The Realities of Leadership: Weighing the Pros and Cons

Let us be candid; stepping into a leadership role is a significant decision. When a colleague asks you to consider running for a position or applying to a committee, it is natural for the "cons" to come to mind first. Leadership requires sacrificing our most precious commodity: time. It means time away from your practice, your clients, and your family. It involves evening emails, travel, and the weight of decisions that affect our colleagues across the state.

Having walked this path, I can confidently say the "pros" far outweigh the sacrifices. Leadership pulls you out of the daily grind of your own practice and connects you to the broader pulse of our profession. It offers an

unparalleled opportunity to build lasting relationships with brilliant, dedicated attorneys from across South Dakota.

But perhaps the greatest hidden benefit is the immense learning opportunity that comes from navigating the Bar's dynamics. We belong to a profession of trained advocates; put any group of attorneys in a room, and you are guaranteed to encounter strong, passionately argued opinions on what best serves our membership. **However, it is vital to remember that while our methods and perspectives may differ, every advocate in that room is motivated by the same core purpose: The best interests of our Bar.** Learning to harness those strong opinions, find common ground, and build consensus is a masterclass in leadership that cannot be found elsewhere and that very few will ever experience.

Most importantly, it gives you a direct role in solving problems, advocating for the profession, and serving our membership. Ultimately, the fulfillment of serving your peers is profound and lasting.

The Unique Opportunity of a Commission Role

As I reflect on my journey, from Committee Chair and Section President to At-Large Commissioner, President-Elect, and now President, I am reminded of how formative the Commission experience truly is. The Bar Commission is the engine of our organization.

On a personal level, it has been an incredible catalyst for expanding my professional and personal network. I will admit that early in my career, I was pretty sheltered

within my own practice. But from the very first day I joined the Commission, my support network expanded exponentially. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to develop the relationships I have built over the past couple of years, many of which have grown from professional collaborations into lasting friendships.

Serving on the Commission is not just an administrative duty; it is a unique opportunity to view our profession through a much wider lens. You are tasked with balancing the diverse needs of rural practitioners, public servants, large firm attorneys, and solo practitioners. It challenges your judgment and forces you to think critically about what is in the best interest of all members. If you are passionate about how our Bar evolves, how we integrate new technologies, or how we govern ourselves, there is no better place to make an impact than in a Commission role.

Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

A healthy, vibrant Bar Association depends on a steady pipeline of new leadership. As I wrote last month about our members' generous mentoring of law students, we must be equally generous in mentoring young and mid-career attorneys to take the reins of leadership.

To our seasoned members: I challenge you to look around your firms, your local bar associations, and your communities. Identify attorneys who show promise, sound judgment, and a collaborative spirit. Tap them on the shoulder. Often, a capable future leader is simply waiting for someone they respect to say, "You should run for this. You would be great at it."

To our newer members: Do not wait until you feel you have the "perfect" amount of experience before raising

your hand. We need your fresh perspectives, energy, and unique insights now. The Bar is changing, and your voice is essential to shaping what comes next.

Taking the Next Step

Whether it is running for a Bar Commissioner seat, raising your hand for a committee, or stepping up in your local circuit, I strongly encourage you to throw your hat in the ring. If you have questions about what a specific role entails, please reach out to me, to any current Commissioner, or to Bar staff. We would be more than happy to give you an honest assessment of the time commitment and the incredible rewards.

I remain deeply grateful for the dedication you show to our profession. I look forward to the new voices that will step forward to shape our shared future; as you take those steps toward leadership, May the 4th be with you!

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your President.



John Richter

P.S. Please mark **May 28, 2026**, on your calendars. The Bar Commission will host a mixer in Rapid City that evening. Special Guests to be Announced!



The Young Lawyers Section is busy with a variety of activities across the state this spring. Each of the YLS Circuits have mixers planned in collaboration with their Circuit Connect events. We are also proud to assist with the swearing-in ceremony for the inaugural graduating class of USD Knudson School of Law's Public Service Pathways Program. Looking ahead, we are excited to host our annual speed networking and social events at the State Bar Convention in June.

NOMINATIONS FOR YLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you are a young lawyer interested in furthering your connections and creating opportunities for young lawyers in our state, please consider running for a board position. [This Statement of Commitment and Responsibilities](#) outlines board members' general duties. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the board.

The following board positions are up for election at the 2026 Annual Section Meeting:

- Second Circuit Director
- Fourth Circuit Director
- Sixth Circuit Director
- At-Large Director

Officers:

- President-Elect
- Secretary-Treasurer

You may place your name in nomination by email to Mae Pochop at mae@meierhenrylaw.com by May 25th.

Any member of the Section in good standing is eligible for the position of director for the specific Judicial Circuit in which that member resides or maintains an office at the time of the election. The at-large director may reside or maintain an office in any Judicial Circuit in the State of South Dakota. It is preferred that officers have experience as a director prior to running for an officer position.

YLS BYLAWS REVISIONS

The YLS Board of Directors approved revisions to the Section's bylaws. Most of the revisions are stylistic. The substantive revisions were necessary to clarify the procedure for filling vacant board positions, clarify whether the USD Law Student Rep has a vote on the board, and align our bylaws with requirements set by State Bar Bylaws. The Section will vote on the revisions at the Annual Section Meeting. To view the redlined revisions, please [click here to view](#) on the State Bar Website.

NOTICE OF YLS ANNUAL SECTION MEETING

The Young Lawyers Section will hold its Annual Section Meeting on June 24, 2026, at 5:15 p.m., in conjunction with the State Bar Convention at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. The order of business

at the Annual Section Meeting will be as follows: the outgoing President will give the Section's report, summarizing activities and goals accomplished over the last year; the Secretary-Treasurer will give a report on the Section's financial affairs/condition, including

monies appropriated and/or expended by the Section; the Section 7 vote on bylaws revisions; miscellaneous business; and, finally, the nomination and election of directors and officers.

Pickleball anyone?



Courts have been reserved indoors on **Thursday, June 25, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

This event is open to all Bar members, significant others, and summer interns. If interested, please send an email to Jeff Clapper at jeff.clapper@ujs.state.sd.us by June 17 and provide the following information:

- Name, age, skill level (beginner, intermediate, advanced).

Your email will ensure adequate court space. However, walk-ins are welcome and extra pickleball paddles will be available. A small fee will be requested.



JUSTICE SQUAD

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ATTORNEYS THAT ACCEPTED A PRO BONO OR REDUCED RATE CASE IN APRIL FROM ACCESS TO JUSTICE, INC.! YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER OF THE A2J JUSTICE SQUAD - AN ELITE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA LAWYERS WHO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO

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ATTENTION SOUTH DAKOTA ATTORNEYS: How to sign up as an attorney volunteer through the sd.freelegalanswers.org website



1. Click on the ATTORNEY REGISTRATION tab.
2. Answer the questions to register and create your account.
3. Once the SDFLA administrator has approved your registration, you may log on to the website and choose the questions you would like to answer.

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ADAM ALTMAN
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VOLUNTEER

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LEGAL SUPERHERO AND MEMBER OF THE A2J JUSTICE SQUAD?

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Raising the Bar: Our Profession. Our Responsibility.



Let's

PAR-TEE



THE A2J ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IS HERE!

LIKE NEVER BEFORE...

THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD AT



*The A2J Golf Fundraiser Tournament will be held on
Thursday - June 25, 2026*

Morning session:
8:00 AM check-in &
continental breakfast;
8:30-11:30 AM
tournament play

Afternoon session:
12:30 PM check-in &
street nachos buffet;
1:00-4:00 PM
tournament play



Let's

PAR-TEE



THE A2J ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IS HERE!

Online registration is for 4-person teams
\$500 each team (\$125/player)

You must pay for all 4 players at the time of
registration.

*Players will be playing a digital golf tournament
game in climate-controlled bays; full service
restaurant and bar on site.*

All skill levels are welcome to play.

Each player will receive 1 drink ticket!

**JOIN US FOR ALL THE FUN AT
GREAT SHOTS IN SIOUX FALLS!**

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DEAN'S LIST:
NEWS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL



Neil Fulton
Dean, School of Law

As May begins, the time in law school ends for another class. We are in final preparations for the Hooding and Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2026 as this article goes out. It is an annual mix of joy and sadness to send another class out in the world. Gathering in the Law School Courtroom for the first morning of Orientation seems like only yesterday. Yet here we are, at the culmination of their legal education. Let us take a moment and celebrate the Class of 2026.

The Class of 2026 sees eighty-two students graduate from the eighty-six students who matriculate. They came to Vermillion from nineteen states reaching from Alaska to Florida. As always, most of the class, 63%, came from South Dakota. Half the class had taken at least one year off between undergraduate and law school; twelve had been out of school for more than a decade.

As I write, 84% percent of the class have accepted permanent positions after graduation. Most will remain in South Dakota and Sioux Falls remains the most common destination within the state.

Judicial clerkships will be the first professional stop for fifteen graduates. We are proud to continue to place such a high number of students in judicial clerkships. In fact, we currently rank ninth with U.S. News in the percentage of graduates placed in federal court clerkships. This places us with schools like Yale, Stanford, University of Chicago, UVA—we keep good company.

Another nine students are entering the profession through the Public Service Pathway pilot program. I am

thrilled to say that in addition to successfully completing their public service placements and portfolio review while in law school, each of those students has secured a judicial clerkship or full-time employment with a public service entity following graduation. We look forward to future PSP cohorts following the trailblazing path taken by these members of the Class of 2026.

The Class of 2026 has realized tremendous achievements while in law school. Several have published their own scholarship in the South Dakota Law Review. Trial team competitors have received national recognition for their ethical and excellent advocacy. Moot court students have been recognized for both written and oral advocacy. ADR competitors have likewise been recognized for exceptional work in negotiation and client counseling.

The Class of 2026 has given hundreds of hours to pro bono activity. This included classroom connected activity like the WORKS Clinic, Tribal Wills Clinic, and Veterans Legal Education Group. It has also included entirely volunteer work through R.D. Hurd and other volunteer opportunities. It is inspiring to see so many members of the Class of 2026, already embracing their responsibility of service to their communities.

In addition to the traits of the Class of 2026 themselves, it is important to say something about the celebratory elements of graduation weekend. It really is a joy.

On Friday afternoon, we have our own hooding ceremony. This event is just for the Law School community. Students receive their academic hood

from me and the student-selected John Wesley Jackson Award for outstanding faculty. Professor Tyler Moore is this year's recipient and it is an honor to hood the graduates with him. Students can also elect to have family members who hold a law degree hood them. We have about ten students embracing that special moment this year. We also welcome a keynote speaker to share a message at Hooding. It is a pleasure to have Judge Andrew Robertson coming home for that purpose this year. It is impossible not to love the Hooding ceremony and the chance to celebrate as a community.

big old party with all our friends. Deans are assigned their seats on stage, and one of my favorite moments is noting that there are more lawyers than doctors to my seatmate, Dr. Tim Ridgway from the med school! It is an exciting time of year around here to be sure. It is also a busy time, and it would not work with all the work of faculty, staff, and student volunteers that make these events come together. A deep thanks to everyone who pitches in to get the work done. That is a great reflection of who we are as a community of excellence, service, and leadership.

On Saturday, we join the larger community of USD for the graduate commencement ceremony. Held on the basketball floor of the SCSC, this event puts us into the larger context of the entire University community. If Hooding is an intimate family, Commencement is a

Ultimately, May of 2026 belongs to the Class of 2026. We are proud of all they have achieved, excited for all that lies ahead, and sad to see them leave. Godspeed USD Knudson School of Law Class of 2026!

University of South Dakota
Knudson School of Law

Class of 2026

		<p><i>University of South Dakota</i> <i>Knudson School of Law</i></p> <p><i>Class of 2026</i></p>												



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Fostering the next generation of lawyer leaders for South Dakota is the heart of USD Knudson School of Law's mission. Since its founding in 1901, USD Knudson School of Law has proven itself the leader in producing public servants in law, business and politics. As we begin our next 125 years, the importance of ongoing investment in that mission has never been greater.

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2026 State Bar of South Dakota Convention and Business Meeting

Stronger Together

One
Profession

One
Bar

One
Community

CLE 1: What You Do Matters:
Lessons From the Holocaust
Wednesday, June 24 at 1pm-4pm
Chair: Dean Neil Fulton

CLE 2: Early Bird
Thursday, June 25 at 6:30am-7:30am
Chair: Nicole Tupman

CLE 3A: Avoiding the D-Board
and Malpractice! Common
Ethical and Professional Issues
Thursday, June 25 at 8:30am-11:30am
Chairs: Jeff Tronvold &
Jason Sutton

CLE 3B: Working Together -
Client Capacity Concerns
Thursday, June 25 at 8:30am-11:30am
Chairs: Eric Hanson,
Anthony Sutton & Mandy Miiller

CLE 4: Improve Your Page and
Presence: Tips and Tools to
Strengthen your Legal Writing and
Oral Communication Skills
Thursday, June 25 at 1:30pm-4:30pm
Chairs: Jennifer Williams &
Tamara Nash

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USD Knudson School of Law

On-Campus Events



FALL 2026:

- OCI Round 1: Aug. 26th-28th
- OCI Round 2: Oct. 1st-2nd
- Career Fair: Nov. 3rd

SPRING 2027:

- OCI : Feb. 4th-5th
- Speed-Interviewing Event : March 5th



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Email Teramie.Hill@usd.edu for more information.



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**ATTORNEY HEALTH & WELLNESS
 SOUTH DAKOTA LAWYERS ASSISTANCE**

Almost everyone, even lawyers and law students have experienced a time when a personal problem or crisis affected their life. Recognizing this, your State Bar, over the past several years, has instituted a variety of ways to support our members when they may need it most.

Go to <https://www.sdlawyerwellness.com/>, which is dedicated to providing you with the information you need about the programs and resources available to the members of our South Dakota legal community and their families.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Waeckerle Law, Prof. LLC
is pleased to announce

Tanner Jackson
as an associate attorney.

Waeckerle Law, Prof. LLC
(P) 8035 Black Hawk Rd., Suites 1 & 2
Black Hawk, SD 57718
(M) PO Box 27
Rapid City, SD 57709

Phone: (605) 791-5666

Email: tanner@wlawsd.com

Legacy Law Firm, P.C.
is pleased to announce
Josh Baumgart
has become associated with the firm.

Legacy Law Firm, P.C.
7404 S. Bitterroot Place
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Phone: (605) 275-5665

Email: josh@legacylawfirmpc.com
www.legacylawfirmpc.com

MorganTheeler LLP
is pleased to announce
*Aspen Bechen Harris &
Deric C. Denning*
has become partners in the firm.

MorganTheeler LLP
1718 N. Sanborn Blvd.
PO Box 1025
Mitchell, SD 57301

Phone: (605) 996-5588

Email: abechenharris@morgantheeler.com
ddenning@morgantheeler.com

Thompson Law, PLLC
is pleased to announce
Taylor Bnestroo
has joined the firm.

Thompson Law, PLLC
5027 S Western Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Phone: (605) 362-9100

Email: taylor@cathompsonlaw.com
www.cathompsonlaw.com

2026 Joint

FAMILY/CRIMINAL LAW CLE

Program Chairs:

Alecia Fuller
Tom Keller

Amanda Miiller
Renee Stellagher

Family Law Topics

- **Legislative Update 2026** – Kyle Krause, Rapid City
- **Child Support Commission Report & 2026 Changes** – Christi Weideman, Aberdeen
- **There's an App for That** – Kylie Riggins, Rapid City
- **Immigration & Family Law Issues** – Ilisja Duffy, Rapid City

Criminal Law Topics:

- **Beyond Evidence: Understanding the Medical-Forensic Exam After Sexual Assault** – Jennifer Canton, Sioux Falls
- **South Dakota Forensic Lab: Capabilities, Reliability and Case Impact**– Kristina Fryer, South Dakota

May 8, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton, Downtown Convention Center | Rapid City

REGISTER NOW



May Law for Lunch

TOPIC:

Discussions on
Specialty Courts

WHEN:

May 19, 2026
12:30pm - 1:30 pm CST
Zoom

*Presenters
will include*

Noreen Plumage and Nichole Larvie, along with Judge Morrison and the Pennington County Drug Court Judge. Additional members of the judiciary may also participate in the discussion.

Program Chairs: Jeff Tronvold & Judge Morrison

 REGISTER NOW



**Destination Dakota Legal Careers
wants to know...**

*Have you spoken to a classroom or group of
students this spring?*

If so, please take a few minutes to complete our survey.

Here is the link: <https://statebar.typeform.com/SD-DDLC>



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Public Service Pathway Program

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
Supreme Court Courtroom

WEDNESDAY
3:30 PM CT

27

MAY
2026

INFORMAL RECEPTION TO FOLLOW





*The State Bar of South Dakota invites
you to join us for a Spring Mixer!*

You're Invited! Join us for our 3rd Bar Mixer. We're bringing members together for an evening of connection, conversation, and community. Mingle with colleagues from across the state and enjoy light refreshments.



REGISTER NOW

*Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate space and food for all attendees. Please register no later than May 21, 2026, by 5:00 PM CDT.

Thursday, May 28



5:30 PM - 7:30 PM MST



The Box Event Center
631 WaTiki Way, Box Elder,
SD 57719



To all the volunteers that participated in the Ask-A-Lawyer Program

Thank You!

SIoux FALLS

Taylor Anderson
Jean Bender
Jami Bishop
Sydney Boots
Ashley Brost
Kristin Derenge
Henry Evans
Keith Gauer
Lane Haskell
David Hieb
Joe Hogue
Anthony Hohn
Alayna Holmstrom
Dick Johnson
Mark Krogstad
Sarah Larson
Aaron Lougheed

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Colton Williams
Reid Brost
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Kyle Beauchamp
Chris Christianson
Aidan Goetzinger

VINTAGE VIBES.
TIMELESS STORIES.

CLASS OF 1961

MEET UP WITH FELLOW CLASSMATES DURING THE BAR CONVENTION AT THE SHERATON HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER IN SIOUX FALLS THIS JUNE.

Catch up, share memories, and enjoy good company with the Class of '61.

Details to follow. Stay tuned and plan to join us!

Not old,
VINTAGE.

ditional business models and driv
ia to digital platforms. digital r
and social media allow the p
beyond geographic and
as up new opportunities to
information to a more diver
e diverse audience. Inform

6TH CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT CONNECT

Connecting the Bench, Bar, and Courthouse Staff



What to Expect

- Tour & Staff Introductions - Hughes County Courthouse
- Gavel Gathering - an opportunity for informal engagement with Judges and courthouse staff. Bring your best questions and curiosities!
- Reaffirmation of Attorney Oath
- Social Event to follow

Details

6th Circuit

JUNE 18, 2026

Address: 104 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

- Tentative Start Time: 3:30 PM

MORE DETAILS TO COME!



Celebrating 125 Years of USD Knudson School of Law!

GRAND GALA
June 26, 2026
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Sioux Falls, SD

**Grand Gala Information &
Tickets:**



A hosted social hour will begin at 5:00 p.m.
with dinner and programming to follow.

REUNION BRUNCH
June 27, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Vermillion, SD

**Reunion Brunch
Information & RSVP:**



Enjoy brunch and a tour of the newly-remodeled law school! A conversation with Dean Fulton about the next 125 years of the Knudson School of Law will be held at 11 a.m. in the Courtroom.

The background features a dark green and black color scheme. At the top, there is a string of warm white lights. Below the lights, three lit candles in shades of orange and yellow are visible. The text is centered and reads:

What You Do Matters: Lessons From the Holocaust

JUNE, 24, 2026 AT 1PM-4PM (CST)

The horrors of the Holocaust were enabled by the legal and political structures and leaders of Nazi Germany. Not only did the rule of law not prevent these atrocities, it was perverted to advance them. This program evaluates the legal history of the Holocaust and the lessons that can be learned in our current day to ensure that the rule of law remains a bulwark against tyranny and inhumanity. Used nationwide by law enforcement and other legal professionals, What You Do Matters presents an important opportunity to consider how the law can go wrong and what we must do as lawyers to ensure that it continues to protect the rights of all within the United States

Speaker: Todd Larson, EdD

Program Chair: Dean Neil Fulton

REGISTER HERE

A white hand cursor icon with the index finger pointing towards the bottom right corner of the 'REGISTER HERE' button.

EARLY BIRD

JUNE 25, 2026 AT 6:30AM-7:30AM (CST)

Please join us for an invigorating Early Bird CLE with a SD Supreme Court Review, Criminal Law Update, ESI Basics, and Working with Inside Counsel.

Program Schedule Overview:

- Supreme Court Review (Meghann Joyce)
- Federal Criminal Law Update (David Barari)
- Working with Inside Counsel (Kiira Weber)
- A Primer on Electronically Stored Information (Tim Rahn)

Speakers:

- David Barari, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Districts of North and South Dakota (Rapid City)
- Meghann Joyce, Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun, P.C. (Sioux Falls)
Timothy Rahn, Ballard Spahr LLP (Sioux Falls)
- Kiira Weber, First Premier Bank, Associate Legal Counsel (Sioux Falls)

Program Chair: Nicole Tupman



REGISTER NOW

AVOIDING THE D-BOARD AND MALPRACTICE!

COMMON ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES



JUNE 25, 2026 AT 8:30AM-11:30AM (CST)

This CLE will assist members in navigating common ethical issues encountered by South Dakota practitioners. Chief Justice Jensen will speak about attorney conduct, professionalism, and zealous advocacy. Disciplinary Board Counsel Tom Frieberg and Recent Disciplinary Board Member Jamie Simko will discuss common issues arising before the Disciplinary Board. Finally, attorney Pamela Reiter and Jason Sutton will present on conflict of interest issues arising from representing fiduciaries and entities.

SPEAKERS:

- Chief Justice Steven R. Jensen, Chief Justice, South Dakota Supreme Court (Pierre)
- Thomas Frieberg, Frieberg, Nelson & Ask, LLP (Beresford)
- James Simko, Cadwell, Sanford, Deibert & Garry (Sioux Falls)
- Pamela Reiter, Reiter Law Firm Prof. LLC (Sioux Falls)
- Jason Sutton, Boyce Law Firm, LLP (Sioux Falls)

PROGRAM CHAIRS:

Jeff Tronvold and Jason Sutton



REGISTER NOW

Working Together - Client Capacity Concerns

June 25, 2026 at 8:30AM-11:30AM (CST)

Learn about how to identify, assist, and represent clients with potential capacity concerns from attorneys, health care professionals, and others. The panel for the first hour covers the growing number of involuntary commitments and mental health concerns counties are seeing. The second hour focuses on practical and ethical considerations when representing clients with potential diminished capacity and how to identify those signs. The third hour provides updates on elder abuse and other consumer protection trends that attorneys need to be aware of.

Program Chairs:

Eric Hanson,
Anthony Sutton &
Mandy Miiller

Speakers:

- Rachele Norberg, Gunvordahl Gunvordahl & Norberg; County Board of Mental Illness Chair for Bennett, Gregory, Jones, Mellette, Todd, and Tripp Counties; Co-Chair of State Bar Project Rural Practice (Burke)
- Jeff Tronvold, Unified Judicial System (Pierre)
- Judge David Wheeler, Third Judicial Circuit (Brookings)
- Cameo Anders, Plains Commerce Bank; Chair of State Bar Elder Law Committee (Sioux Falls)
- Michele Snyders, South Dakota Association of Health Organizations' (SDAHO) Hospice and Palliative Care Program Manager
- Dr. Amanda Sedlacek, D.O., Palliative Care Doctor
- Michael Sharp, The Sharp Law Firm (Emery)
- Scott Wilson, MFS, CFE; Medicaid Fraud, Abuse and Neglect Services Unit (MFANS), South Dakota Attorney General's Office
- Jody Gillaspie, South Dakota Attorney General's Office, Director of Consumer Protection (Pierre)
- Tarah Walton, Sioux Falls Police Department



**REGISTER
NOW!**

IMPROVE YOUR PAGE PRESENCE: TIPS AND TOOLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR LEGAL WRITING AND ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS



June 25, 2026 at 1:30PM-4:30PM (CST)

- Effective advocacy begins with clear communication. This dynamic three-hour CLE program brings together two distinguished presenters to help you strengthen both your written and oral communication skills. Whether you are early in your career or a seasoned practitioner, you will leave with practical tools to elevate your voice - on the page and in person.
- Effective Legal Writing: Formulas for Success: Mary Beth Beazley, will guide participants through practical strategies for improving legal writing. Attendees will explore techniques to enhance clarity, organization, and persuasive impact in their legal writing. Busy legal writers often have a short amount of time to digest, organize, and present complex legal information. In this session, Professor Beazley will explain how to use heuristics, or formulas, to write legal arguments in ways that will meet reader expectations and fulfill reader needs. Formulas will help legal writers to decide how long an argument should be, how to describe authority cases effectively, how to go beyond “however” and “further” when including transitions, and more.
- Beyond Words: Communicating in the 21st Century: Ronda Muir, will focus on oral communication. Participants will learn how employing emotional intelligence enhances your communications, makes your personal practice, teamwork, and leadership more productive and profitable, and leads to better mental and physical health while reducing liability and burnout. Effective communication is critical to a successful legal career, particularly in the world of AI. Using emotional intelligence not only burnishes your communication but also improves productivity and profits, teamwork, leadership, and physical and mental health, while reducing liability and burnout. Join this discussion of what emotional intelligence is, steps you can take to improve it, and how to use it to your advantage in the 21st century practice of law.

SPEAKERS:

- Mary Beth Beazley, Emerita Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law
- Ronda Muir, Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell and Founder of Law People Management, LLC

TO REGISTER

PROGRAM CHAIRS:
Jennifer Williams and
Tamara Nash

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Attorney of the Year



Nominations for the 2026 Attorney of the Year award are now open! USD Women In Law seeks to champion women in the legal profession through educational programming, mentorship, and outreach. The Attorney of the Year Award recognizes an attorney (female or male) who has demonstrated exceptional skill within their field and has furthered the interests of Women in Law.

If you know a special attorney deserving of this award, please consider nominating them by writing a 1 to 2-page letter addressing why they embody and further the interests of Women in Law.

Please include the nominee's contact information within the letter.

Nomination letters are to be addressed to the USD Women in Law Board and sent via email to sydney.schad@coyotes.usd.edu.

Nominations close on May 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

The award will be presented at the 2026 State Bar Convention in Sioux Falls, SD.

Thank you,

Sydney Schad

on behalf of USD Women in Law

Law Day 2026



The Rule of Law and the American Dream

Destination Dakota Legal Careers and the Public Sector Section of the State Bar of South Dakota are partnering for Law Day 2026. We invite K-12 teachers and administrators to join us in promoting the legal profession, exploring career pathways, and inspiring the next generation of lawyers and judges.

Last year, more than two dozen attorneys reached over 1,500 students.

School classroom registration form: <https://shorturl.at/2Nubf>

Attorney volunteer registration form: <https://shorturl.at/XJCPx>

Volunteer speakers can present on the Law Day theme, the judiciary, legal career paths, or a topic of your choice. Schools may also request an age-appropriate mock trial or interactive activity for larger groups.

For more information about the organizations that facilitate classroom outreach, visit the websites below.



State Bar Website, Public Sector Section

<https://www.statebarofsouthdakota.com/members-only/public-sector-section/>



Destination Dakota Legal Careers

<https://sd-ddlc.org/>

* Red Mass

*Sacred Heart Chapel at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph
521 N. Duluth Avenue, Sioux Falls - (enter from west parking lot)
4:45 p.m., Thursday, June 25, 2026
Light Refreshments to Follow in the Saint Joseph Room*

All are cordially invited to attend.

*Presiding Clergy: Very Rev. Timothy J. Smith, JCL
Homilist: Rev. Patrick Grode, JD*

The Red Mass dates from the Middle Ages—as early as 1307, during the reign of Edward I of England. Its purpose, then as now, is to invoke divine guidance and strength for lawyers, judges, and civic leaders. During the Middle Ages, the English legal year was divided into four terms of court, each of which was celebrated with a Red Mass. In time, the custom evolved into one of such celebration held traditionally near Michaelmas (September 29), the season at which the courts, Parliament and universities all began their official activities of the year.

Ecclesiastical traditions called for red vestments to be worn by the priests celebrating the mass, described as a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit. In the time of Edward I, twelve judges of the High Court sat at the King's Bench at Westminster. As befit their position and academic station, they too wore scarlet robes. Rounding out the assembly were the university professors, with the doctors among them wearing red academic gowns. Thus was born the name "Red Mass."

After the first Red Mass in the United States was celebrated in New York City in 1928, the practice spread to Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco. Perhaps the most well-known celebration in this country is held in Washington, D.C., where it is attended by the President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, members of Congress, judges, diplomats, and lawyers.

**This function is not sponsored by the State Bar.*





PRAYER

Breakfast

Friday, June 26, at 7:00 am




2026
ANNUAL
CONVENTION


GUEST SPEAKERS:
ZACH SCHMIDT
AND
CHELSEA SCHMIDT



3rd Annual State Bar Awards Luncheon

SAVE THE DATE

 June 24, 2026

 11:30 AM

 Sioux Falls
Convention Center

Don't
miss out

- USD KNUDSON SCHOOL OF LAW WOMAN IN LAW AWARD
- ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR
- PRESIDENT'S A2J PRO BONO/LAW BONO AWARD
- BILL DAY AWARD
- YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD
- BARBARA ANDERSON LEWIS SPECIAL COMMEMORATION

Registration will open soon, and is ³⁶required to attend this event.

Cheers to our Veterans!

THE TRADITION OF HONORING MEMBERS OF THE STATE BAR WHO HAVE REACHED THE REMARKABLE MILESTONES OF FIFTY AND SIXTY YEARS SINCE THEIR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN SOUTH DAKOTA CONTINUES. THIS CEREMONY REMAINS A CHERISHED HIGHLIGHT OF OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION, CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION AND LEGACY OF OUR LONGSTANDING MEMBERS.

50 year Veterans

CARYL H. ABBOTT
JON E. ARNESON
THOMAS C. BARNETT
WESLEY W. BUCKMASTER
ARTHUR TRACY CARTER
MARY JANE CLEARY
SUSAN E. COLLINS
GARY W. CONKLIN
DOUGLAS P. CUMMINGS
HAROLD H. DEERING
HON. ALAN D. DIETRICH
ROBERTA A. FERRON
ROBERT G. FITE

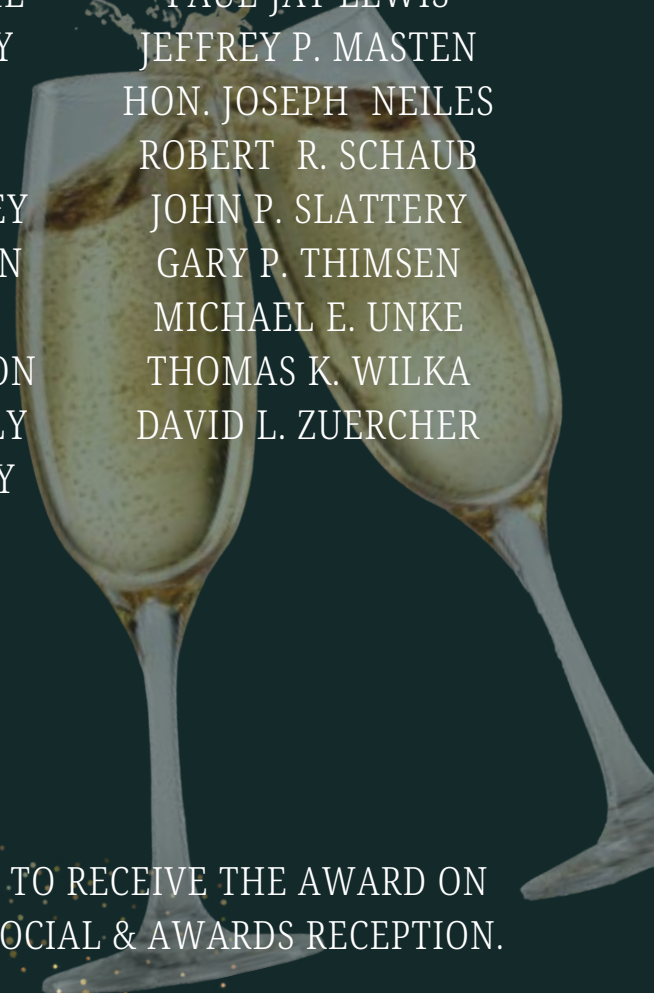
THOMAS M. FRANKMAN
DAVID L. GANJE
PAUL O. GODTLAND
THOMAS E. GRASLIE
PETER I. GREGORY
TODD D. HAUGE
ROBERT E. HAYES
MICHAEL M. HICKEY
ROBERT R. JACKSON
CURTIS S. JENSEN
STEVEN M. JOHNSON
BRIAN JAMES KELLY
CRAIG A. KENNEDY

CARL J. KOCH
MARK KRATOCHVIL
DAVID J. LARSON
PAUL JAY LEWIS
JEFFREY P. MASTEN
HON. JOSEPH NEILES
ROBERT R. SCHAUB
JOHN P. SLATTERY
GARY P. THIMSEN
MICHAEL E. UNKE
THOMAS K. WILKA
DAVID L. ZUERCHER

60 year Veterans

MICHAEL V. BRALEY
CHARLES A. WOLSKY

THE STATE BAR MEMBERS ABOVE ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE AWARD ON WEDNESDAY EVENING DURING THE STATE BAR SOCIAL & AWARDS RECEPTION.



PUBLIC SECTOR SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting at the 2026 Bar Convention in Sioux Falls, SD

Time & Date TBD

Business at the meeting:

- There will be an overview of the past year's activities and a discussion of future efforts
- One at large Board position will be voted on
- Candidates may be nominated from the floor

Ideas for Future Focus

- Quarterly continuation of Public Servant Spotlights
- Public sector law education in elementary, middle, and high schools beyond just Law Day
- Public sector lawyers presenting to law school classes

Summary of 2025-2026

Activities

- **Major focus on Law Day 2026**
- **Public Sector Attorney of the Year Award & Rising Star Award**
- **Commencement of project for update of Collateral Consequences Guidebook**
- **Discussions of future focus**

Law Day 2026

- Transition of main coordination to Destination Dakota Legal Careers
- Development of circuit coordinators to pair attorney volunteers with school presentation requests and garner interest in presentations
- Gathering of materials for mock trials and other types of classroom presentations. The State Bar of SD is now hosting these materials on its website! The Bar added a Civic Engagement folder on the Member Hub under Resources.
- Future ideas: brochures for schools, video discussing attorney involvement, and more

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STATE BAR BYLAWS, PRACTICE RULES, AND RULES OF EVIDENCE TO BE VOTED ON BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA ON JUNE 26, 2026, BROUGHT AS A RESULT OF BAR COMMISSION INITIATIVE.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STATE BAR BYLAWS REGARDING ATTENDANCE AND VOTING AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Article IV, Section 4.4 of the Appendix to SDCL Chapter 16-17 -
The State Bar of South Dakota Bylaws

4.4. **Meetings.**

- a. **Annual Meeting.** The State Bar will hold an annual Member meeting ("Annual Meeting") at the time and place determined by the Bar Commission. Members may attend the meeting in-person or by electronic communications. The electronic communications medium Members may use to attend will be determined by the Bar Commission.
- b. **Notice.** The State Bar will give notice of the Annual Meeting to all Active and Inactive Members at least 30 days before the meeting date.
- c. **Resolutions.** Resolutions for Member consideration at the Annual Meeting must be submitted by an Active Member to the State Bar in writing at least 45 days before the business portion of the Annual Meeting ("Business Meeting"). The State Bar will publish properly submitted resolutions in the Annual Meeting Program, post them conspicuously at the Annual Meeting, and make copies available for Members in attendance. The State Bar will not accept any resolution or motion, complimentary to any Officer or Member, for any service performed, paper read, or address delivered.

Special Meetings.

- d. Any five Bar Commissioners may call a special Member meeting by signing a written Call for Special Meeting and filing it with the Executive

- d. **Special Meetings.** Any five Bar Commissioners may call a special Member meeting by signing a written Call for Special Meeting and filing it with the Executive Director. The Call must state the Special Meeting's purpose. Upon receipt of the Call, the Executive Director must fix a date for the Special Meeting no more than 40 days after receipt of the Call and give notice of the Special Meeting to all Active and Inactive Members at least 30 days before the meeting date.
- e. **Waiver of Notice.** A Member's attendance at any meeting will constitute a waiver of notice by the Member, unless the Member announces at the meeting's beginning that the Member is attending solely to object to the meeting on the grounds of improper notice.
- f. **Quorum.** Twenty-Five Active Members at any Regular or Special Meeting will constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, those in attendance may adjourn the meeting until a quorum is present.
- g. **Proxy.** Members may not vote by proxy.
- h. **Voting.** Each Active Member has one vote for each matter upon which the Member is eligible and entitled to vote. A matter is approved when a majority of Members present vote in favor of the matter. A Member is considered present whether they attend a meeting in-person or through electronic communications. In the event of a tie vote, lots will be drawn to determine the matter.
- i. **Fixing of Membership.** The State Bar will determine Membership ten days before an Annual or Special Meeting for voting purposes at the upcoming meeting.
- j. **Official Record.** The Executive Director will maintain an official record of all State Bar meetings.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SOUTH DAKOTA RULES OF EVIDENCE TO BE
VOTED ON BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA ON JUNE 26, 2026.**

Section 1. That § 19-19-106 be AMENDED:

19-19-106. Remainder of or related writings or recorded statements.

If a party introduces all or part of a ~~writing or recorded~~ statement, an adverse party may require the introduction, at that time, of any other part--or any other ~~writing or recorded~~ statement--that in fairness ought to be considered at the same time. The adverse party may do so over a hearsay objection.

Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added as § 19-19-107

19-19-107. Illustrative Aids

(a) Permitted Uses. The court may allow a party to present an illustrative aid to help the trier of fact understand the evidence or argument if the aid's utility in assisting comprehension is not substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, or wasting time.

(b) Use in Jury Deliberations. An illustrative aid is not evidence and must not be provided to the jury during deliberations unless:

(1) all parties consent; or

(2) the court, for good cause, orders otherwise.

(c) Record. When practicable, an illustrative aid used at trial must be entered into the record.

(d) Summaries of Voluminous Materials Admitted as Evidence. A summary, chart, or calculation admitted as evidence to prove the content of voluminous admissible evidence is governed by § 19-19-1006.

Section 3. That § 19-19-615 be AMENDED:

19-19-615. Excluding Witnesses from the Courtroom; Preventing an Excluded Witness's Access to Trial Testimony.

(a) Excluding Witnesses. At a party's request, the court must order witnesses excluded so that they cannot hear other witnesses' testimony. Or the court may do so on its own. But this rule does not authorize excluding:

(a)(1) A party who is a natural person;

- ~~(b)(2)~~ One officer or employee of a party that is not a natural person, ~~after being~~ if that officer or employee has been designated as the party's representative by its attorney;
- ~~(e)(3)~~ Any person whose presence a party shows to be essential to presenting the party's claim or defense;
- ~~(d)(4)~~ A person authorized by statute to be present; or
- ~~(e)(5)~~ A victim of a crime and his parent or guardian following the victim's testimony.

(b) Additional Orders to Prevent Disclosing and Accessing Testimony. An order under section (a) of this rule operates only to exclude witnesses from the courtroom. But the court may also, by order:

(1) prohibit disclosure of trial testimony to witnesses who are excluded from the courtroom;

and

(2) prohibit excluded witnesses from accessing trial testimony.

Section 4. That § 19-19-1006 be AMENDED:

19-19-1006. Summaries to prove content.

~~The proponent may use a summary, chart, or calculation to prove the content of voluminous writings, recordings, or photographs that cannot be conveniently examined in court. The proponent must make the originals or duplicates available for examination or copying, or both, by other parties at a reasonable time and place. And the court may order the proponent to produce them in court.~~

(a) Summaries of Voluminous Materials Admissible as Evidence. The court may admit as evidence a summary, chart, or calculation offered to prove the content of voluminous admissible writings, recordings, or photographs that cannot be conveniently examined in court, whether or not they have been introduced into evidence.

(b) Procedures. The proponent must make the underlying originals or duplicates available for examination or copying, or both, by other parties at a reasonable time and place. And the court may order the proponent to produce them in court.

(c) Illustrative Aids Not Covered. A summary, chart, or calculation that functions only as an illustrative aid is governed by § 19-19-107.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SOUTH DAKOTA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
PROPOSED BY THE PRACTICE RULES REVISION COMMITTEE TO BE VOTED
ON BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE STATE
BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA ON JUNE 26, 2026.**

Section 1. That § 15-6-56(d) be AMENDED:

15-6-56(d). Case not fully adjudicated on motion for summary judgment.

~~If on motion under § 15-6-56 judgment is not rendered upon the whole case or for all the relief asked and a trial is necessary, the court at the hearing of the motion, by examining the pleadings and the evidence before it and by interrogating counsel, shall if practicable ascertain what material facts exist without substantial controversy and what material facts are actually and in good faith controverted. It shall thereupon make an order specifying the facts that appear without substantial controversy, including the extent to which the amount of damages or other relief is not in controversy, and directing such further proceedings in the action as are just. Upon the trial of the action the facts so specified shall be deemed established, and the trial shall be conducted accordingly.~~ If the court does not grant all the relief requested by a motion under § 15-6-56, it may enter an order stating any material fact – including an item of damages or other relief – that is not genuinely in dispute and treating the fact as established in the case.



2026 BANKRUPTCY & DEBTOR-CREDITOR

CLE

Friday, September 18, 2026
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Hilton Garden Inn Downtown
201 East 8th St., Sioux Falls, SD

SAVE THE DATE

The State Bar of South Dakota would like to take the opportunity to thank Executive Director

Paul Cremer

for his years of service to the State Bar and wish him the best.

Thank you, Paul.

The State Bar Commission and Executive Director Paul Cremer have been working on transition plans, and they have mutually agreed to announce a leadership transition beginning May 12, 2026.

The Bar Commissioners recognize and appreciate Cremer's significant contributions and dedicated service to the organization and its members since 2022. This transition reflects a natural next step for Mr. Cremer to pursue another opportunity. His departure is without cause, and, as such, is not related to conduct or any specific issue. Both parties are committed to ensuring a successful transition and continued support of the State Bar's mission. Cremer expresses his heartfelt gratitude to State Bar staff, the Bar Commission, and State Bar members for all of their support.



Dear State Bar Members, Bar
Commissioners, and Bar Staff,

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for
all of your support during my time at
the State Bar.

I appreciate the positive relationship we
have with State Bar members.

I am proud of the work we did together.

It is an honor and a privilege to work
with all of you!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Paul Cremer



IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF THE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

* * * *

In the Matter of the Discipline)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
of JERALD M. MCNEARY, JR.,)	
as an Attorney at Law.)	#31359
)	

On January 28, 2026, the Disciplinary Board of the State Bar of South Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of SDCL 16-19-67, served and filed its findings of fact, conclusions of law, recommendation, and formal accusation against Respondent Jerald M. McNeary, Jr. Respondent served and filed a response to the findings of fact, conclusions of law, recommendation, and formal accusation on February 5, 2026.

The Court having thoroughly considered the Board's findings of fact, conclusions of law, recommendation, formal accusation and Respondent's response accepting the recommendations of the Board, it is now

ORDERED that:

1. Jerald M. McNeary, Jr. be suspended from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months during which time he shall be required to complete the work necessary to identify those clients who have funds remaining in his trust account and to return funds to former clients if necessary.
2. McNeary be permitted to act as a legal assistant with the Brown County Public Defender's office upon verification by his supervisor that McNeary's duties will not involve the handling of funds, that McNeary will be supervised by a licensed attorney at all times and that McNeary's job duties will not exceed the duties customarily performed by a legal assistant.

#31359, Order of Suspension

3. That McNeary reimburse the State Bar of South Dakota for its expenses in investigating and prosecuting this matter as permitted under SDCL 16-19-70.2.

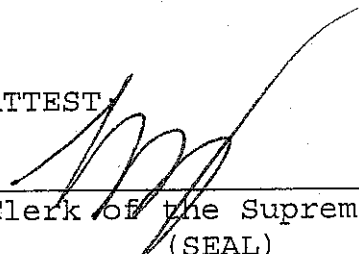
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to SDCL 16-19-70.2 and 16-19-70.3 Jerald M. McNeary, Jr., shall on or before April 9, 2026, pay to the State Bar of South Dakota \$7,011.08 as reimbursement of its itemized costs and expenses for these proceedings. Proof of said payment shall be filed with the Clerk of this Court on or before May 11, 2026.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to SDCL 16-19-77 said suspension shall become effective March 9, 2026.

DATED at Pierre, South Dakota this 9th day of March, 2026.

BY THE COURT:

ATTEST



Clerk of the Supreme Court
(SEAL)



Steven R. Jensen, Chief Justice

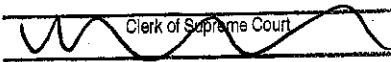
PARTICIPATING: Chief Justice Steven R. Jensen and Justices Mark E. Salter, Patricia J. DeVaney, Scott P. Myren and Robert Gusinsky.

SUPREME COURT
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
FILED

MAR 09 2026


Clerk

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
In the Supreme Court
I, Shelly A. Jameson-Fergal, Clerk of the Supreme Court of South Dakota, hereby certify that the within instrument is a true and correct copy of the original thereof as the same appears on record in my office. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at Pierre, SD, this 9 day of MARCH, 2026.



Clerk of Supreme Court
Deputy

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RECOMMENDATION & FORMAL ACCUSATION

2. Upon graduation, McNeary began practicing in Aberdeen in the office of Willam Gerdes ("Gerdes").
3. During McNeary's early years of practice, Gerdes assumed responsibility for office management which included the filing of sales tax returns, trust account administration, billing, etc.
4. In 2022 or 2023, Gerdes moved to Colorado and office management responsibilities shifted to McNeary.
5. Gerdes and McNeary operated the practice as a partnership known as Gerdes and McNeary.
6. In 2024, McNeary was retained to represent Jonas Claros in a criminal rape case in Brown County.
7. A jury trial was scheduled in the matter for April, 2024. Judge Richard Sommers moved the trial because McNeary indicated that he had failed to notify his client of the trial date. Judge Sommers specifically instructed McNeary to remain in contact with his client, who was currently out on bond and located out of state.
8. The Claros matter was next scheduled for a jury trial which was to commence on July 22, 2024.
9. On July 17, 2024, McNeary emailed Judge Sommers and indicated that he was not prepared to go to trial.
10. The email to Judge Sommers indicated the following:
 - a. McNeary failed to stay in proper contact with his client;
 - b. McNeary failed to properly prepare for the trial; and
 - c. McNeary failed to provide proper representation of his client.
 - d. Continued representation by McNeary would deprive his client of competent representation at trial.
11. The trial was continued and McNeary withdrew from further representation of the Defendant.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RECOMMENDATION & FORMAL ACCUSATION

12. Shortly after the trial, Judge Sommers advised McNeary that he needed to self-report his actions to the Board.
13. McNeary did not self-report his conduct.
14. Judge Sommers asked McNeary multiple times if he had self-reported the complaint in order to give McNeary a chance to self-report.
15. On September 9, 2024, Judge Sommers gave McNeary a final opportunity to self-report his conduct to the Board. Judge Sommers advised McNeary that he had one week to self-report or Judge Sommers would submit a complaint to the Board.
16. McNeary again did not self-report his conduct.
17. On September 30, 2024, by email to Board counsel, Judge Sommers submitted the complaint upon with the Board conducted its investigation.
18. In his initial response to the complaint, McNeary acknowledged that he suffered from anxiety which was heightened when working on the Claros case involving serious criminal charges including a Class 1 felony.
19. In his initial response, McNeary acknowledged he had failed to properly prepare the Claros matter for trial and indicated that his large caseload was not manageable for him.
20. McNeary was one of the contract attorneys for criminal defense for Brown County from 2019-2024.
21. McNeary felt the withdrawal from the indigent criminal contract would lessen his caseload significantly and allow him to focus on other areas of law in his practice which had been limited primarily to criminal defense and retained family law matters.
22. At its quarterly January 2025 meeting, the Board determined that McNeary would be required to appear before the Board at its next meeting in April of 2025 to allow the Board to question him as a part of its investigation.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RECOMMENDATION & FORMAL ACCUSATION

23. In February 2025, the Board was advised that McNeary would be entering inpatient treatment at Hazelden in Minnesota.
24. Due to McNeary's treatment and planned discharge just shortly before the Board's April meeting, the Board agreed to delay its hearing on McNeary until its June 2025 meeting.
25. For the June meeting, McNeary was required to provide the Board with trust account records to provide the Board assurance that he was complying with trust accounting standards and procedures.
26. At the Board's June meeting, McNeary acknowledged that he entered treatment to address an addiction to Adderall.
27. McNeary indicated to the Board that he had a valid prescription for Adderall, but that he failed to take it as prescribed. Rather, McNeary would use up his prescribed dosage within a few weeks and then wait until he could refill and repeat the cycle of overuse.
28. At the June hearing, McNeary shared his experience with the Board and indicated that he had not yet followed through with the aftercare recommended by Hazelden which included the following:
 - a. Intensive Outpatient Treatment;
 - b. Structured Recovery Housing;
 - c. Connection program;
 - d. Therapy; and
 - e. Marriage counseling.
29. In addition to the above, Hazelden had standard recommendations among which were the following:
 - a. Maintain abstinence from mood altering chemicals;
 - b. Attend at least three (3) 12-step meetings weekly; and
 - c. Find a sponsor or temporary sponsor within two (2) weeks of discharge.
30. At the June Board hearing, McNeary acknowledged that he had done minimal follow-up or aftercare and felt

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RECOMMENDATION & FORMAL ACCUSATION

that he did not need the assistance of the 12-step meetings or a sponsor.

31. Prior to the June hearing, McNeary advised the Board that there were serious deficiencies in his trust accounting that would take some time to reconcile. As a result, it was agreed that the Board would address the trust account issues with McNeary at its September meeting.
32. Prior to the September meeting, McNeary provided the Board with trust account records that he was unable to explain which showed a lack of compliance with the trust accounting standards for South Dakota attorneys required by SDCL 16-18-20.2.
33. On September 8, 2025, Board counsel and Board Members Jacobson and Sutton met with McNeary and his counsel via Zoom to attempt to gain an understanding of the issues related to McNeary's trust account.
34. As part of the Zoom meeting, it was recommended that McNeary open a new trust account for new matters so that the problems associated with the old trust account could be isolated and not carried forward to the newly established trust account.
35. After the September 8, 2025 Zoom meeting, it was determined that having McNeary come before the Board in September would be unproductive as he had yet to make the efforts to figure out whose funds were actually held in his trust account.
36. McNeary was again advised by the Board that getting his trust account reconciled had to be a top priority.
37. McNeary was noticed for a January 7, 2026, hearing before the Board to primarily discuss his trust account but also to get an update on his practice and addiction issues.
38. At the January 7, 2026, hearing before the Board, McNeary further acknowledged that he had failed to determine who had funds in his old trust account which carried a balance of more than \$65,000.00.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RECOMMENDATION & FORMAL ACCUSATION

39. McNeary's process for trust account funds would be to keep track of his time and transfer funds to his operating account based upon time spent for clients.
40. McNeary did not provide clients with billings indicating that their retainer funds were being applied to their bill.
41. McNeary has submitted trust account compliance certificates which are incorrect for years 2022, 2023 and 2024.
42. The Board has not received any complaints and McNeary states that no clients have complained about money missing.
43. McNeary has not met the Board's expectations for reconciling his trust account and taking steps to determine who has funds in his trust account and how much should be allocated to each client.
44. McNeary advised the Board that he has applied for a position with the Brown County Public Defender's office which would consider hiring McNeary for a legal assistant position if he is suspended from the practice of law.
45. McNeary admits that he should not be practicing in a solo setting with office management and accounting responsibilities.
46. McNeary denies any ongoing addiction issues but only recently resumed individual counseling for his mental health and addiction issues.
47. McNeary presents a danger to the public in that he is not able to properly account for funds which have been entrusted to him by clients.
48. McNeary's conduct is damaging to the reputation of the Bar and the profession in that he has caused hardship upon his former client Mr. Claros, the Court and the victim based upon his failure to properly prepare for trial.
49. McNeary's is not currently competent to practice law, particularly in an unsupervised setting.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RECOMMENDATION & FORMAL ACCUSATION

50. McNeary failed to fully cooperate with the Board and caused extra delays in the proceedings by failing to address his trust account issues, despite several months of grace from the Board to do so.
51. McNeary has a pattern of ignoring or failing to address issues that create stress for him. This pattern is evidenced by McNeary's handling of the Claros trial, and his admitted inability to work on that case even though he knew he needed to do so due to anxiety. Similarly, McNeary failed to take steps to reconcile his trust account despite repeated communications from the Board indicating this needed to be a priority. At the January 2026 hearing, McNeary admitted that he had not taken steps that he should. He could not explain why he failed to do so. McNeary's pattern of avoiding handling difficult or stressful situations makes him a danger to the public.
52. McNeary would be qualified to act as a legal assistant if safeguards are in place to ensure that he does not have access to client funds, is supervised at all times, and his employer provides the Supreme Court and/or Board with verification that McNeary's job duties would be limited to that of a legal assistant.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board hereby makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. McNeary violated Rule 1.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct in that he accepted a case for which he was not competent to represent the client.
2. McNeary violated Rule 1.15 of the Rules of Professional Conduct and SDCL 16-18-20.2 in that he failed to properly safeguard client funds and failed to comply with the procedures and standards of trust accounting required of South Dakota attorneys.
3. McNeary presents a danger to the public due to his lack of competence; his inability to properly account for client funds held in trust; his failure to follow through with aftercare for his addiction issues; and his failure to adequately address his anxiety which

apparently causes him to ignore stressful situations rather than working to resolve them.

4. McNeary's conduct is aggravated by the following aggravating circumstances as set forth in the ABA Annotated Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions, 2nd Ed. (2019)
 - a. Dishonest or selfish motive in that McNeary failed to self-report his misconduct despite repeated directives to do so by Judge Sommers;
 - b. Bad faith obstruction of disciplinary process by failing to take actions to rectify his trust accounting issues despite repeated directives from the Board to do so;
 - c. Vulnerability of victim in that the client was charged with serious felonies for which he needed competent representation;
 - d. Substantial experience in criminal law during his years of practice which should have brought him to realize that he could not competently represent the client due to his mental state.

Based upon the above Background, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board hereby recommends that the Supreme Court discipline McNeary as follows:

RECOMMENDATION

1. McNeary be suspended from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months during which time he shall be required to complete the work necessary to identify those clients who have funds remaining in his trust account and to return funds to former clients if necessary.
2. McNeary be permitted to act as a legal assistant with the Brown County Public Defender's office upon verification by his supervisor that McNeary's duties will not involve the handling of funds, that McNeary will be supervised by a licensed attorney at all times and that McNeary's job duties will not exceed the duties customarily performed by a legal assistant.
3. That McNeary reimburse the State Bar of South Dakota for its expenses in investigating and prosecuting this matter as permitted under SDCL 16-19-70.2.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, RECOMMENDATION & FORMAL ACCUSATION

4. The Board relied upon *In re Discipline of Reynolds*, 2009 SD 9, 762 NW 2nd and *In re Discipline of Wehde*, 94 SD 447, 517 NW 2nd 132 as precedent for the recommendation of suspension.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2026.

STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DISCIPLINARY BOARD
James S. Simko, Chair

By: 
Thomas H. Frieberg, Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Recommendation and Formal Accusation was served on the 28th day of January, 2026, by sending a copy thereof, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to McNeary at the following address:


Personal & Confidential

Mr. Jerald M. McNeary, Jr.
Attorney at Law
14 S. Main St., #303
Aberdeen, SD 57402

and by email and first-class mail to the following:

Mr. Reed Rasmussen
Attorney at Law
PO Box 490
Aberdeen, SD 57402
Email: rrasmussen@sbslaw.net

Dated this 28th day of January, 2026.



Thomas H. Lieberg



Supreme Court
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Steven R. Jensen
CHIEF JUSTICE

South Dakota State Bar
111 W. Capitol, #1
Pierre, SD 57501

To All Members of the State Bar:

In February 2025, the Mandatory CLE Study Committee recommended a proposal for CLE requirements for the South Dakota Bar. The Committee's recommendations included the following:

1. Members should receive 20 hours every two years.
2. The State Bar will continue to provide free CLE classes to allow members to obtain required CLE hours with limited or no additional costs.
3. Members will track their CLE hours and provide documentation showing attendance upon request.
4. State Bar staff will work with our member management system provider, GrowthZone, to provide assistance to members with CLE recordkeeping.
5. Members will be allowed to obtain CLE credits via online resources, and from sources other than State Bar CLEs.
6. The requirements should allow members to easily track compliance and allow for compliance at no cost, or very low cost.
7. Potential implementation of mandatory CLE requirements should occur no earlier than 2027.

The Committee's recommendations were considered by membership at the Annual State Bar Meeting in June, and following robust discussion of the issue, the majority of members in attendance voted to approve the recommendations.

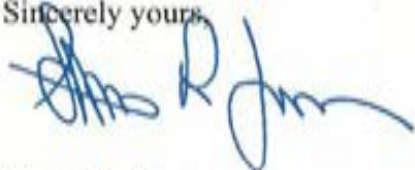
As the regulatory body for the legal profession in South Dakota, the Supreme Court is ultimately responsible for the decision on mandatory CLE, as well as the elements of such a program. Given the significant change mandatory CLE would represent, the members of the Court believe it is important that our consideration of mandatory CLE and the rules for such a program be transparent and that the Bar be given opportunities for ongoing comment and input. Toward that end, I have worked with the State Bar to appoint a committee to begin the process of drafting rules for the Bar, and ultimately the Court to consider. The members of the MCLE Rule Drafting Committee are:

- Justice Mark Salter, Chair
- Judge Craig Pfeifle, Retired
- Judge Julie Dvorak
- Rory King
- Dennis Duncan
- Jamie Simko
- Paul Bachand
- Justin Johnson
- Kristen Edwards
- Tamara Nash
- Rachelle Norberg
- Dean Neil Fulton, Ex-officio

We anticipate that the Rule Drafting Committee will develop proposed rules for mandatory CLE that will be available for comment and discussion at the June 2026 State Bar Convention in Sioux Falls. During this process, I would encourage you to reach out to the Committee members with questions or input. The Court does not at this time have a timeline in mind for considering whether to proceed with mandatory CLE or the rules for such a program, but any such program would not go into effect until at least 2027. I certainly intend to update the Bar on any timeline for the Court as this process moves forward.

I want to thank the members of the Rule Drafting Committee for agreeing to take on this project. We look forward to continued discussion and input from the Bar throughout the process.

Sincerely yours,



Steven R. Jensen
Chief Justice



BAR STAR

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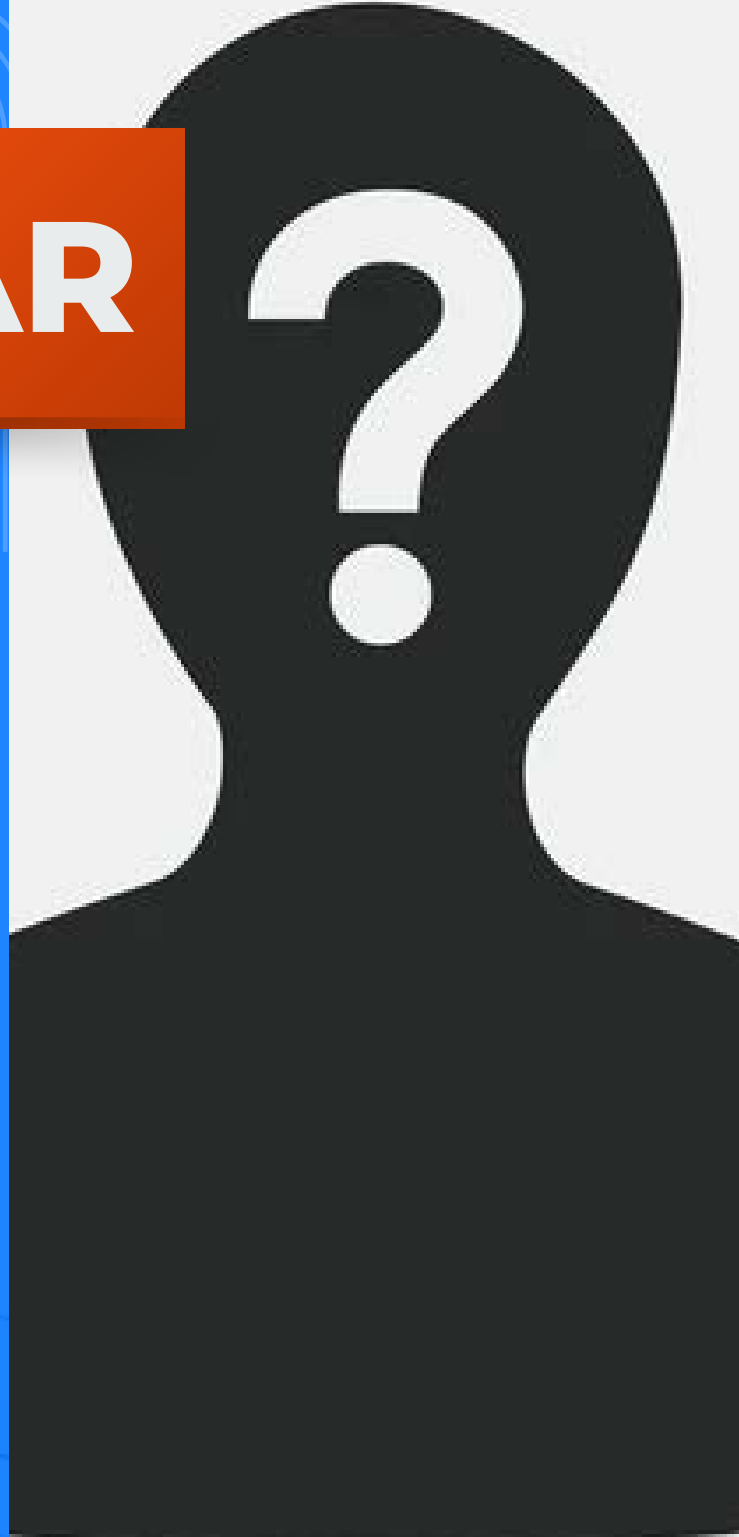
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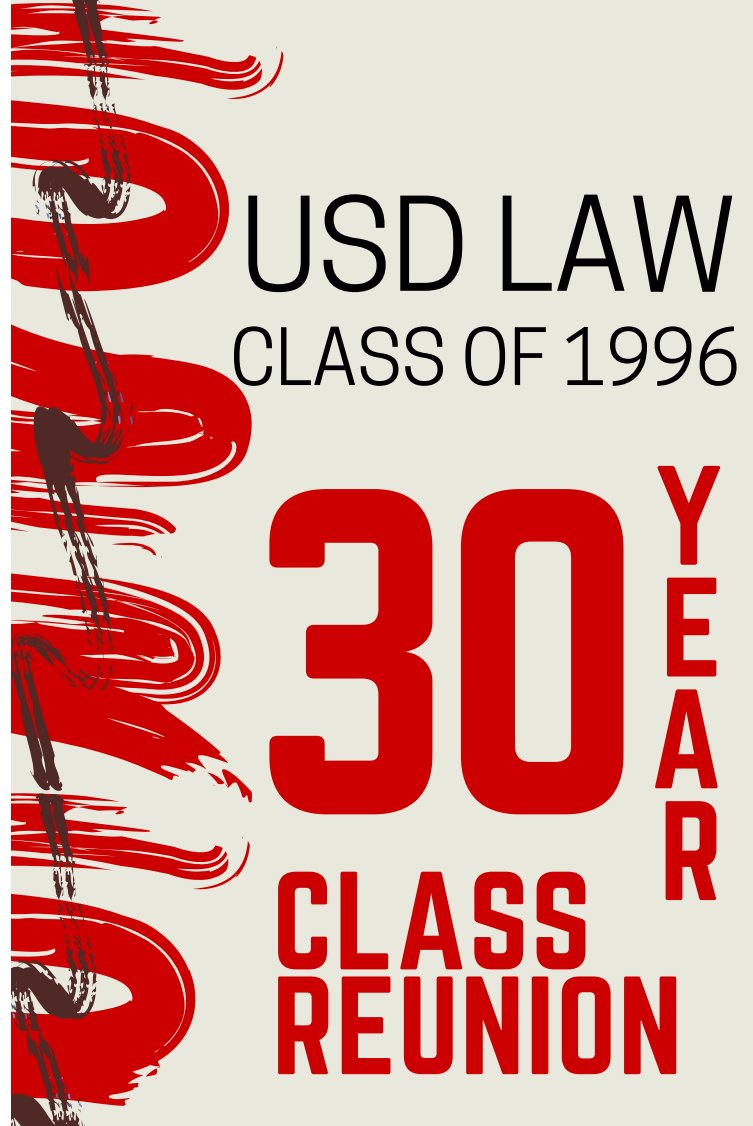
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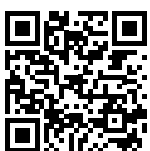
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Lawyer Civility in Digital Communications: A Cornerstone of Professionalism

By: Mark Bassingthwaighe, Risk Manager



For lawyers in practice today, convenient digital communication tools such as email, text messaging, instant messaging apps, social platforms (e.g., Facebook, X or LinkedIn), and virtual platforms (e.g., Teams, GoTo Meeting, or Google Meet) are indispensable. Unfortunately, along with this convenience comes the opportunity for missteps such as inadvertent, ill-conceived, or outright intentional incivility to occur. When this happens, the impact can have unintended consequences because there is a cost that comes with incivility. Over time chronic incivility can lead to fewer referrals, loss of credibility, client attrition, burnout and stress, exclusion from leadership roles, professional isolation, and the list goes on. In short, chronic incivility can and will negatively impact one's legacy.

Here's the thing. Understand that practicing civility is not about curtailing disagreements or tempering zealous representation. It's about engaging others in a respectful, professional manner, even amid conflict. A common misconception is that civility equals softness. There's no truth to this whatsoever. Civility is not a sign of weakness. Civility is a way to remain in control of the exchange, avoid distractions, and focus on the matter at hand. In short, it's an effective way to keep your attention on what's important.

Hopefully, this helps explain why I view civility in digital communication channels as a necessary cornerstone of professionalism. Given the prevalence of these fast, convenient, and often informally used tools, it's far too easy for incivility to show its ugly face, particularly if the communication channel doesn't provide the ability to hear the tone of the conversation, see anyone's body language, or allow for an immediate response. For example, a poorly constructed message written and sent with little forethought may be wrongly perceived as being curt, dismissive, or even hostile, especially when the exchange is occurring in an adversarial setting.

I know that the choice to be civil can be hard at times. We live and work within an adversarial system. Some clients expect and others even demand the use of aggressive tactics because they believe that's how lawyers win. Then there are the time and financial pressures that only make matters

worse. And don't get me started on the cultural realities we face daily, things like the praising of public incivility seemingly all over social media or the political polarization that is pitting neighbors against neighbors and tearing some families apart. Speaking honestly, I don't care if it's hard. This is another reason why I view civility as a cornerstone of our profession. If it were easy, it wouldn't be such a problem.

I invite you to think about it from this perspective. Ask yourself what can be built on a foundation of civility. As I see it, credibility, a strong reputation, financial success, good health, collaborative relationships, leadership opportunities, and respect from one's peers, just for starters. Clearly, the effort is worth it. The only challenge is in figuring out how to get there and then staying on course.

Let me start by addressing the outright intentional incivility problem. If that's your game, all I can say is stop, just stop. It serves no one. Choose a more productive path. With that out of the way, let me address the inadvertent and/or ill-conceived incivility problem. Here are a few ideas that might help.

1. With those clients who expect or demand the use of inappropriate aggressive tactics and behave similarly, don't give in. Explain how this can backfire and how civility can be beneficial. For those that refuse to listen, strongly consider declining the representation because if their matter doesn't turn out like they want, there's a good chance they'll blame it on you. Should that happen, don't be surprised when this unhappy client hires some other bulldog lawyer to go after you.
2. Of course, you will encounter uncivil lawyers from time to time. When you do, don't take the bait. All you accomplish by doing so is to confirm that they have some control over your behavior. Take the high road. Make a choice to remain composed and stay in control. Those who witness the exchange will take note. Situations like this are where reputations are strengthened or weakened based upon one's behavior.
3. It's so easy for something to be misinterpreted in an email or text message. Before you hit send, ask yourself if you would say this in person. If not, revise. Also,

be intentional with what you are writing. Impulsive responses are just asking for trouble. Draft your message, take a breath and try to read it with fresh eyes. Make sure your tone is clear, avoid sarcasm, and NO YELLING! If this idea proves tough for you to master, consider the use of delayed sends so you have one last chance to stop something that shouldn't go out from going out.

- 4. Here's an easy one. No venting about clients, judges, or opposing counsel on any social platforms. Ethical rules aside, such comments are too easily viewed as unprofessional or prejudicial. Yes, you may feel better in the short term, but this short-lived feeling will often come with a cost.
- 5. Set boundaries. Responding to a text message from an upset client at 3 in the morning or trying to respond to email as quickly as you can just to get it out of the way aren't good choices. Set clear expectations, particularly with clients, as to when they can expect a response to

any type of communication and then stick to it. This is about making sure you have the time to focus and gather your thoughts.

- 6. Never lose sight of your common sense. The use of hostile, demeaning, and humiliating language or speaking with an intent to mislead, mischaracterize, or lie is simply unacceptable. Focus instead on clarity, empathy, respect, and thoughtful brevity as you consider what you wish to say.
- 7. If video is in use, dress and act the part because those who are listening can't help but to allow what they see to impact what they hear as they draw their conclusions about what you said. This is just human nature. The less you care about how you present, the less others care about what you have to say.
- 8. And perhaps most importantly, prioritize self-care. The more tired, stressed, overworked, or lonely one becomes, the easier it is for incivility to rear its ugly head.



Authored by: Mark Bassingthwaight, ALPS Risk Manager

Since 1998, Mark Bassingthwaight, Esq. has been a Risk Manager with ALPS, an attorney's professional liability insurance carrier. In his tenure with the company, Mr. Bassingthwaight has conducted over 1200 law firm risk management assessment visits, presented over 400 continuing legal education seminars throughout the United States, and written extensively on risk management, ethics, and technology. Mr. Bassingthwaight is a member of the State Bar of Montana as well as the American Bar Association where he currently sits on the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility's Conference Planning Committee. He received his J.D. from Drake University Law School.

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13 MAY	Staying Strong and Resilient	May 13, 2026 1:30 pm EDT - 2:30 pm EDT	Register for this Webinar
26 MAY	Start with the End in Mind: Making Proactive Wellbeing a Business Strategy	May 26, 2026 12:00 pm EDT - 1:00 pm EDT	Register for this Webinar

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THE HAGEMANN-MORRIS YOUNG LAWYER MENTORSHIP COIN PROGRAM

THE STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Hagemann-Morris Young Lawyer Mentorship Coin Program strives to foster mentorship within the State Bar by pairing members of the Young Lawyers Section with Mentors who can provide candid and insightful guidance to Young Lawyers as they navigate the beginning stages of their legal career. The Program hopes to:

- Foster the development of the Young Lawyers practical skills and their knowledge of legal customs;
- Create a sense of pride and integrity in the legal profession;
- Promote collegial relationships among legal professionals;
- Improve legal ability and professional judgment; and
- Encourage the use of best practices and highest ideals in the practice of law.

State Bar members are members of the Young Lawyers Section until they reach age 40 or have practiced law for ten years, whichever occurs later.

II. HOW IT WORKS

1. Young Lawyers and Mentors sign up with the State Bar by completing the online forms linked below.
2. The YLS Board establishes a compatible mentorship pair.
 - The YLS Board creates mentorship pairs using the information provided in the applications and reaching out to attorneys believed to be a good fit for the Young Lawyer.
 - Young Lawyers may also request specific mentors or request Mentor Coins for an already-established mentorship.
3. The YLS Board will send the Young Lawyer and Mentor an informational packet with suggested conversations and activities. The Young Lawyer will also receive Mentor Coins.
4. The Young Lawyer may present a Mentor Coin to their Mentor as an invitation for mentorship and acknowledge their trust in such Mentor.

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I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR, OR AFFIRM, THAT:

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**I WILL MAINTAIN THE RESPECT DUE TO COURTS OF JUSTICE AND
JUDICIAL OFFICERS;**

**I WILL NOT COUNSEL OR MAINTAIN ANY SUIT OR PROCEEDING WHICH
SHALL APPEAR TO ME TO BE UNJUST, NOR ANY DEFENSE EXCEPT
SUCH AS I BELIEVE TO BE HONESTLY DEBATABLE UNDER THE LAW OF
THE LAND;**

**I WILL EMPLOY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE CAUSES
CONFIDED TO ME SUCH MEANS ONLY AS ARE CONSISTENT WITH
TRUTH AND HONOR, AND WILL NEVER SEEK TO MISLEAD THE JUDGE
OR JURY BY ANY ARTIFICE OR FALSE STATEMENT OF FACT OR LAW;**

**I WILL MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENCE AND PRESERVE INVIOATE THE
SECRETS OF MY CLIENT, AND WILL ACCEPT NO COMPENSATION IN
CONNECTION WITH A CLIENT'S BUSINESS EXCEPT FROM THAT CLIENT
OR WITH THE CLIENT'S KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL;**

**I WILL ABSTAIN FROM ALL OFFENSIVE PERSONALITY, AND ADVANCE
NO FACT PREJUDICIAL TO THE HONOR OR REPUTATION OF A PARTY
OR WITNESS, UNLESS REQUIRED BY THE JUSTICE OF THE CAUSE WITH
WHICH I AM CHARGED;**

**I WILL NEVER REJECT, FROM ANY CONSIDERATION PERSONAL TO
MYSELF, THE CAUSE OF THE DEFENSELESS OR OPPRESSED, OR DELAY
ANY PERSON'S CAUSE FOR LUCRE OR MALICE.**

CREED OF PROFESSIONALISM AND CIVILITY

Preamble

A lawyer should demonstrate civility, personal courtesy, dignity, respect and professional integrity when interacting with the public and participating in the legal system. As we vigorously represent our clients, we must honor our obligations to the administration of justice, resolving disputes in a rational, diplomatic, and efficient manner. We must remain committed to the rule of law as the foundation for a fair and peaceful society.

While our State's Rules of Professional Conduct are instructive, they cannot address all of the various circumstances and conflicts that arise. The following standards are designed as a guide for lawyers and judges when interacting with each other, with litigants and with the public. Lawyers are expected to adhere to these standards as a commitment to justice and the rule of law.

Creed

As lawyers licensed to practice in South Dakota, admitted to the State Bar of South Dakota and/or admitted pro hac vice to appear in a matter before any Court in South Dakota, we will at all times adhere to the following:

1. We will treat participants of the legal system with civility, dignity and courtesy in court, as well as in all communication.
2. We will refrain from using hostile, demeaning or humiliating words in written and oral communications with adversaries.
3. We will continue to prioritize the inclusion and active participation of lawyers (and law students) from all backgrounds, identities and circumstances.
4. We will avoid impermissible *ex parte* communications with the court.
5. We will not intentionally mislead the court in oral or written communications.
6. In court, we will be punctual and prepared. We will not engage in conduct that is disorderly or disruptive and will instruct our clients and witnesses to act accordingly.
7. We will consult with other counsel concerning scheduling and deadlines prior to bringing such issues to the court. We will not unilaterally schedule hearings, depositions or similar matters.
8. We will not assert improper conduct on the part of other counsel without good cause and an adequate factual basis.
9. When agreements are reached, we will adhere to the agreement and accurately and in good faith memorialize the agreement in writing.
10. We will draft orders that accurately and completely reflect the court's ruling.
11. We will not time the filing or service of motions or pleadings with an attempt to unfairly limit another party's ability to respond.
12. We will explain to our clients that cooperation, civility and fair dealing are expected in the legal system.
13. We will advise our clients that we reserve the right to grant accommodations to other counsel in matters not directly affecting the merits of the case or prejudicing their rights.
14. Discovery requests will be drafted without harassment or placing undue burden on the other party. Further, we will instruct our clients that they must fully and honestly respond to discovery requests.
15. When there is a potential for settlement, we will timely confer with our client and other counsel and not purposefully delay negotiations.
16. We will in good faith stipulate to undisputed matters.
17. We will strive to abide by previously scheduled dates for trials, hearings, depositions, meetings and conferences.



State Bar of South Dakota: Association Group Health Plan

The South Dakota Bar Association offers a special group insurance plan for bar members and their employees through Avera Health Plans.

Who Qualifies?

Organizations with employees who are active members of the South Dakota Bar Association qualify.

Available Network Options

The following networks are available:

- Standard Network – Avera and other independent providers across South Dakota and northwest Iowa
- Direct Network – Avera-owned, -managed and -leased providers. Available to employers headquartered in Brown, Lincoln and Minnehaha counties.
- Extended Network – Along with our Standard network, members can take advantage of a Nationwide PPO network that offers access to a range of health care providers and facilities like Mayo Clinic.

Why Enroll?

The plan offers the following benefits:

- Lower premiums
- Options not available on small group plans, such as the more comprehensive “Ultra” plans
- The Nationwide PPO network provides access to a broad range of services at lower costs than out-of-network options.

Additional Details

- The SD Bar Association plan does not include pediatric dental and vision. If you have questions about how to get these benefits, an Avera Health Plans representative can explain your options.
- The Bar Association health plan renews annually on Sept. 1, but benefits follow a calendar year (January–December). If you enroll on April 1, your plan will follow 2024-2025 pricing until the next renewal on Sept. 1. If a member signs up for the plan mid-year, they will receive a credit for deductible and out-of-pocket expenses to cover them until the renewal date (Sept. 1).
- Prices and benefits are subject to change.

Learn More by Reaching Out

Josh Gilkerson
605-224-9223
JGilkerson@Acrisure.com

Or inquire with Avera Health Plans at
sales@averahealthplans.org



Avera 
Health Plans



State Bar of South Dakota Association

Avera Healthcare Plans

The following agents or agencies that are authorized to sell the State Bar Association Health Plan.

EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

Office Location

Mitchell & Yankton Area
Aberdeen Area
Sioux Falls Area
Sioux Falls & Brookings Area
Pierre, Mitchell & Sioux Falls Area
Watertown Area

Agency

Dice Financial
Mark Mehlhoff
Midwest Employee Benefits
McGreevy & Associates
Fisher Rounds & Associates
Freimark & Associates

Contact

Jacquelyn Johnson
Mark Mehlhoff
Dawn Knutson
John Lawler
Josh Gilkerson
Todd Freimark

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

Office Location

West River

Agency

Black Hills Insurance Agency
Black Hills Insurance Agency
Carver Insurance

Contact

Dan Maguire
Everett Strong
Lisa Knutson

Questions on Eligibility, Rates, and Services?

Please contact the agency listed above based on your office location within the state for questions related to the Association Healthcare Plan.



Receive Lifestyle Support with Personal Assistant Referrals

Life is often busy, and responsibilities can feel overwhelming. Your Assistance Program is here to help save time and clear your mind with personal assistant referrals.

Our personal assistant team listens to your requests, conducts research, and provides comprehensive referrals, resources, and information to help with your needs. **Personal Assistant** referrals can include:

- Home care, renovation, and repair services
- Grocery and meal delivery services
- Transportation, car maintenance and repair
- Travel research, planning and itineraries
- Self-care, spas, gyms, and local services
- Theatre, concerts, and sporting events referrals
- Children's sports, programs, and activities
- Donations and volunteer opportunities

*Personal Assistant referrals are non-transactional.
Your Assistance Program is free to use, confidential, and open to family members.*

**JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone 605-773-3474

Robert Morris, Chair
Raleigh Hansman, Vice Chair
Hon. Cheryle Gering, Secretary
Rory King
Raleigh Hansman
Hon. Bobbi Rank
Eric DeNure
Paul Bachand

Lori Grode, Executive Assistant
Email: Lori.Grode@ujs.state.sd.us

April 29, 2026

Notice of Judicial Vacancy

TO: All Active Members of the State Bar of South Dakota
FROM: Cheryle Gering, Secretary, Judicial Qualifications Commission

Due to the Hon. John H. Fitzgerald's future retirement pursuant to SDCL 16-6-31, a vacancy will be created in Circuit Court Judge position (Position D) in the Fourth Judicial Circuit. The duty station for this position will be located in Sturgis, SD. As of July 1, 2025, the salary for a circuit court judge position in South Dakota is \$183,694.13. In addition, circuit court judges and their dependents are eligible to participate in the State of South Dakota's health insurance plan; circuit court judges participate in the State's defined benefit retirement plan. The Judicial Qualifications Commission is now taking applications for this position.

All lawyers and judges interested in applying should obtain the application form at <http://ujs.sd.gov/>, or contact Lori Grode at the State Court Administrator's Office. The application must be returned to the Administrator's Office via United States Postal Service (USPS) Priority Mail and must be postmarked no later than **5:00 PM on June 12, 2026**. **Due to USPS delivery issues, it is recommended that Applicants contact Lori Grode to advise their application has been submitted by the deadline.**

You may also obtain the application form by writing or telephoning:

Lori Grode
State Court Administrator's Office
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: 605-773-3474
Email: lori.grode@ujs.state.sd.us

Or, visit <http://ujs.sd.gov/> for current job openings.

The Fourth Circuit is comprised of the following counties: Butte, Corson, Harding, Dewey, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins and Ziebach.

Career Center

STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASSIFIEDS

Email your employment announcement to tracie.bradford@sdbar.net by 26th of each month to have it included in the next newsletter. Please be sure to include a closing date. To see more jobs listings, visit www.statebarofsouthdakota.com



Deputy State's Attorney Position, Hughes County

Full-time permanent position now open for a Deputy State's Attorney in the Hughes County Office of the State's Attorney in Pierre, South Dakota.

The Hughes County State's Attorney's Office is looking for an attorney to assist in the prosecution of criminal and juvenile matters. This would primarily include juvenile delinquency actions, CHINS petitions, abuse and neglect actions, and some misdemeanor and felony cases. Responsibilities would include presenting cases for legal proceedings, performing legal research, and preparing, drafting and filing legal documents and correspondence. Additional responsibilities include but are not limited to: advising local law enforcement agencies and working with DSS, dealing with juvenile justice issues, providing information to victims and witnesses and helping to fulfill the statutory responsibilities of the office.

Applicants must be able to: manage a large case volume and respond quickly and effectively to changing circumstances; speak and write effectively; establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, other agencies, and the public; maintain professional appearance and demeanor.

Minimum Qualifications: Applicants must possess a J.D. and be an active member in good standing of the State Bar of South Dakota or be admitted within one year of hiring.

Preferred Qualifications: One or more years' experience is highly preferred. The ideal candidate would have 2 to 5 years' experience in the abuse and neglect area but will consider all applicants with a strong desire to work on behalf of and ensure the safety of children. Hughes County offers a comprehensive benefits package for employees including health and dental insurance,

participation in the SD Retirement System, and paid time off. Salary range is \$72,580.31 to \$90,255.04 and is determined in part based on years of professional experience.

Please send a resume and cover letter to Casey Jo Deibert, Hughes County State's Attorney, 104 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501. Resumes and cover letters will also be accepted via email at casey.deibert@co.hughes.sd.us.

Posting to remain open until the position is filled. All inquiries are confidential. Hughes County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Associate Attorney

Ver Beek Law, Prof. LLC is a well-established and growing law firm dedicated to providing compassionate, strategic, and results-driven representation. We are seeking a versatile Associate Attorney to manage a diverse caseload involving family law, criminal law and estate/probate administration, while providing strategic counsel to clients and maintaining high standards of litigation and document preparation. The ideal candidate is a proactive advocate who can transition seamlessly between sensitive domestic negotiations, rigorous criminal defense, and meticulous estate administration. We pride ourselves on a collaborative work environment and commitment to client service. The ideal candidate has strong legal writing, research, and advocacy skills as well as excellent organizational and time-management skills. Two or more years of experience in family law, criminal law and/or probate and estate administration are preferred, but all attorneys with relevant experience are encouraged to apply. We offer competitive compensation and benefits. Interested applicants may send their cover letter and resume to kelsey@verbeeklaw.com.

Deputy State's Attorney, Meade County

Posting: #26-01

Posting Type: Internal & Open Announcement

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Starting Wage: \$85,513.17

Wage Grade 22

Full-time position with Benefit Package

JOB SUMMARY

This position is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases and for representing the State of South Dakota in court. An incumbent in this position may be designated "Senior Deputy State's Attorney"

MAJOR DUTIES

- Reviews law enforcement reports, search warrants, and related documents.
- Reviews law enforcement dispatch logs, videos, and documentary and testimonial evidence.
- Makes charging decisions; prepares, reviews, and files charging documents.
- Reviews and submits requests for warrants and summons.
- Represents the State of South Dakota before the grand jury.
- Represents the State of South Dakota at all stages of criminal prosecution in Meade County.
- Makes oral arguments and prepares motions, responses, and supporting legal briefs
- Manages caseload of misdemeanor and felony offenses as assigned.
- Coordinates with other agencies in the prosecution of felony and misdemeanor related matters.
- Makes bond arguments and sentencing recommendations.
- Conducts legal research, writing, and motions preparation.
- Complies with Marsy's Law and assists victims through the criminal justice system
- Prepares law enforcement officers, witnesses, and victims for testimony.
- Updates and trains law enforcement officers on relevant areas of the law.
- Handles appeals to the Circuit Court and state Supreme Court as needed.
- Performs related duties.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION

- Knowledge of local, state, and federal law.
- Knowledge of investigative tools and techniques.
- Knowledge of trial proceedings.
- Knowledge of computers and job-related software programs.

- Skill in the completion of legal research.
- Skill in producing persuasive legal arguments.
- Skill in the analysis of problems and the development and implementation of solutions
- Skill in training and supervising personnel.
- Skill in oral and written communication.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS

The State's Attorney assigns work in terms of department goals and objectives. The supervisor reviews work through conferences, reports, and observation of department activities.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines include rules of professional conduct, rules of ethics, South Dakota Supreme Court rules, South Dakota codified laws, rules of evidence, and county and department policies and procedure. These guidelines require judgment, selection, and interpretation in application.

COMPLEXITY/SCOPE OF WORK

- The work consists of varied legal duties. The variety of tasks to be performed contributes to the complexity of the position.
- The purpose of this position is to participate in the prosecution of criminal cases. Success in this position contributes to the successful prosecution of criminal cases.

CONTACTS

- Contacts are typically with co-workers, other county employees, other attorneys, law enforcement personnel, judges, victims, witnesses, defendants, and members of the general public.
- Contacts are typically to provide services; to give or exchange information; to resolve problems; to motivate or influence persons; or to justify, defend or negotiate matters.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS/ WORK ENVIRONMENT

- The work is typically performed while sitting at a desk or table or while intermittently sitting, standing, bending, crouching, or stooping. The employee frequently lifts light and heavy objects, uses tools or equipment requiring a high degree of dexterity, distinguishes between shades of color, and utilizes the sense of smell.
- The work is typically performed in an office or courtroom.

SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

This position may supervise assigned personnel.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduation from an accredited school of law.
- Sufficient experience to understand the basic principles relevant to the major duties of the position, usually associated with the completion of an apprenticeship/ internship or having had a similar position for one to two years.
- Current membership in the State Bar of South Dakota.

Managing Attorney

East River Legal Services (ERLS) is hiring a Managing Attorney for our Sioux Falls office. This is a role for someone ready to build a team and design the legal department of your dreams. ERLS is a non-profit law firm serving low-income individuals in the 33 eastern South Dakota counties. East River Legal Services exists to better the lives of the over 56,000 people living in poverty in South Dakota. We prioritize services to our most vulnerable citizens, including our community's Veterans, older Americans (60+), people with disabilities, victims of crime, and all those facing financial insecurity.

Job Summary:

The Managing Attorney provides and oversees high-quality civil legal services to low-income individuals and families. This is a senior management position based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Managing Attorney supervises, evaluates, and addresses personnel-related matters for professional and support staff within designated units, while ensuring alignment with ERLS's mission, advocacy principles, priorities, and work plans. The Managing Attorney also maintains an active caseload and/or engages in other substantive advocacy.

Essential Functions:

Client Representation & Advocacy

- Provide and ensure high-quality legal representation in accordance with ERLS standards of practice and the Rules of Professional Conduct, including client interviews, legal research, factual investigation, preparation of pleadings, negotiation, discovery, motion practice, and representation in court and administrative hearings.
- Provide legal advice, brief services, and referrals, as appropriate.
- Co-counsel with other attorneys and collaborate with paralegals and support staff.
- Represent clients and client groups in litigation, administrative advocacy, and other advocacy forums.
- Engage in appellate advocacy, complex or impact litigation, and special projects as assigned.

- Develop and implement litigation and advocacy strategies to address systemic legal problems affecting low-income communities.
- Analyze and comment on pending legislation and regulations, consistent with the requirements of all funding sources.

Leadership & Management

- Manage and oversee legal work within the office, including workload distribution, case management, and quality control.
- Supervise attorneys, advocates, and support staff through ongoing feedback, coaching, and formal performance evaluations.
- Oversee office systems including conflicts checks, filing, case tracking, and workflow processes.
- Foster a collaborative, respectful, and inclusive workplace culture.
- Monitor casework to ensure efficiency, compliance, and high-quality legal services.
- Monitor and balance staff time devoted to direct client services and broader law reform, policy advocacy, and systemic work.
- Participate in agency-wide management and administrative decision-making and support implementation of organizational decisions.
- Supervise and evaluate support staff in coordination with the Executive Director.
- Enforce ERLS policies and procedures consistently and fairly.
- Communicate staff concerns and relevant office issues to ERLS management.
- Keep staff informed of significant developments within the community and the legal services field.
- Provide substantive legal updates and training related to the Managing Attorney's practice areas.
- Engage in local, state, regional, and national legal services and advocacy networks.
- Maintain professional knowledge by reviewing relevant legal and professional materials.
- Community & External Relations
- Participate in community education, outreach, and permissible legislative and administrative advocacy related to poverty law, in accordance with Legal Aid policy and applicable laws.
- Serve on Legal Aid, statewide, and community task forces and work groups.
- Participate in South Dakota Bar activities and build strong relationships with members of the private bar.
- Ensure ERLS develops and maintains effective partnerships with courts, the judiciary, nonprofit organizations, grassroots groups, government agencies, and elected officials.

Other Responsibilities

- Ensure compliance with all Legal Services Corporation (LSC), VOCA, and other funder requirements.
- Participate in training activities as both a trainee and trainer to support professional development.
- Promptly report any bar grievances, disciplinary proceedings, or malpractice claims to Legal Aid management and cooperate with liability insurers.
- Develop and maintain a case handler's manual outlining departmental policies and procedures.
- Support intake operations as needed.
- Attend and help facilitate effective program and office meetings.

Job Requirements

- Juris Doctor (JD) from an accredited law school.
- Active license to practice law in South Dakota (or ability to obtain promptly).
- Prior experience in legal services or a nonprofit environment preferred.
- Working knowledge of state and federal law affecting low-income clients.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office and legal case management systems.
- Strong interpersonal, leadership, and supervisory skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to build effective working relationships with diverse stakeholders.
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to prioritize, problem-solve, meet deadlines, and work under pressure.
- Notary Public (or willingness to obtain).
- Spanish language skills preferred, but not required.
- This position requires an in-office presence, with eligibility to request remote work in accordance with the ERLS Remote Work Policy.

Salary:

\$90,069.41 to \$133,073.54/year, depending on experience.

Benefits include 14 paid holidays, vacation leave, sick leave, health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, Life Insurance, AD&D Insurance, IRA, and travel reimbursement.

To Apply:

Please send a cover letter, resume, and references to:

Lea Wroblewski
Executive Director
East River Legal Services
335 North Main Avenue, Suite #200
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
lea@erlservices.org

Submission Deadline:

Open until filled

East River Legal Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Persons of color, veterans, persons with disabilities, and persons from other traditionally underrepresented communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Litigation Associate

Goodsell + Oviatt Law Firm is seeking a Litigation Associate to join their team in Rapid City, SD. This position is open to both lateral candidates and new associates. The primary focus will be on personal injury, workers' compensation, and insurance law, as well as aspects of business law and commercial matters.

Key responsibilities include conducting legal research, writing briefs, preparing for trials, and managing complex litigation in both state and federal courts in South Dakota and North Dakota.

Candidates should have strong academic credentials and exceptional oral and written communication skills. The firm offers a competitive salary, a comprehensive benefits package, and opportunities for professional development and growth.

Confidential inquiries, including a résumé and cover letter detailing your experience, should be sent to:

Nathan Oviatt, Partner
or Lori Miklos, Business Manager
Goodsell + Oviatt Law Firm
PO Box 9249
Rapid City, SD 57709
or email at Nate@goodselloviatt.com or Lori@goodselloviatt.com

Legislative Attorney

South Dakota Legislative Research Council — Pierre, South Dakota

This is a full-time position with the Legislative Research Council. For more information on the Legislative Research Council, please visit the LRC website.

The Legislative Research Council, which is the nonpartisan research and support staff to the South Dakota State Legislature, is accepting applications for a permanent, full-time **Legislative Attorney**. An applicant must have an

interest in the legislative process and be results-oriented, honest, discrete, trustworthy, and articulate. A remote work option may be considered for the position. However, a full-time presence in Pierre is required during the legislative session and periodically throughout the interim.

Duties and Responsibilities: A Legislative Attorney will assist legislators by providing accurate, objective, and relevant research information, informed by a professional understanding of the law. The significant duties include the following:

- 1) Compile data and conduct general and legal research for legislative committees and individual legislators and present alternative solutions for their consideration;
- 2) Confer with and advise legislators on legislative legal questions;
- 3) Draft and edit bills, resolutions, and amendments to implement legislators' ideas;
- 4) Staff standing committees of the South Dakota Legislature during legislative sessions, consult with committee chairs to develop agendas and obtain testimony, and prepare committee reports;
- 5) Staff interim committees, consult with committee chairs to develop agendas, assist with meeting arrangements, prepare background materials, and prepare final reports;
- 6) Review administrative rules for form, style, clarity, and compliance with statutory authority; and
- 7) Research and write issue memoranda and develop other resources on selected topics for review and use by the Legislature, Legislative Research Council staff, and the public.

Minimum Qualifications:

- 1) A Juris Doctorate from an ABA-accredited law school;
- 2) An active license in good standing with the State Bar of South Dakota, or the ability to become eligible for and become admitted to the State Bar of South Dakota within one year after employment; and
- 3) The ability to remain objective and nonpartisan in relation to all legislative matters, maintain confidentiality, and handle politically sensitive work.

Preferred Qualifications:

- 1) Very strong writing skills;
- 2) Strong research and analytical skills;
- 3) A willingness to expand and develop expertise into various subject areas;
- 4) The ability to communicate, both orally and in writing, in a manner that clearly and efficiently conveys information to legislators and the public; and
- 5) The ability to work under tight deadlines and extended hours during the legislative session.

Salary Range: For an entry level Legislative Attorney, the annual salary will range from \$74,000 to \$92,000.

For a Senior Legislative Attorney with previous related experience, the annual salary will range from \$88,000 to \$130,000. Actual starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

Application Process: This position will remain open until filled. This position is exempt from the Civil Service Act and is employed at will. Any application or resume submitted for consideration will be kept confidential. Applications, consisting of a letter of interest and resume, should be submitted online or e-mail to:

South Dakota Legislative Research Council 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501 E-Mail: Legis.Resume@sdlegislature.gov | Phone: 605-773-3251

Attorney - Partnership Potential

Burd, Landeen & Carper, Attorneys at Law Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Burd, Landeen & Carper, Attorneys at Law, is seeking a motivated and compassionate attorney to join our established law practice in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Our firm has built a strong reputation for providing experienced, thoughtful, and client-centered representation in legal matters throughout eastern South Dakota.

With over 75 years of combined legal experience, our attorneys guide clients through some of life's most difficult transitions and challenges with professionalism, integrity, and care. Our practice is rooted in collaboration, preparation, and strong advocacy, both in and out of the courtroom.

The successful candidate will be an integral part of our team, handling a broad range of matters.

This position offers a clear path toward partnership for the right attorney who demonstrates sound judgment, a strong work ethic, and dedication to clients and the firm.

What We're Looking For

- Licensed to practice law in South Dakota
- Litigation experience preferred; family law experience strongly valued
- Strong legal writing, courtroom, and client communication skills
- Ability to manage cases independently while working collaboratively with colleagues and staff
- Professional, empathetic approach to clients facing high conflict matters

Why Join Burd, Landeen & Carper

- Well-established law practice with a respected presence in the Sioux Falls legal community
- Supportive, team-oriented environment with experienced paralegal and administrative staff
- Meaningful courtroom experience and hands-on client representation
- Opportunity to build a long-term practice with partnership consideration

Our firm values collaborative advocacy, thorough preparation, and professionalism, even in emotionally charged cases. This is an excellent opportunity for an attorney seeking to grow with a firm.

About the Firm

Burd, Landeen & Carper, Attorneys at Law, is located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and currently focuses primarily on family law, with additional experience in related litigation matters, including criminal law. All areas of legal practice are welcome. We are known for our hands-on representation, practical problem-solving, and dedication to client service.

Application Process

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a resume and a brief letter of interest to:

Confidential Application

Email: natasha@burdandlandeen.com

Phone: 605-332-4351

Dakota Plains Legal Services, Executive Director, Mission, SD

Position Description:

The Executive Director will serve as the chief executive and legal leader of the organization, responsible for strategic direction, fundraising, litigation vision, staff leadership, and external relationships. This is a rebuilding and transformation role, suited for a leader who is entrepreneurial, resilient, and deeply committed to access to justice in underserved and tribal communities.

The main office is located in Mission, SD on the Rosebud reservation with limited nearby housing and services. Candidates should carefully consider the geographic and logistical realities of the position.

Dakota Plains Legal Services (“DPLS”) is a unique and historic nonprofit legal aid program providing civil legal services to members of nine Native American tribes, as well as non-tribal community members, in Western South Dakota. For decades, the organization has played a critical role in advancing justice in Indian Country and rural

communities through litigation, advocacy, and direct legal services.

Like many long-standing institutions, the organization is at an inflection point. After years of underinvestment, it now seeks a visionary, hands-on Executive Director to rebuild capacity, reinvigorate litigation and advocacy strategies, strengthen relationships with tribal nations, and lead the organization into its next chapter of impact and sustainability.

Key Responsibilities:

Strategic & Organizational Leadership

- Develop and implement a clear, forward-looking vision for the organization’s legal, advocacy, and operational work
- Lead organizational rebuilding, including systems, policies, and culture
- Work closely with the Board of Directors to strengthen governance and long-term sustainability

Litigation & Legal Advocacy

- Reinvigorate and oversee the organization’s litigation strategy, including impact litigation where appropriate
- Ensure high-quality legal services across practice areas
- Stay informed of legal developments affecting tribal nations and rural communities

Fundraising & External Relations

- Lead fundraising efforts, including grant writing, foundation relationships, and government funding
- Cultivate relationships with tribal governments, community partners, funders, and allied organizations
- Serve as the public face of the organization in the legal and broader community

Staff Leadership & Development

- Recruit, train, mentor, and retain a small, dedicated legal and support staff
- Foster a collaborative, supportive, and trauma-informed workplace
- Supervise senior staff and manage performance and professional development

Operations & Administration

- Oversee finances, budgeting, and compliance with grant and funding requirements
- Ensure ethical, effective, and fiscally responsible operations
- Balance limited resources while maintaining mission focus

Qualifications:

Required

- J.D. and active license (or eligibility to become licensed) in South Dakota. South Dakota has reciprocity with many states.
- Significant experience in legal aid, public interest law, tribal law, or closely related fields
- Demonstrated leadership experience, including staff supervision
- Experience with or strong aptitude for fundraising and grant development
- Commitment to serving Native American communities and underserved populations
- Ability to work effectively with tribal governments and diverse stakeholders

Preferred

- Experience working in or with tribal nations or Indian Country
- Litigation experience, including impact or complex litigation
- Executive or senior management experience in a nonprofit organization
- Cultural competence and humility in cross-cultural settings

Work Environment & Location Considerations

- Primary office is located on a reservation in a rural area
- Limited housing options near the office; relocation may be challenging
- Some remote or hybrid work may be possible, but regular on-site presence is required
- Position may involve travel within the service area and occasional out-of-area travel

Compensation & Benefits

- Salary is competitive within nonprofit legal aid but constrained by current funding
- Benefits include:
 - Employer-paid employee coverage for medical, dental, short-term disability, long-term disability, term life, and AD&D insurance. Vision insurance is also available
 - 401(k) with employer matching
 - Earn 6 weeks of paid time off each year
 - No relocation assistance currently available

To Apply:

Please submit:

1. A resume
2. A cover letter describing your interest in the position, relevant experience, and vision for leading a rebuilding legal aid organization serving tribal communities

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Please submit these materials to:

Mr. Craig Lafferty
DPLS Board Chair
28778 274th Ave
Mission, SD 57555
605-319-1812

Notes:

Equal Opportunity Employer

Salary range:

\$110,000 - \$150,000

Yankton County Deputy State's Attorney

Reports to: Yankton County State's Attorney

FLSA Status: Exempt

Grade: 13

Probationary Period: 180 days

Starting Salary Range: \$71,942.98 - \$77,873.89

Position Description

- The Deputy State's Attorney performs routine legal work in the prosecution of civil and criminal crimes, juvenile crimes, and juvenile abuse and neglect cases in Yankton County as well as representing the State in mental illness proceedings.

Key Responsibilities (may not include all of the functions performed)

- Reviewing offenses and evidence to make determination on charges and prosecuting violations of state law.
- Reviewing requests for subpoenas, petitions and other legal documents.
- Advising county offices and commissions on legal issues.
- Attending legal proceedings.

Supervisory Responsibilities

- Supervise support staff and interns.
- Represent the State's Attorney Office at public, private, and inter-governmental programs and events.
- Train and educate volunteers, law enforcement, and social workers on their roles and duties on legal issues and the court process duties.

Qualifications

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Working knowledge of civil and criminal law and

methods and practices of pleadings, court procedures, and rules of evidence.

- Working knowledge of principles, methods, materials, and practices utilized in legal research.
- Working knowledge of general law and established precedents.
- Ability to prosecute cases.
- Ability to speak and write effectively in the preparation and presentation of legal matters.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, other agencies, and the public.
- Ability to maintain professional appearance and demeanor.

Education

- Graduation from a college of law.
- Attainment of a Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school.
- Admission by the Supreme Court of South Dakota to practice law in the state of South Dakota; or be licensed

to practice law in any other state and able to take the next available South Dakota bar examination; or be a recent or imminent law school graduate, eligible to sit for the next available South Dakota bar examination.

Experience

- 0-1 year

Other Requirements

- Ability to draft and use computer programs

Interested applicants can send a cover letter and resume to Tyler Larsen at tyler@co.yankton.sd.us or mailed to State's Attorney's Office 410 Walnut #100, Yankton, SD 57078.

Position open until filled

Yankton County State's Attorney
410 Walnut St Suite 100
Yankton, SD 57078
Open Date: 04/20/2026

Lawyers Assistance Program Leadership Transition Announcement

We are pleased to share an important update regarding the future of the State Bar Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP).

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the well-being, resilience, and professional success of our members, the State Bar will soon begin the search for new leadership of the Lawyers Assistance Program.

This search reflects our dedication to ensuring the continued strength and sustainability of the work and services provided by our current LAP Director, Becky Porter.

Becky plans to continue to serve in her role during the transition and will play an integral role in mentoring and training.

This thoughtful, collaborative transition plan is designed to maintain continuity of services, program stability, and the high standard of care that Becky has provided to members over the years.

With Becky's continued leadership through the transition, we are confident that the Lawyers Assistance Program will remain a strong and trusted resource for those seeking support and guidance.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Becky for her ongoing dedication and for helping to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

Additional updates will be shared in the coming weeks.

State Bar of South Dakota

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Fourth Judicial Circuit
Deadwood or Sturgis, South Dakota**

Requisition #: J26-10

Agency: Unified Judicial System

Salary: \$140,196.34 annually, with a possible cost of living salary increase per legislative approval

Closing Date: May 18, 2026

Position Purpose: The position performs highly responsible legal work in the disposition of certain types of cases in magistrate court in the Fourth Judicial Circuit. This position will require travel. **Chambers for this position may be located in Deadwood or Sturgis, at the presiding judge's discretion at the time of hiring.**

Work involves responsibility for hearing and ruling on certain civil and criminal cases. Work is supervised by the Presiding Judge of the judicial circuit. Position includes a generous benefits program with retirement system, health and life benefits, vacation plan, and other options.

Duties may include:

- conduct jury trials on misdemeanor cases and city ordinance violations;
- conduct court trials related to civil actions or small claims up to a specific jurisdictional amount;
- participate and assist with Drug Court and/or DUI court;
- issue warrants of arrest and search and seizure warrants;
- administer oaths and take acknowledgments;
- set bond and fix conditions of release;
- review and conduct protection order hearings pursuant to jurisdictional authority;
- conduct arraignments and other hearings;
- proficient computer skills, including but not limited to Microsoft Office, jury management system, phone system, and email;
- effective communication with court staff, attorneys, and litigants;
- occasional work on nights, weekends, and holidays.

Comments: Graduation from an accredited law school and experience in the practice of law. Licensed to practice law in the State of South Dakota. Applicants must meet the State of South Dakota Constitutional requirements set in Article V Section 6 upon appointment. This position is appointed by the Presiding Judge of the judicial circuit, subject to approval by the Supreme Court, for a four-year term subject to potential renewal. The applicant recommended for appointment will undergo an intensive background investigation.

To qualify for Veterans' Preference, a veteran must have been separated or discharged honorably or under honorable conditions. To be considered for Veterans' Preference, please attach a copy of the DD214, DD214R, or NGB22 indicating qualifications per SDCL 33A-2-1.

To Apply: Applicants must complete a letter of interest and magistrate judge application/personal data questionnaire. The personal data questionnaire can be obtained by accessing the following link <https://uj.s.sd.gov/media/w2nf3iaj/magistratepdq2024.pdf> or contacting the Human Resources office. If the applicant has completed a circuit court judge judicial application/personal data questionnaire within the last six months, it may be submitted in lieu of the magistrate application, provided it is updated to the date of application. All personal data questionnaires must be submitted by the closing date to:

PMB 2713-000
Deputy State Court Administrator
Unified Judicial System
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: (605) 773-4884
Jade.Milli@uj.s.sd.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY
8

2026 Joint Family/Criminal Law CLE
Rapid City | 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM MST

MAY
19

Law for Lunch
Zoom | 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM CST

JUNE
24-26

2026 State Bar Convention
Sioux Falls Convention Center

JUNE
26

**A2J All New Great Shots Golf
Tournament**

For more details and updates about these events, please visit
our website.

<https://www.statebarofsouthdakota.com/>