

# STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER**

*Stronger Together*



**2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**JUNE 24-26, 2026**

**SIoux FALLS CONVENTION CENTER**



Make time for the **little things** in life.

Solo Attorneys Belong  
at ALPS Insurance.

Find Out Why



## STATE BAR MEMBERS

You are invited to provide  
ideas or concerns to

State Bar Officers & Commissioners

**President:** John Richter, [John.Richter@state.sd.us](mailto:John.Richter@state.sd.us)

**President Elect:** John Burke, [jburke@tb3law.com](mailto:jburke@tb3law.com)

**Commissioners:** 1<sup>st</sup> Cir- Justin Johnson, [jjohnson@cityofmitchell.org](mailto:jjohnson@cityofmitchell.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> Cir- Emily Maurice, [emilym@halbachlawfirm.com](mailto:emilym@halbachlawfirm.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> Cir- Anthony Teesdale, [tony@teesdalelaw.com](mailto:tony@teesdalelaw.com)

4<sup>th</sup> Cir- Kimberly Kinney, [kim@kinney-law.com](mailto:kim@kinney-law.com)

5<sup>th</sup> Cir- Gerald McCabe, [jerry.mccabe@state.sd.us](mailto:jerry.mccabe@state.sd.us)

6<sup>th</sup> Cir- Ellie Bailey, [e.bailey@riterlaw.com](mailto:e.bailey@riterlaw.com)

7<sup>th</sup> Cir- Matthew Naasz, [mnaasz@gpna.com](mailto:mnaasz@gpna.com)

**At Large:** 1<sup>st</sup> Cir- Teramie Hill, [teramie.hill@usd.edu](mailto:teramie.hill@usd.edu)

2<sup>nd</sup> Cir- Amber Mulder, [amber.mulder@siouxfalls.gov](mailto:amber.mulder@siouxfalls.gov)

4<sup>th</sup> Cir- Sarah Covington, [sarah.covington@westriverlawandmediation.com](mailto:sarah.covington@westriverlawandmediation.com)

5<sup>th</sup> Cir- Stacy Johnson, [sjohnson@rwwsh.com](mailto:sjohnson@rwwsh.com)

6<sup>th</sup> Cir- Kristen Edwards, [kristen.edwards@state.sd.us](mailto:kristen.edwards@state.sd.us)

7<sup>th</sup> Cir- Steven Blair, [steven.blair@state.sd.us](mailto:steven.blair@state.sd.us)

# State Bar of South Dakota

June 2026

## *Newsletter*

- 4 President's Corner  
John T. Richter
- 6 Young Lawyers Section  
Mae Pochop
- 12 Dean's List: News From The Law School  
Neil Fulton
- 52 When Your Client Wants to Talk to Opposing Counsel Directly  
Mark Bassingthwaighte

- 
- 10 URGENT - A2J Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser
  - 11 Hospitality Room
  - 15 2026 State Bar of South Dakota Convention and CLE Topics
  - 18 Annual Meeting Schedule of Events
  - 20 Announcements
  - 21 6th Circuit - Circuit Connect
  - 24 3rd Annual State Bar Awards Luncheon
  - 25 50 Year Veterans Get Together
  - 30 Red Mass
  - 31 ScavenJuris Hunt
  - 34 Prayer Breakfast
  - 35 Cheers to our Veterans!
  - 40 Proposed Amendments
  - 61 Notice of Judicial Vacancy
  - 62 Career Center



# President's CORNER

John T. Richter

## **A Year of Connection**

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

Dear Members of the State Bar,

As my term draws to a close, I reflect on a year defined by one central theme: Connection. This guiding principle has anchored our efforts, enabling us to build together and foster meaningful relationships that are actively shaping our profession's culture. It has been a tremendous honor to serve you, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity. As I look back, I want to share a few key highlights of what we accomplished together this year.

### **Strengthening Our Ties with the Judiciary**

Our commitment to deepening the relationship between the bench and the bar has been a cornerstone of this year's work. We made significant strides in fostering direct interaction and mutual understanding through:

- **Inclusive Mixers:** We reimagined our traditional private pre-Commission dinners, transforming them into mixers open to all Bar members. With guest speakers and a welcoming, informal setting, these events provided invaluable networking opportunities and helped new attorneys feel less isolated. What began as a simple idea quickly grew into something much larger, thanks to the judiciary's consistent support. We owe special thanks to the bench—including Chief Justice Jensen, Justice

Myren, and, most recently, Justice Gusinsky in Rapid City.

- **Circuit Connect Initiative:** Under the leadership of Judge Means, the Judicial Bar Liaison Committee launched "Circuit Connect." By opening courthouses for guided tours and staff introductions, the initiative is actively bridging the gap among the bench, the bar, and local courthouse staff while demystifying the courthouse experience.
- **Direct Engagement with Justices:** We created unique opportunities for Bar Commissioners to connect directly with the South Dakota Supreme Court. This included a January event featuring the State of the Judiciary Address, a shared lunch with all five Justices, and the State of the Tribes Address. The resulting constructive, candid conversations were so valuable that members expressed a strong desire to make it an annual tradition.

### **Investing in the Next Generation**

Our future colleagues at the USD Knudson School of Law are vital to the profession, and we focused heavily on integrating them into the life of the Bar from day one:

- **Complimentary Student Memberships:** Law students now automatically receive a complimentary membership, offering a deliberate path to connect with practicing attorneys, mentors, and resources from the start of their law school journey.
- **Law Student Liaisons:** To build vertical connections between students and professionals, we explored

placing a law student liaison on each committee, recognizing that these mentorship relationships are foundational to long-term success.

- **Hands-on Experiences:** Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, students had access to exclusive experiential opportunities, including a "Day at the Capitol" with the Governor, a "Behind the Bench" immersion with the Supreme and Circuit Courts, and interactive outings with the Public Sector Section.

### **Empowering the Bar as a Whole**

Our strategic plan calls us to be inclusive, innovative, and member-focused. We brought these values to life through several core initiatives:

- **Broad Engagement Model for Committees:** We adopted a new "broad engagement" model to ensure no qualified volunteer is turned away. By giving every willing member a seat at the table, we welcome new voices, spark innovation, and make Bar service more manageable by sharing the workload.
- **Responsive Member Feedback:** We saw remarkable participation in our survey about remote voting for the annual business meeting. The clear, candid guidance we received from across the state demonstrated our members' deep commitment to shaping decision-making.
- **Embracing Technology:** Stay tuned for updates on how our processes will change at the Bar Convention and going forward!

### **Personal Reflections & Gratitude**

Serving as your Bar President is an experience I will cherish both personally and professionally. One of the most meaningful highlights of my term was visiting the law school to speak directly with the 1L class. It was a true privilege to share my perspective and to provide a public-sector voice to the next generation of attorneys.

I strongly encourage all of our members to find ways to get involved with the law school. Having the chance to visit with law students shows them the vast world

of possibilities within the legal profession—it reminds them that there are multiple paths to success and that the legal landscape is a rich tapestry of opportunities. Witnessing the future of our Bar firsthand was deeply rewarding, and it was an honor to participate in the swearing-in ceremonies for new graduates last October and again just last week for our Public Service Pathway Program graduates.

None of the work we accomplished this year would have been possible without an incredible network of support. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Bar Commissioners for their tremendous time and commitment, and to the Court for its ongoing support for our initiatives. To the long list of members who have quietly supported our efforts from the wings: Thank you. Most importantly, thank you to our entire membership for your continuous support and outstanding willingness to Connect.

It has been a year of thoughtful collaboration and a commitment to developing leaders at every level. When we collaborate across experience levels, backgrounds, and perspectives, we create something greater than the sum of our parts.

Thank you again for your incredible engagement and generosity, and for the privilege of serving as your President. I am excited about what we can continue to build together and look forward to visiting at the Bar Convention!



John Richter  
President, State Bar of South Dakota



### **Reflection on YLS Service**

This is my final month serving on the Young Lawyers Section leadership board. My time on the board has been deeply rewarding, giving me lasting friendships and meaningful connections with lawyers across South Dakota. The experience also deepened my appreciation for the State Bar's service to attorneys in our state. I am proud of the YLS board's contributions to that work, creating opportunities for connection, mentorship, and education for young lawyers.

Serving on the board reminded me how fortunate we are to practice in a legal community that is both supportive and approachable. Whether through mentorship, networking events, or simply seeing familiar faces at bar events across the state, the relationships built through YLS have had a meaningful impact on my career and personal growth.

If any young lawyer reading this is considering getting involved, I strongly encourage you to consider running for a position on the YLS board. One of the greatest strengths of the Young Lawyers Section is its ability to make the profession feel more connected, especially early in practice when building relationships outside

your immediate workplace can be invaluable. We are seeking attorneys interested in serving as directors for the Second, Fourth, and Sixth Circuits, as well as an At-Large Director. Please let me or any member of the YLS board know if you are interested or have any questions.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the YLS during my time on the board. I look forward to seeing the section continue to grow and serve young lawyers throughout the state.

### **Bar Convention**

We are excited to see everyone at the bar convention in Sioux Falls June 24-26! We will award our Young Lawyer of the Year at the Awards Luncheon Wednesday. Later that day, we will have our annual Speed Networking event. The event is designed to be welcoming and approachable, and is a great way to meet attorneys from different practice areas and parts of the state. You *do not* need to register for the event to participate. After Speed Networking, we will have our Annual Section Meeting where we will be voting on [these bylaws revisions](#) and board positions. The evening will wrap up with a YLS cocktail hour before heading to the State Bar Social and Awards Reception. See you there!



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@uj.s.state.sd.us](mailto:jeff.clapper@uj.s.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 MAY 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

DEFEND JUSTICE, UPHOLD THEIR OATH AND PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO THOSE WHO NEED IT.

## ATTENTION SOUTH DAKOTA ATTORNEYS: How to sign up as an attorney volunteer through the [sd.freelegalanswers.org](http://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.

KAREN PAIGE HUNT  
 KELLY SANDERSON  
 NATHAN CHICOINE  
 PAUL ANDREWS  
 AUSTIN SCHAEFER  
 KALEB PETERSON  
 DENNIS DUNCAN  
 SHON DOUGHERTY



STEVE HUFF  
 MARWIN SMITH  
 JAMES TAYLOR  
 KYLE KRAUSE  
 RENEE STELLAGHER  
 JOSEPH HOGUE  
 DENISE LANGLEY

For Your Help on  
SDFLA!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE ATTORNEYS THAT VOLUNTEERED THROUGH ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND SOUTH DAKOTA FREE LEGAL ANSWERS IN MAY!

# VOLUNTEER

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

PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE TO [ACCESS.TO.JUSICE@SDBAR.NET](mailto:ACCESS.TO.JUSICE@SDBAR.NET)

# Fellows of the South Dakota Bar Foundation

*Life Patron Fellow - \$100,000 plus*

Al Arndt

*Sustaining Life Fellow - \$50,000 plus*

Fred & Luella Cozad

*Diamond Fellows - \$10,000 plus*

Thomas C. Barnett, Jr.  
P. Daniel Donohue  
Dale E. Froehlick  
Dana J. Frohling  
Robert E. Hayes  
Scott N. Heidepriem  
Andrew J. Knutson  
David L. Knudson  
Robert A. Martin  
Kimberley A. Mortenson

*Platinum Fellows - \$10,000*

Hon. Richard H. Battey  
Melissa Nicholson Breit  
Chet Groseclose  
Hon. John B. Jones  
Jerome B. Lammers  
Scott C. Moses  
Charles L. Riter  
William Spiry  
Hon. Jack R. Von Wald

*Gold Fellows - \$5,000*

Renee H. Christensen  
Richard A. Cutler  
William F. Day, Jr.  
David J. King  
Richard L. Kolker  
Timothy J. Rensch  
Michael Sharp

*Silver Fellows - \$1,000 (per year)*

Mary Jane Cleary  
Neil Fulton  
Bret C. Merkle  
Hon. Bobbi J. Rank  
Lori D. Skibbie

*Life Fellow - \$25,000 plus*

Frank L. Farrar  
Gregory A. Yates

*Presidential Fellows - \$10,000*

John P. Blackburn  
Heather Lammers Bogard  
Richard D. Casey  
Hon. Michael Day  
Robert B. Frieberg  
Thomas H. Frieberg  
Thomas G. Fritz  
William C. Garry  
David A. Gerdes  
Hon. David R. Gienapp  
Patrick G. Goetzinger  
G. Verne Goodsell  
Robert E. Hayes  
Terry L. Hofer  
Carleton R. "Tex" Hoy  
Steven K. Huff  
Hon. Charles B. Kornmann  
Lisa Hansen Marso  
Bob Morris  
Thomas J. Nicholson  
Gary J. Pashby  
Stephanie E. Pochop  
Reed A. Rasmussen  
Pamela R. Reiter  
Robert C. Riter, Jr.  
Hon. Eric C. Schulte  
Jeffrey T. Sveen  
Charles M. Thompson  
Richard L. Travis  
Thomas J. Welk  
Terry G. Westergaard

*Fellows - \$500 (per year)*

Hon. John Bastian	Hon. Judith K. Meierhenry
Hon. John L. Brown	Hon. Robert A. Miller
Paul L. Cremer	Robert C. Riter, Jr.
Andrew L. Fergel	Hon. Glen A. Severson
Michael S. Fischer	Jason R.F. Sutton
Tom E. Geu	Rodrick L. Tobin
Craig A. Kennedy	Lea Wroblewski
Denise Langley	

*Raising the Bar: Our Profession. Our Responsibility.*

A2J  
A white flag with 'A2J' written on it is on a golf course. In the background, there is a sunset over a green field with trees. A golf ball is on a hole in the foreground.

# URGENT

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE ANNUAL  
**A2J FUNDRAISER  
GOLF TOURNAMENT!**



**GOLF TEAMS NEED TO GET  
SIGNED UP OR THE TOURNAMENT  
WILL NEED TO BE CANCELLED DUE  
TO NOT ENOUGH TEAMS  
GETTING REGISTERED!**

JOIN THE FUN AT

# GREATSHOTS

★ THURSDAY - JUNE 25, 2026 ★

 **MORNING SESSION:**

CHECK-IN AT 8:00 AM  
8:30-11:30 AM  
TOURNAMENT PLAY

 **AFTERNOON SESSION:**

CHECK-IN AT 12:30 PM  
1:00-4:00 PM  
TOURNAMENT PLAY

**DON'T MISS OUT.  
SIGN UP TODAY!**

# HOSPITALITY *Room*



Join President Elects John Burke and Don McCarty for drinks, conversation, and a great time at the Hospitality Room during the Convention!

**WEDNESDAY &  
THURSDAY EVENING**

Start at 9:00 PM  
until Midnight



**SHERATON HOTEL  
ROOMS 202 & 203**

*Hope to see  
you there!*





DEAN'S LIST:  
NEWS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL



**Neil Fulton**  
Dean, School of Law

One of the most persistent questions around legal education is how to best prepare law school graduates. Employers regularly press for graduates to be “practice ready.” Law school faculty spend considerable time thinking about how to best educate students. Everyone with interest in legal education, which hopefully includes all of us, are engaged with the important but challenging question of what makes a “well-prepared” law school graduate.

There are some fundamental building blocks to an answer. Most would likely agree that there are fundamental elements of legal doctrine and skill that must be addressed in law school. It is unlikely that we all agree on what all those elements are, however. Even if it fails to produce full agreement, the conversation is important and sharpens the curricular offerings in law school.

It is important to begin with consideration of what constitutes “core” doctrine and skill. A good place to begin is with those items tested by the National Conference of Bar Examiners to identify minimum competence. These have shifted across the decades and are shifting dramatically now with the advent of the Next Gen Bar Exam: <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/about-nextgen>. They reflect the perspective of practitioners, judges, and legal educators of what new graduates need to know.

A slightly distinct perspective comes from the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System. IAALS conducted broad focus groups to identify twelve

building blocks of new lawyer competence: <https://iaals.du.edu/projects/building-better-bar-capturing-minimum-competence>. These building blocks focus more on translatable lawyering skills than NCBE which includes a significant amount of key doctrine while incorporating lawyering skills. While the balance is struck differently, these studies both demonstrate that a workable scope of what is “fundamental” to teach “well-prepared” law students will include both legal doctrine and legal skills. This should be unsurprising when we think about what we and the other lawyers we know do in practice. Many law schools have looked to NCBE and IAALS for some guidance when shaping the law school curriculum.

Here at the Law School, we have identified a core curriculum that we believe produces the best level of preparation for the broadest group of lawyers. This begins with 1L requirements of torts, contracts, civil procedure, constitutional law, property, and criminal law. These doctrinal courses are paired with an integrated foundations of law course that covers legal research, legal writing, and the legal profession. Upper-level students must take evidence, professional responsibility, a writing class each year (with a focus on drafting or extensive research and writing), and a bar preparation class focused on test-taking skills and review. We recently shifted away from requiring other specific courses to instead require students to take four classes from a menu of three subject matter groups. This reflects a belief that, while all students need exposure to core areas like commercial law or individual rights, individual students can make individual decisions on

how to gain that exposure. We think that this approach strikes a better balance between what all students need to know and what individual students want to focus on given their career plans.

We also embrace the belief that well prepared graduates need practical experience during law school. We respond to this through a requirement of at least six credits of experiential learning. These credits can be earned in practicum placements for misdemeanor prosecution and defense, externships in a variety of settings, simulation courses like discovery practice or trial techniques, and clinics. There is ongoing discussion about expanding the required amount of practical education for law school accreditation. I think that accreditors should generally leave such specific decisions to individual law schools whose circumstances vary dramatically. Additionally, while I think that experiential education is invaluable, I also know that we need to be flexible in our offerings given the variety of practice settings our graduates are headed to.

Well-prepared law school graduates also need strong understanding of “soft skills” in the legal profession. Many of us realized only after some years in practice the importance of things like networking, time management, ongoing professional development, wellbeing, business operations, and civic engagement. While these are some of the most important things for thriving lawyers to understand, they are difficult to inculcate in students. First, there is only so much time within a 90-credit course of study, and some things must be omitted as a result. Second, while these skills are broadly beneficial to possess, they are highly individualistic in expression. Although it is important to talk to students about them, it is harder to provide generalized instruction than when teaching the elements of a tort.

Challenging as it may be, we do introduce these topics. They are a significant element of the first-year foundations of legal experience course. Outside the classroom, they are a major focus of career services programming. The Tripp Fellows program encourages students to gain exposure to programs in these areas, write about them with reflective journal assignments, and obtain appropriate recognition at graduation as a result. For the incoming 1L class we have also adopted a required professional responsibility lab. This one-credit class will pair the Rules of Professional Conduct with attendant professional skills for students. While

we have not finalized the details, the class will focus on professional activity like billing and time management, communication, professional development, wellbeing, and other lawyering skills that connect with the Rules.

These are some of the areas in which the Law School is thinking about how to produce “well-prepared” law school graduates. We are not alone in this effort. The Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators have produced an extensive and thoughtful report on the issues: <https://www.ncsc.org/our-centers-projects/clear>. The Council of the ABA Section on Legal Education continues robust debate on how accreditation can push law schools towards better preparation. While I have disagreed with several recommendations by the Council, I agree wholeheartedly that accreditation has an important role to play in any discussion of how to best prepare law school graduates. I am grateful for the ongoing engagement with these issues by so many here in South Dakota. While there are more than can be mentioned, I would be remiss not to specifically note Chief Justice Jensen and the Supreme Court, the Board of Bar Examiners, the Strategic Planning Committee of the State Bar, the Law School Committee, and of course the faculty, staff, and students here at the Law School.

The question of what makes a law school graduate “well-prepared” eludes ready or sure answer. Even a comprehensive summary of the discussion exceeds the scope of this column and its brief introduction. However, I hope that everyone takes away a few clear things. First, this is a vital discussion for our profession. Second, it is actively ongoing among law schools, state courts, boards of bar examiners, students and parents, and many others. If we sit the conversation out, it will be held and resolved without us. Third, it is a conversation that is enriched and improved by broad engagement among all lawyers. Although our ideas will almost certainly vary based on our practice, area, experience, and preferences, it is important that we all think about the questions and provide our perspectives. Lastly, while no answer will be perfect and all answers will evolve over time, it is an important and fascinating question that I love to think and talk about. I certainly look forward to talking with many of you about it for years to come.



**INVESTING IN OUR**

*Next*

**125 YEARS**

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.

By choosing how you give, you help shape the next generation of legal leaders and invest in the future of South Dakota and the nation.



Learn more about the following funds

**1901 FUND  
STERLING FUND  
SCHOOL OF LAW PARTNERS  
IN EXCELLENCE FUND**

and give today by visiting [usdalumni.com/125-law-school](https://usdalumni.com/125-law-school) or by scanning the QR code.

# 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

**REGISTER HERE** >



# Answering Complex Valuation Questions

- Valuation advisory and litigation support
- IRS estate and non-cash charitable donations
- Right of way and energy projects
- Real estate damage issues
- Appraisals for all types of real property



COMMERCIAL



AGRICULTURAL



RESIDENTIAL



RIGHT-OF-WAY

**DAVID A. LAWRENCE**  
SR/WA, MAI, SRA  
AI-GRS, AI-RRS



Founder and President

**DAL APPRAISAL & LAND SERVICES**  
4820 E 57TH ST, STE A, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57108  
WWW.DALAPPRAISAL.COM  
**OFFICE** 605 782-5300  
**EMAIL** DAVID@DALAPPRAISAL.COM

## USD Knudson School of Law

# On-Campus Events



### FALL 2026:

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

### SPRING 2027:

- OCI : Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Speed-Interviewing Event : March 5<sup>th</sup>



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Email [Teramie.Hill@usd.edu](mailto:Teramie.Hill@usd.edu) for more information.



**HEISER VALUATION**  
 — Know the Value —



*Specializing in*  
**Business Appraisal Services**

- Estate and Gift Taxation
- Marital Dissolution
- Buy/Sell Agreements
- Buying/Selling Business Interests
- Discount Analysis
- Damage Calculations
- Life Estate Calculations
- Shareholder Dissension

In the context of a legal situation, IRS filings, and high dollar negotiations, it is imperative to **Know the Value.**



PO Box 3528 Sioux City IA 51102  
 HeiserValuation.com  
 605-390-4611 | Ericka@HeiserValuation.com

**Ericka Heiser, MBA, CVA**  
**Certified in Business Appraisals**

**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.

**Get Help Now!**



## Wednesday, June 24, 2026

### 8:00 am

Calming Room by Diversity & Inclusion Committee – Sheraton – Fontenelle B  
Board of Bar Foundation Meeting Breakfast – Convention Center – Meeting Room 6  
Child Support Modification Referees Meeting – Sheraton – John Q Hammons Room

### 9:00 am

REGISTRATION BEGINS

### 9:30 am

SD Municipal Attorneys Association Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Room 3

### 10:00 am

Judicial Qualifications Commission Meeting – Sheraton – Carpenter Room  
Coffee Bar Opens – Convention Center – Meeting Room 1

### 11:00 am

SD Trial Lawyers BOG Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 12

### 11:30 am

South Dakota Code Commission Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Room 10  
State Bar Awards Luncheon – Convention Center – Grand Ballroom (All pre-registered members are welcome)

### 12:00 noon

American College of Trial Lawyers Meeting Lunch – Convention Center – Meeting Room 8

### 1:00 pm

Judges Association Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 6 & 7

**CLE Program #1: What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 1**

### 4:30 pm

South Dakota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Meeting – Resolute Law Office 400 N Main Ave Suite 207, Sioux Falls  
Young Lawyers Section Speed Networking Event – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 2

### 5:15 pm

Young Lawyers Section Business Meeting – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 2

### 5:30 pm

Young Lawyers Section Pretrial Conference (Social) – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 2

REGISTRATION CLOSES

### 6:30 pm

State Bar Social & Awards Reception – Convention Center – Grand Ballroom  
Awards Presented: 50- and 60-Year Veterans, McKusick Award, & A Special Recognition of Generosity

### 9:00 pm

\*John Burke and Don McCarty Hospitality Room

## Thursday, June 25, 2026

### 6:00 am

REGISTRATION BEGINS

### 6:30 am

Coffee Bar Opens – Convention Center – Meeting Room 1

**CLE Program #2: Early Bird – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 2**

### 7:00 am

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Breakfast – Convention Center – Meeting Room 37:30 am  
Uniform Law Commission Breakfast – Sheraton – John Q Hammons Room  
Federal Practice Committee Meeting Breakfast – Sheraton – Party Deck  
Diversity & Inclusion Committee Breakfast – Convention Center – Meeting Room 7

# Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

2026

## 8:00 am

South Dakota Court Reporters Association Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Room 11

## 8:30 am

**CLE Program #3A: Avoiding the D-Board and Malpractice! Common Ethical and Professional Issues – Exhibit Hall 2**

**CLE Program #3B: Working Together - Client Capacity Concerns – Exhibit Hall 1**

## 11:00 am

SD Trial Lawyers Association Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 12-14

## 11:30 am

Ag Law Committee Luncheon – Sheraton – Carpenter Room

CLE Committee Luncheon – Sheraton – Party Deck

Council of School Attorneys Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Room 6

## 12 noon

Public Sector Section/Administrative Law Committee Joint Luncheon – Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 8-10

## 1:00 pm

**CLE Program #4: Improve Your Page and Presence: Tips and Tools to Strengthen your Legal Writing and Oral Communication Skills – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 1**

## 4:45 pm

\*Red Mass – Sacred Heart Chapel at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph – 523 N Duluth Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

## 5:00 pm

\*Bench/Bar Social - Sponsored by: SD Bar Foundation, USD Foundation, & SD Community Foundation  
(All are Welcome) – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 1

\*Class of 1986 Reunion – Sheraton – Party Deck

## 5:30 pm

\*Class of 1996 30th Reunion Gathering – Blarney Stone (Basement) 333 S. Phillips Ave., Sioux Falls

## 6:00 pm

\*Reception for Paul Cremer – Convention Center – Grand Ballroom

## 6:30 pm

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Annual Dinner – 3400 W 22nd St, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

## 9:00 pm

\*John Burke & Don McCarty Hospitality Room

## Friday, June 26, 2026

### 7:00 am

\*Prayer Breakfast – Convention Center – Meeting Room 10

Lawyers Assistance Committee/Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Joint Breakfast – Sheraton – Carpenter Room

Project Rural Practice Meeting Breakfast – Sheraton – Fontenelle B

SD ABF Fellows Meeting Breakfast – John Q Hammons Room

### 7:30 am

SD Paralegals Association Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Room 12

### 8:00 am

State Bar Business Meeting – Convention Center – Exhibit Hall 2

SD Court Reporters Association Meeting – Convention Center – Meeting Room 11

### 12 noon

Past President Luncheon – Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

\*This function is not sponsored by the State Bar Times and Locations are subject to change without prior notice.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is notice that Thomas Nicholson of Sioux Falls will go inactive as of June 15, 2026. Melissa Nicholson Breit and Shane Vogt will remain in the practice at 4201 S. Minnesota (605-335-7100).

Tom will no longer receive communications at 605-335-7100 and [tom@nicholsonandnicholson.com](mailto:tom@nicholsonandnicholson.com).

*Suzanne Starr*

is pleased to announce her new firm.

Starr Law, P.C.  
2202 Mt. Rushmore Road  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone: (605) 645-8019

Email: [Suzy@starrlawpc.com](mailto:Suzy@starrlawpc.com)

save the date

2026 FALL FORUM

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US IN SIOUX FALLS OR ONLINE.

EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW CANOPY BY HILTON IN THE DOWNTOWN STEEL DISTRICT!

OCT 8 & 9 2026

REGISTRATION OPENS IN JULY!

[sdtrustassociation.org](http://sdtrustassociation.org)

SOUTH DAKOTA TRUST ASSOCIATION

Need Weather Expertise for Your Case?

Providing accurate and reliable forensic meteorology *you can trust.*

- Certified Consulting Meteorologist
- 32+ Years with NOAA/NWS
- Forensic Weather Analysis
- Expert Witness & Litigation Support

Dr. Matthew Bunkers  
605.390.7243

AMS ACM CCM

Northern Plains Weather Services, LLC  
[www.npweather.com](http://www.npweather.com)

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  
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:** Hughes County Courthouse, 104 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501

- Start Time: 3:30 PM
- Mixer at the Saint Charles to follow!

# MORE DETAILS TO COME!

CLASS OF

86

Join us for the

# CLASS REUNION



WEDNESDAY,  
JUNE 24, 2026



SHERATON BAR



5:00 PM  
SOCIAL & AWARDS RECEPTION  
TO FOLLOW



REKINDLE MEMORIES,  
RENEW FRIENDSHIPS...

# RELIVE '86!

**REMINDER!**

Don't forget to register for the  
State Bar Social and Awards Reception!

Don't miss  
the party of  
the year!

The background features a dark green and black color scheme. At the top, there are two strings of warm white string lights. Below them, three lit candles in shades of orange and yellow are visible, their flames glowing. The overall atmosphere is somber and reflective.

# *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 registration button.

# 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 is required to attend this event. Please register [HERE](#).

— YOU ARE INVITED TO —


50  
YEAR  
VETERANS

— AND FAMILIES —

*Get Together*

You're warmly invited to a special  
pre-reception gathering honoring our  
50-Year Veterans and their families.

JUNE 24 2026

 SHERATON SIOUX FALLS & CONVENTION CENTER  
Deck in the Atrium at the Main Lobby Entrance  
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Enjoy wine, beer, non-alcoholic refreshments,  
and light snacks while reconnecting  
with friends and colleagues.

THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY BOB & KIM HAYES

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU!

# 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



# 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:

- Rachelle 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## SPEAKERS:

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

TO REGISTER

**PROGRAM CHAIRS:**  
Jennifer Williams and  
Tamara Nash

# \* 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.



Join the Ultimate Adventure of the

# SCAVENJURIS HUNT

Downtown  
Sioux Falls

THURSDAY  
JUNE 25

The bus will leave from  
the Sheraton at 6:00 PM

Using a cell phone app, each team will receive clues and challenges that guide participants through downtown Sioux Falls, including historic landmarks, art, and notable buildings within walking distance of the museum.

Teams will upload pictures, videos, and answers directly into the app while racing against the clock - and each other - to finish first

Post Hunt Mixer!

After the Scavenger hunt, participants are encouraged to stay for a mixer from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Old Courthouse Museum

PLEASE REGISTER YOURSELF.  
TEAMS WILL BE FORMED ON  
LOCATION.

REGISTER NOW



More interested in mingling than clues?

**NO PROBLEM!**

Skip the hunt and come straight to the fun! From 7:00–9:00 PM. Join us at the Old Courthouse Museum for a relaxed mixer with appetizers, a cash bar, great conversation, and a chance to connect with colleagues.

Please register for both the scavenger hunt and the mixer so we can plan accordingly for food. If you are participating in the scavenger hunt, teams will be formed on-site.

If you have any questions, please contact Teramie Hill at [Teramie.Hill@usd.edu](mailto:Teramie.Hill@usd.edu)

REGISTER NOW



# *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.



# PRAYER

## *Breakfast*

Friday, June 26, at 7:00 am



**2026**  
**ANNUAL**  
**CONVENTION**

---

***GUEST SPEAKERS:***  
***ZACH SCHMIDT***  
***AND***  
***CHELSEA SCHMIDT***



# 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	THOMAS M. FRANKMAN	CARL J. KOCH
JON E. ARNESON	DAVID L. GANJE	MARK KRATOCHVIL
THOMAS C. BARNETT	PAUL O. GODTLAND	DAVID J. LARSON
WESLEY W. BUCKMASTER	THOMAS E. GRASLIE	PAUL JAY LEWIS
ARTHUR TRACY CARTER	PETER I. GREGORY	JEFFREY P. MASTEN
MARY JANE CLEARY	TODD D. HAUGE	HON. JOSEPH NEILES
SUSAN E. COLLINS	ROBERT E. HAYES	ROBERT R. SCHAUB
GARY W. CONKLIN	MICHAEL M. HICKEY	JOHN P. SLATTERY
DOUGLAS P. CUMMINGS	ROBERT R. JACKSON	GARY P. THIMSEN
HAROLD H. DEERING	CURTIS S. JENSEN	MICHAEL E. UNKE
HON. ALAN D. DIETRICH	STEVEN M. JOHNSON	THOMAS K. WILKA
ROBERTA A. FERRON	BRIAN JAMES KELLY	DAVID L. ZUERCHER
ROBERT G. FITE	CRAIG A. KENNEDY	

## *60 year Veterans*

MICHAEL V. BRALEY  
CHARLES A. WOLSKY

## *70 year Veteran*

CARLETON R. "TEX" HOY

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

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

estimates

# 4TH CIRCUIT

# CIRCUIT CONNECT

*Connecting the Bench, Bar, and Courthouse Staff*



## HIGHLIGHTS!



Judge Strawn, Judge Comer, Judge Day, and Judge Foral



Attorneys reaffirming their oath of attorney with Judge Day reading the oath

# Mark YOUR CALENDARS!

• THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 AT 5:30 PM •

The class of 1996 is celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> reunion gathering!

Spouses, significant others, friends of the Class of 1996, and family members are also welcome. Cash bar and individual checks available if you wish to order food off the menu.



*Blarney Stone (basement)*

333 S. PHILLIPS AVE., SIOUX FALLS

*Let's reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate 30 years!*

STOP

STOP

## 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>

Please join Past State Bar Presidents in thanking Paul Cremer for his tremendous service to our State Bar as our State Bar Executive Director

Paul Cremer, Prior State Bar Executive Director  
Thank You Reception



Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Exhibit Hall 2

Hosted by Past State Bar Presidents

### **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

They started with a \$1 million investment, gave \$1 million to the communities they loved, and still have over \$1.1 million.

*That's not a typo — and it started with one attorney asking his client the right question.*



**THE CLIENT STORY**

**Harold & Mary Torness — Sisseton, SD**

*Banker. Community builders. Visionaries.*

In 1998, Sisseton attorney William Holland asked his client, banker Harold Torness, if there were charitable causes he and his wife wanted to support. The answer became the **Harold and Mary Torness Family Fund** — a donor-advised fund that has since granted over \$1 million to northeastern South Dakota and the Sisseton area: the local hospital, nursing home, swimming pool, museum, arts council, churches and an art scholarship at Augustana University created in memory of their daughter.

The fund holds more today than the day it started. Harold and Mary's names are on every grant letter.

**\$1,023,000**

granted to  
northeastern SD  
charitable causes  
since 1998

**\$1,148,000**

remaining in the fund  
today

**27 years**

of uninterrupted  
giving

**FIND US AT THE STATE BAR CONVENTION**

**Which of your clients has a  
Harold Torness moment waiting?**

Reach us anytime. We'll partner with you to start this conversation.

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**



**SDCommunityFoundation.org**



**(605) 224-1025**

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**



*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.

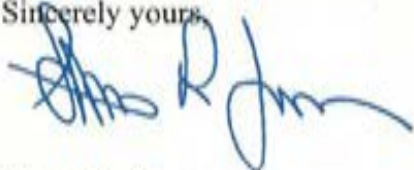
As the regulatory body for the legal profession in South Dakota, the Supreme Court is ultimately responsible for the decision on mandatory CLE, as well as the elements of such a program. Given the significant change mandatory CLE would represent, the members of the Court believe it is important that 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

## SERIES

A new way to highlight attorneys, committees, and members for their outstanding service and impact in the Bar and the community. Keep an eye out — you might be next!

**Submit  
Nominations Here:**

**SUBMIT**



@Statebarofsouthdakota\_1931



# BUILT FOR IP

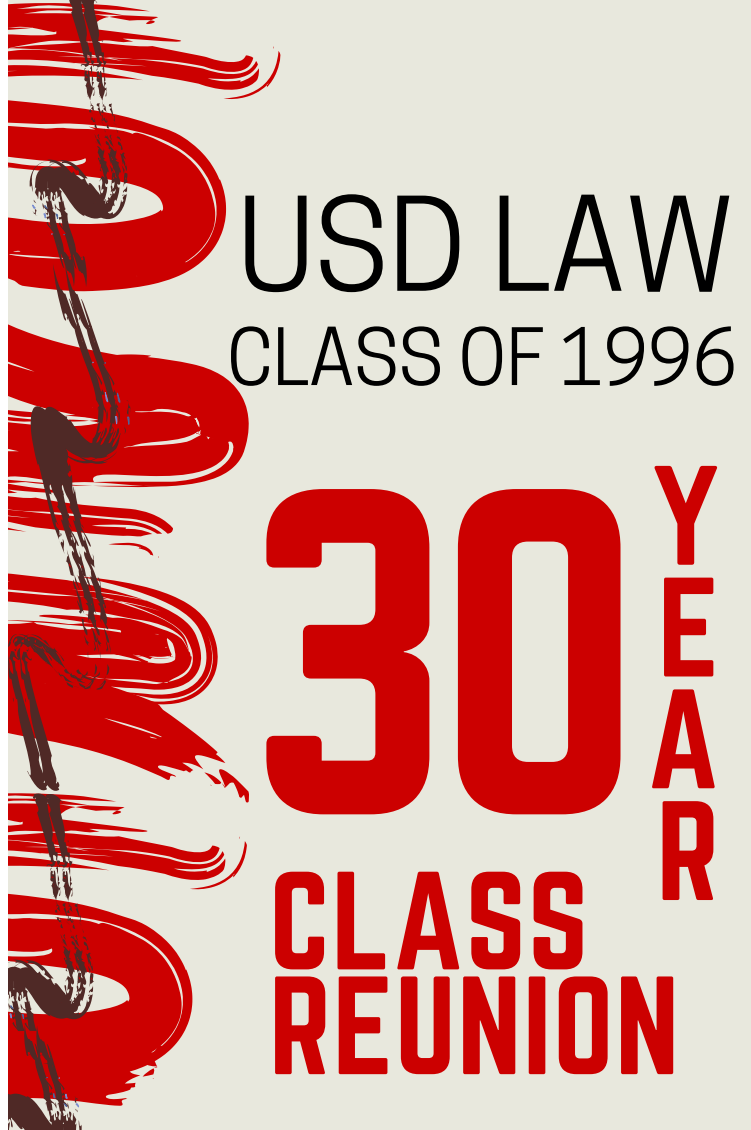
Woods Fuller assists attorneys with patent strategy and prosecution, trademark registration and protection, and intellectual property litigation.

We approach each matter with disciplined analysis and strategic intent – complementing your role as primary counsel.

A resource when complexity increases.

[WWW.WOODSFULLER.COM](http://WWW.WOODSFULLER.COM)

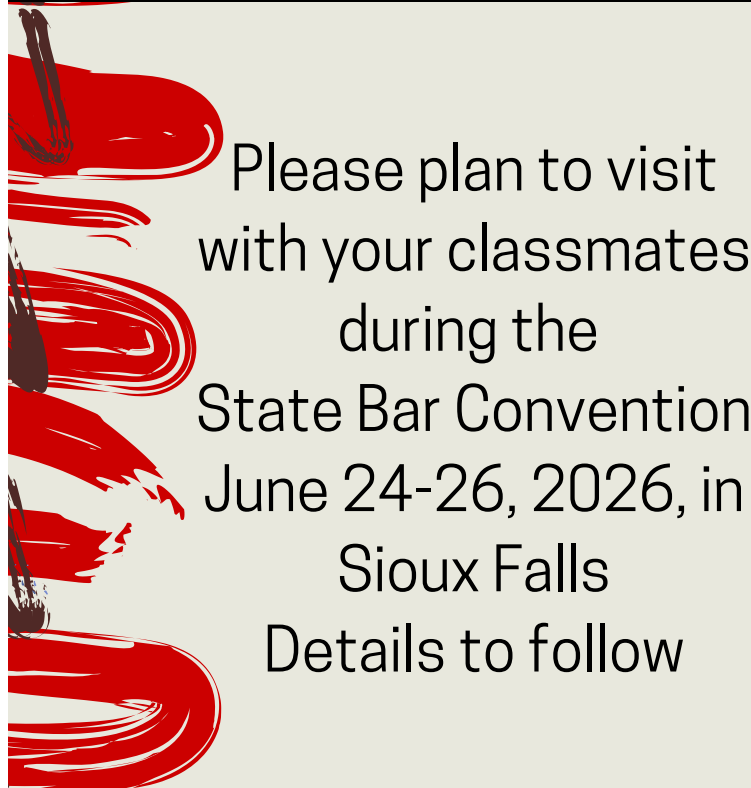
300 S PHILLIPS AVE, SUITE 300  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104 | (605) 336-3890



USD LAW  
CLASS OF 1996

30 YEAR  
CLASS  
REUNION

(generally regarded as the  
greatest class ever)



Please plan to visit  
with your classmates  
during the  
State Bar Convention  
June 24-26, 2026, in  
Sioux Falls  
Details to follow

# Clarity

starts  
at **&am**<sup>TM</sup>



**LawPay is a trusted Member Benefit  
of the South Dakota Bar Association**

[lawpay.com/sbsd](http://lawpay.com/sbsd)

Run your business. Power your practice.



State Bar of South Dakota

+

**&amLawPay**

# The AllOne Health App and Member Portal— Instant Access to Your Assistance Program

Taking care of your mental health should be simple, supportive, and always within reach. That's why we created the AllOne Health app and member portal—to make it easier than ever for you to access the care you need, when you need it.

Whether you're navigating life's challenges, looking for resources, or just need someone to talk to, we're here to help.

## WHAT YOU'LL FIND

### Virtual Counseling Made Easy

Self-schedule virtual counseling sessions directly through the app.

### Izzy, Your AI Mental Health Navigator

Receive guidance and personalized support in real time.

### On-Demand Self-Help Resources

Explore self-guided therapy (iCBT), articles, videos, assessments, and tools.

### Family Care and Lifestyle Support Referrals

Request referrals for childcare, eldercare, legal, financial consultation, personal assistant and medical advocacy.

### Real Human Support

24/7 live assistance is always just a tap away when you want to speak to someone.

## HOW IT WORKS

- 1. Download the AllOne Health App** from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) or visit [allonehealth.com/portal](https://allonehealth.com/portal).
- 2. Sign Up** using your member portal and app code. The email address and password used to create your account will work for both the app and the member portal.
- 3. Start Exploring** – Book sessions, chat with Izzy, and discover resources that support your whole health.



### Download the App and Take the First Step

No matter where you are in your journey, support is here—because your mental health deserves care that's easy to access, always available, and built around you.



Contact AllOne Health

Call: 800-451-1834

Visit: [allonehealth.com/portal](https://allonehealth.com/portal)

Member Portal and App Code: sdhelp 50





# 988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

call. text. chat.

## Talk with us

- ...about depression or anxiety
- ...if you're concerned about a loved one
- ...if you need resources for substance use or mental health
- ...if you're having thoughts of suicide

Counselors at the Helpline Center answer the 988 Lifeline for South Dakota. 988 provides support, connections and hope during a mental health or substance use crisis. People can call, text or chat 988 for themselves or if they are worried about a loved one who may need support. **Available 24/7.**



[helplinecenter.org/9-8-8](https://helplinecenter.org/9-8-8)



# When Your Client Wants to Talk to Opposing Counsel Directly

Mark Bassingthwaighe, Risk Manager



Truth be told, I've been there myself sitting on the client's side of an attorney's desk. At the time, it felt like my legal matter simply wasn't moving forward as quickly as it should. From my perspective, the lawyers seemed to be the ones slowing things down. Eventually I started wondering whether things might progress faster if I just sat down with the other side and worked it out directly.

Now, if I happened to be your client and came to you saying that I'd like to put all the lawyers on the sidelines temporarily in order to have a face-to-face sit down with the adverse party at some neutral place so we can finally settle this thing, how would you respond? Know that regardless of the outcome, the plan would be to have the lawyers reenter the picture in order to do whatever needs to be done to wrap the matter up. There would be no desire to terminate the representation. This would just be a slight adjustment to the game plan.

Some lawyers may be tempted to jump at the opportunity and respond by saying, "I really like this idea. Here's what I want you to do." Don't go there because for you as the lawyer, this situation raises ethical considerations, strategic risks, and risk-management concerns that should not be ignored.

## The Ethical Framework

Several provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct come into play when a client proposes communicating directly with a represented opposing party. The most obvious is the so-called "no-contact rule."

ABA Model Rule 4.2 generally prohibits a lawyer from communicating about the subject of the representation with a person the lawyer knows to be represented by another lawyer unless that lawyer consents. The rule is designed to protect represented parties from being taken advantage of by opposing counsel and to preserve the integrity of the attorney-client relationship. But there is an important nuance that sometimes surprises lawyers. Rule 4.2 restricts lawyers — not clients. Absent a protective order or other injunction making it unlawful, your client is free to communicate with the opposing party as long as it's on their own accord and that's key. You are not to take an active role in shaping or steering the communication.

## The Critical Limitation: You Cannot Use the Client as a Conduit

Even though clients may speak with each other, you must be

careful not to circumvent the no-contact rule. ABA Model Rule 8.4 prohibits lawyers from violating the Rules of Professional Conduct through the acts of another person. In practical terms, this means a lawyer cannot do indirectly what the rules forbid doing directly.

For example, you should not:

- Script what the client should say to the opposing party,
- Ask the client to deliver a specific settlement proposal,
- Provide questions designed to elicit strategic information, or
- Send messages through the client that the lawyer could not send directly

Using a client in this way effectively turns the client into a communication conduit, which can all too quickly become a rule violation.

## What You Can Do

While you can't orchestrate or script the communication, you are not required to step completely aside. [i] Guidance on this issue can be found in ABA Formal Opinion 11-461.

The opinion explains that lawyers may advise clients about direct communications with represented persons, provided the lawyer does not script or direct the actual communication.

Permissible guidance can include discussing:

- The general subjects the client may wish to address,
- The legal context of the dispute,
- Potential risks of informal negotiations,
- The importance of avoiding admissions or commitments, and
- The strategic implications of contacting the opposing party.

In other words, you may provide legal advice and strategic perspective, but you must stop short of orchestrating the conversation.

## When the Idea Makes You Nervous

Of course, there's a flip side here. What if, in your professional judgement, your response is not only do you not like the idea, you think it's a really bad idea. You might even be tempted to wash your hands of the whole thing, viewing the situation as a personal affront. Regardless, you are in the role of attorney and that has ramifications. The duty of competency would seem to dictate that just as you should advise a client about how

to make sure the conversation has the best chance of moving things forward, you should also consider and caution your client about any legal downsides that might result from wanting to negotiate directly with the other side because sometimes it actually is a really bad idea.

The Potential Risks of Client-to-Client Negotiations include the following:

- Unintended Admissions - Clients may inadvertently make statements that weaken their legal position or undermine a claim or defense.
- Disclosure of Strategic Information - Frustrated clients might reveal more about their motivations or concerns than opposing counsel would ever obtain through formal negotiation.
- Emotional Escalation - Without lawyers acting as buffers, conversations between adversaries can quickly become emotional and counterproductive.
- Creation of Binding Agreements - Clients sometimes believe they are having an informal discussion when, legally speaking, they may be creating enforceable commitments.
- Loss of Negotiation Leverage - Opposing counsel may interpret the outreach as a sign that your client is impatient, frustrated, or desperate to settle.

### Your Duty to Provide Candid Advice

Even if you strongly dislike the client's proposal, your professional responsibilities remain.

ABA Model Rule 1.4 requires you to keep your clients reasonably informed and to explain matters sufficiently so that they can make informed decisions about the representation. That means you should candidly discuss both the potential benefits and the potential downsides of the proposed communication.

### For example, you might discuss:

Possible advantages

- Direct conversations can sometimes reduce hostility
- Misunderstandings may be resolved quickly
- Parties may feel more invested in reaching a solution

Possible disadvantages

- Statements may be misunderstood or misused
- Negotiation leverage may be compromised
- Informal agreements may create unintended obligations

While your client may ultimately decide to proceed despite

your reservations, you still have an obligation to make sure the decision made is an informed decision.

### A Practical Risk-Management Step: Document the Advice

There is one final step that should never be overlooked. Document the advice you give.

If the client decides to move forward with direct communication, consider confirming your discussion in writing. A short email or memo might include:

- Confirmation that the client intends to communicate directly with the opposing party,
- A summary of the risks discussed, and
- A reminder that the client should avoid making commitments without consulting counsel.

Why does this matter? Because if the conversation later goes badly, clients sometimes say:

“Why didn't you warn me that could happen?” Clear documentation helps demonstrate that you fulfilled your professional obligations and provided appropriate guidance.

### The Bottom Line

Clients sometimes believe they can resolve disputes faster by communicating directly with the other side; and in some situations that instinct may even be correct. But when a client proposes sidelining the lawyers, even temporarily, it's important to remember the boundaries imposed by the Rules of Professional Conduct.

You need to refrain from ever using a situation like this to circumvent the no-contact rule, while still providing the advice necessary for clients to make informed decisions about their matters. Handled thoughtfully, these situations can be managed without violating ethical rules or damaging the attorney-client relationship. Handled poorly, they can create ethical problems, strategic setbacks, and potential malpractice exposure. When a client asks to “let them handle it,” don't take offense. Do what you were hired to do. Advise, guide, and document your way through it.

Because some states differ on how far a lawyer may go, always review the relevant rules, commentary, and ethics opinions in your jurisdiction prior to advising a client who intends to speak directly with the opposing party.



Authored by: Mark Bassingthwaighte, ALPS Risk Manager

Since 1998, Mark Bassingthwaighte, Esq. has been a Risk Manager with ALPS, an attorney's professional liability insurance carrier. In his tenure with the company, Mr. Bassingthwaighte 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. Bassingthwaighte 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.

## 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.

#### JOIN THE PROGRAM



<https://statebar.typeform.com/mentorship>



YOU'RE A  
**\$500/hr lawyer**  
doing **\$20/hr work**

Let AI Handle It

**Working...**

**Examining your matter**

- Reviewing files, notes, and documents
- Scanning filings and correspondence
- Pulling relevant statutes and case law
- Cross-referencing similar matters
- Mapping key events

☑ **Examination complete**

**Work completed**

- ☑ Examined deposition transcripts
- ☑ Built a timeline of key events
- ☑ Surfaced supporting case law
- ☑ Compiled findings in a legal pad
- ☑ Drafted a client-ready summary

**Recommended next step**

Focus on the timeline gap between the incident and reported injury to chart causation.



Request a demo

# OATH OF ATTORNEY



**I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR, OR AFFIRM, THAT:**

**I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA;**

**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 INVIOLEATE 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](mailto:sales@averahealthplans.org)





# 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.*

Contact AllOne Health  
Call: 888-243-5744  
Visit: [sandcreekeap.com](http://sandcreekeap.com)



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.statebarofsouthdakota.com)



## Legal Associate

Founded in 2005, Mickelson & Company is a tax-motivated capital advisory firm with a team of 17 professionals based in Sioux Falls, SD. We specialize in the monetization of federal and state tax credits for the railroad and renewable energy industries. We are experiencing exciting growth opportunities.

**Location:** Sioux Falls, South Dakota

### Responsibilities:

- Coordinate closing of financial transactions (tax credit assignments)
- Ensure the timely completion of the required documentation package
- Coordinate communication between clients and counter-parties and their advisers
- Set up shared due diligence site and gather documents from relevant parties
- Draft documents as required based upon form templates
- Be technically proficient in legal and diligence matters, including tax requirements
- Read contracts and develop list of outstanding items
- Create progress reports on diligence status
- Work with renewables team of analysts, associate, director, vice-president
- Other duties as assigned

### Required skills:

- Bachelor's degree
- Minimum of 5 years relevant experience, preferably in such fields as transactional lawyer
- Proficiency in software (e.g. Word, Excel, Adobe, DocuSign, Salesforce)
- Read and understand legal documents, statutes, administrative rules

- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Work effectively in a team-oriented environment
- Strong organizational and detail-oriented skills
- Pleasant persistence and tenacity

### Reports to:

- Vice President – Renewables, works closely with other team members

Apply to [careers@mickco.com](mailto:careers@mickco.com).

## Associate Attorney - Business

**Company:** Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm

**Location:** Hybrid Position based in Sioux Falls, SD

**Position Type:** Full-time

**About Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm:** Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm is a full-service law firm with offices in Sioux Falls, SD, and Sioux City, IA. We are committed to delivering responsive, high-quality legal services across a wide range of practice areas. Our culture is built on collaboration, trust, and professionalism, and every member of our team plays an essential role in supporting our clients and each other.

**Job Overview:** We are seeking a talented and motivated attorney to join our business law team. The ideal candidate will have 3+ years of experience in business and corporate law, including entity formation, contract drafting, mergers and acquisitions, and related areas. This position offers the opportunity to work closely with a diverse range of clients, from entrepreneurs to established businesses, providing legal guidance to support their growth and success.

Applicants must be licensed in either South Dakota or Iowa and willing to obtain relevant licensure to

service clients across Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska. Candidates with an existing client base are encouraged to apply, though a willingness to develop business and build client relationships is equally important. Halbach|Szwarc attorneys are licensed across South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming and serve clients across the U.S. and internationally.

#### **Responsibilities:**

1. **Entity Selection and Formation.** Provide legal counsel to clients on business formation, including selecting the appropriate legal structure, drafting formation and related governing documents.
2. **Business Document Preparation:** Draft and review various agreements, including purchase agreements, lease agreements, asset and real estate purchase agreements and related agreements.
3. **Mergers and Acquisitions.** Assist clients with structuring, negotiating, and closing mergers, acquisitions, and sales of businesses or assets, with an emphasis on small and closely-held family businesses.
4. **Client Interaction:** Provide exceptional client communication and service and maintain strong client relationships.
5. **Business Development.** Engage in efforts to develop new client relationships, build your network, and contribute to the firm's growth.
6. **Remote Collaboration.** Work remotely and collaboratively using modern technology to meaningfully engage with clients and team members.
7. **Stay Informed:** Stay abreast of changes in relevant laws, regulations, and legal trends affecting business and estate planning law.

#### **Qualifications:**

- Juris Doctor (JD) degree from an accredited law school.
- Undergraduate degree in business, economics, finance or accounting preferred, but not required.
- 3+ years of experience practicing law with an emphasis on business law.
- Strong understanding of business law and tax.
- Excellent drafting and negotiation skills.
- Strong self-starter with an ability to work independently and remotely, managing a caseload effectively and efficiently.
- Willingness to engage in business development and foster long-term client relationships.

#### **Attitude, Energy, and Effort:**

- Approach client matters and internal responsibilities with professionalism, sound judgment, and the steadiness.
- Bring pride, precision, and strategic thought to your work, recognizing the impact a business attorney has

on case outcomes, client trust, and the firm's broader reputation.

- Maintain focused, reliable energy in fast-moving matters; anticipate next steps, identify risks early, and drive progress without the need for oversight.
- Demonstrate respect for colleagues and clients through clear communication, thoughtful coordination, and consistent, high-quality work product.
- Engage in feedback and continuous improvement with maturity and accountability, modeling a solutions-oriented approach for others on the team.
- Uphold confidentiality, discretion, and professionalism in all interactions, especially when navigating complex, sensitive, or high-stakes matters.

#### **Benefits:**

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience.
- Unlimited PTO.
- 13 paid holidays.
- 100% firm paid health insurance.
- 100% firm paid vision insurance.
- Monthly technology stipend with firm provided remote technology solutions.
- Bonus eligibility based upon performance.
- Competitive 401(k) and profit sharing.
- Paid continuing education expenses.
- Collaborative and positive work environment.

**How to Apply:** If you are a motivated, detail-oriented, and client-focused professional with a commitment to excellence, we invite you to apply for the Business Associate Attorney position at Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm. Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience to **Miranda Basye** at [mirandab@halbachlawfirm.com](mailto:mirandab@halbachlawfirm.com).

Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in the workplace. We encourage all qualified individuals to apply.

### **Associate Attorney - Criminal Defense Associate**

**Location:** Hybrid Position – based in Sioux Falls, SD, Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm

**Position Type:** Full-time

**Position Overview:** We are currently seeking a skilled and dedicated criminal defense attorney to join our criminal defense practice group. The ideal candidate will have 3+ years of experience handling criminal cases at the state and federal levels, including misdemeanor and felony cases. This individual will play a key role in advocating for clients'

rights and achieving favorable outcomes, whether through negotiation, litigation, or trial and will play a key role in developing and implementing our criminal defense practice strategy.

Applicants must be licensed in South Dakota and able to obtain licensure in Iowa and Nebraska. While candidates with an established client base are encouraged to apply, a willingness to develop business and foster new client relationships is equally important. Halbach|Szwarc attorneys are licensed across South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming and serve clients across the U.S. and internationally.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Lead client representation in criminal matters at the state and federal levels, including misdemeanors and felonies, from initial consultation through resolution.
- Manage all phases of a case, including investigation, pretrial motions, discovery, plea negotiations, and trial preparation.
- Appear in court on behalf of clients for arraignments, hearings, trials, and sentencing, delivering strong and strategic advocacy.
- Draft and review legal documents, including motions, briefs, memoranda, and correspondence with clarity, precision, and persuasive legal reasoning.
- Maintain consistent and clear client communication, providing education, guidance, and reassurance throughout each step of the legal process.
- Contribute to practice development, including building client relationships, expanding referral networks, and supporting the firm's long-term growth strategy.
- Collaborate closely with team members, including attorneys, paralegals, and support staff, in a hybrid environment that values flexibility and shared ownership.
- Stay informed on developments in criminal law and procedure, applying emerging trends and case law to strengthen client strategy and outcomes.

#### **Qualifications:**

- Juris Doctor (JD) degree from an accredited law school.
- 3+ years of experience in criminal defense, including trial experience.
- High level of professionalism, empathy, and discretion.
- Excellent courtroom advocacy, negotiation, and communication skills.
- Self-starter with the ability to work independently, manage multiple matters, and meet deadlines effectively in a hybrid work environment.
- Willingness to engage in business development activities and foster client relationships.

#### **Benefits:**

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience.
- Unlimited PTO.
- 13 paid holidays.
- 100% firm paid health insurance.
- 100% firm paid vision insurance.
- Monthly technology stipend with firm provided remote technology solutions.
- Bonus eligibility based upon performance.
- Competitive 401(k) and profit sharing.
- Paid continuing education expenses.
- Collaborative and positive work environment.

#### **How to apply**

If you are a motivated, detailed oriented, and personable individual with a commitment to excellence and client service, we invite you to apply for a position at Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm. Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience via the form below. Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in the workplace. We encourage all qualified individuals to apply.

<https://www.halbachlawfirm.com/careers>

## **Senior Civil Litigation Attorney**

**About Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm:** Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm is a full-service law firm with offices in Sioux Falls, SD, and Sioux City, IA. We are committed to delivering responsive, high-quality legal services across a wide range of practice areas. Our culture is built on collaboration, trust, and professionalism, and every member of our team plays an essential role in supporting our clients and each other.

**Position Overview:** We are seeking a seasoned and strategic Senior Civil Litigation Attorney to join our growing litigation team. The ideal candidate will bring 7+ years of substantive experience handling complex civil matters, including business disputes, employment litigation, contract disputes, construction claims, and related issues. This attorney will serve as a key leader within the litigation group, providing high-level representation to clients and contributing to the firm's overall litigation strategy and growth.

This role requires demonstrated skill in navigating all phases of litigation including pleadings, discovery, motion practice, mediation, trial, and appeal with the judgment and autonomy expected of a senior practitioner. Candidates must be licensed in one or more of the following states: South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska; and ideally eligible to become licensed in the others.

While candidates with an established practice are preferred,

this position is also well-suited for high-performing litigators looking to grow their practice within a modern, entrepreneurial firm. Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm attorneys are licensed across South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming and serve clients across the U.S. and internationally.

### **Responsibilities:**

#### Lead Case Strategy & Management

- Oversee and execute all aspects of civil litigation with minimal supervision, including development of case strategy, drafting and responding to pleadings, conducting and managing discovery, and representing clients in hearings, depositions, mediations and trials. Provide creative and practical solutions grounded in strong judgment.

#### Advanced Legal Research & Writing

- Produce high-quality briefs, motions, memoranda, an appellate filings. Translate complex legal issues into clear and compelling arguments.

#### Client Relationship Leadership

- Serve as a primary point of contact for clients, deliver responsive, clear, and proactive communication. Strengthen existing client relationships and support long-term client retention.

#### Mentorship & Team Collaboration

- Collaborate with associate attorneys, paralegals, and support staff; provide guidance, oversight, and informal mentorship to junior team members as needed. Contribute positively to a hybrid/remote team environment.

#### Business Development & Practice Growth

- Participate in networking and business-development activities; help grow the litigation practice by identifying opportunities, strengthening referral relationships, and developing a personal book of business over time.

#### Professional Development & Legal Awareness

- Stay current on relevant legal developments procedural changes, and statewide and regional trends affecting client matters and litigation strategies.

### **Qualifications:**

- Juris Doctor (JD) from an accredited law school.
- Minimum 7 years of civil litigation experience, including meaningful trial, deposition, and courtroom experience.
- Demonstrated ability to independently manage a diverse litigation caseload from intake through resolution.
- Exceptional legal writing, analytical, and research skills.
- Strong professional judgment, time management, and communication skills.
- Entrepreneurial mindset with a willingness to engage in business development.
- Active admission in to one of these states and ideally the ability to obtain licensure in the others: Iowa, South

Dakota and Nebraska.

### **Attitude, Energy, and Effort:**

- Approach client matters and internal responsibilities with professionalism, sound judgment, and the steadiness expected of a senior practitioner.
- Bring pride, precision, and strategic thought to your work, recognizing the impact a senior litigator has on case outcomes, client trust, and the firm's broader reputation.
- Maintain focused, reliable energy in fast-moving matters; anticipate next steps, identify risks early, and drive progress without the need for oversight.
- Demonstrate respect for colleagues and clients through clear communication, thoughtful coordination, and consistent, high-quality work product.
- Engage in feedback and continuous improvement with maturity and accountability, modeling a solutions-oriented approach for others on the team.
- Uphold confidentiality, discretion, and professionalism in all interactions, especially when navigating complex, sensitive, or high-stakes matters.

### **Benefits:**

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience.
- Unlimited PTO.
- 13 paid holidays.
- 100% firm-paid health insurance.
- 100% firm-paid vision insurance.
- Monthly technology stipend with firm-provided remote technology solutions.
- Bonus eligibility based on performance.
- Competitive 401(k) and profit sharing.
- Paid continuing education or skills-development opportunities.
- Collaborative and positive work environment.

**How to Apply:** If you are a motivated, detail-oriented, and client-focused professional with a commitment to excellence, we invite you to apply for the Senior Attorney position at Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm. Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience to **Miranda Basye** at [mirandab@halbachlawfirm.com](mailto:mirandab@halbachlawfirm.com) and **Alex Halbach** at [alexh@halbachlawfirm.com](mailto:alexh@halbachlawfirm.com).

Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in the workplace. We encourage all qualified individuals to apply.

## Deputy State's Attorney, 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 \$78,518.54 to \$102,177.40 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](mailto: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.

## Assistant Federal Public Defender (Rapid City)

The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is seeking an attorney to join our branch office in **Rapid City, South Dakota**. Our office provides high-quality, client-centered representation to individuals charged with federal crimes who cannot afford retained counsel, pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act.

**Why Our Office:** The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is a collegial, mission-driven office committed to excellent defense work. Our practice includes regular contested hearings and trial opportunities, providing meaningful courtroom experience grounded in careful preparation and sound judgment. The office also represents clients in cases arising in and near tribal communities, offering experience with Indian Country jurisdiction and the distinct legal, factual, and cultural considerations those cases present. Attorneys are supported by experienced investigators, paralegals, and administrative staff, and are encouraged to practice with independence, creativity, and professionalism. We value collaboration, mentorship, and thoughtful case strategy, while trusting attorneys to exercise sound judgment and develop their own advocacy style. The work is demanding and meaningful, and our culture emphasizes respect, integrity, and mutual support—for our clients and for one another.

**About Rapid City:** Rapid City is the principal population center of western South Dakota. Located at the eastern edge of the Black Hills, it sits where forested hills meet open prairies and offers immediate access to nationally recognized parks, public lands, and outdoor recreation. The area is known for its natural beauty, mild summers, and four-season climate, with opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, and skiing within minutes of town. Rapid City also features affordable housing, short commutes, a growing arts and food scene, and strong schools, making it a highly livable community for individuals and families alike. It is an exceptional setting for attorneys seeking meaningful federal practice in a place that offers both professional engagement and an unmatched natural environment.

**Position Description:** Assistant Federal Public Defenders provide zealous, ethical, and professional representation in a fast-paced and challenging environment. Responsibilities include managing a federal criminal caseload from initial appearance through disposition; meeting and advising clients; interviewing witnesses and family members; developing release plans; reviewing and analyzing discovery; drafting pleadings, motions, and briefs; developing litigation strategies; working with investigators and experts; advising Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys; and conducting in-

court advocacy at all stages of litigation. Some travel is required. Attorneys in this office may not engage in the private practice of law.

**Required Qualifications:** (1) Graduation from an accredited law school; (2) Admission in good standing to practice before the highest court of a state or the District of Columbia; (3) Ability to practice before the United States District Court for the District of South Dakota upon appointment. Attorneys who are not members of the South Dakota Bar may begin practice while completing South Dakota bar admission requirements, which must be satisfied within 12 months of the start date; and (4) United States citizenship or authorization to work in the United States.

Above all, we seek applicants with a demonstrated commitment to indigent defense and the ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment. Courtroom experience, creativity, sound judgment, and strong research and writing skills are highly valued.

**Salary and Benefits:** Salary is commensurate with experience and ranges from \$76,748 to \$180,078. This is a full-time position with comprehensive federal benefits, including health and life insurance, retirement, and participation in the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is paid bi-weekly via direct deposit. Final offers of employment are contingent upon funding availability and successful completion of a background investigation.

**How to Apply:** Applicants should submit a letter of interest, résumé, three references, and a recent writing sample combined into a single PDF to [SDX\\_JOBS@fd.org](mailto:SDX_JOBS@fd.org). The position is open until filled, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. More than one position may be filled from this announcement.

The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minorities encouraged to apply.  
**Position Announcement #26-01**

## Assistant Federal Public Defender (Bismarck)

The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is seeking an attorney to join our branch office in **Bismarck, North Dakota**. Our office provides high-quality, client-centered representation to individuals charged with federal crimes who cannot afford retained counsel, pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act.

**Why Our Office:** The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is a collegial,

mission-driven office committed to excellent defense work. Our practice includes regular contested hearings and trial opportunities, providing meaningful courtroom experience grounded in careful preparation and sound judgment. The office also represents clients in cases arising in and near tribal communities, offering experience with Indian Country jurisdiction and the distinct legal, factual, and cultural considerations those cases present. Attorneys are supported by experienced investigators, paralegals, and administrative staff, and are encouraged to practice with independence, creativity, and professionalism. We value collaboration, mentorship, and thoughtful case strategy, while trusting attorneys to exercise sound judgment and develop their own advocacy style. The work is demanding and meaningful, and our culture emphasizes respect, integrity, and mutual support—for our clients and for one another.

**About Bismarck:** Bismarck is North Dakota's capital city and the economic and civic center of central North Dakota. Located along the Missouri River, the community offers affordable housing, short commutes, strong schools, and a high quality of life. Residents enjoy easy access to outdoor recreation, including river activities, trails, and nearby public lands, as well as a growing arts and food scene. Bismarck provides a welcoming, family-friendly environment and an excellent setting for building a meaningful federal defense practice while enjoying the space, pace, and sense of connection that define life on the northern plains.

**Position Description:** Assistant Federal Public Defenders provide zealous, ethical, and professional representation in a fast-paced and challenging environment. Responsibilities include managing a federal criminal caseload from initial appearance through disposition; meeting and advising clients; interviewing witnesses and family members; developing release plans; reviewing and analyzing discovery; drafting pleadings, motions, and briefs; developing litigation strategies; working with investigators and experts; advising Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys; and conducting in-court advocacy at all stages of litigation. Some travel is required. Attorneys in this office may not engage in the private practice of law.

**Required Qualifications:** (1) Graduation from an accredited law school; (2) Admission in good standing to practice before the highest court of a state or the District of Columbia; (3) Admission to practice in the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota by the time of appointment; and (4) United States citizenship or work authorization.

Above all, we seek applicants with a demonstrated commitment to indigent defense and the ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment. Courtroom experience, creativity, sound judgment, and strong research

and writing skills are highly valued.

**Salary and Benefits:** Salary is commensurate with experience and ranges from \$76,748 to \$180,078. This is a full-time position with comprehensive federal benefits, including health and life insurance, retirement, and participation in the Thrift Savings Plan. Salary is paid bi-weekly via direct deposit. Final offers of employment are contingent upon funding availability and successful completion of a background investigation.

**How to Apply:** Applicants should submit a letter of interest, résumé, three references, and a recent writing sample combined into a single PDF to [NDX\\_JOBS@fd.org](mailto:NDX_JOBS@fd.org). The position is open until filled, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. More than one position may be filled from this announcement.

The Federal Public Defender for the Districts of South Dakota and North Dakota is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minorities encouraged to apply.

#### **Position Announcement #26-02**

## **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

**Health/Employment Law - Attorney**

Resolve Legal, PLLC seeks an attorney to join its Health/Employment Law Practice Group. The ideal candidate would have experience in physician employment arrangements, provider licensure, anti-kickback laws, and self-referral laws. Additional experience with corporate and transactional matters for health care providers is preferred. The candidate should have a demonstrated interest and/or experience in practicing health law and the ability to communicate effectively with physicians. Active license in at least one U.S. Jurisdiction required (any state).

Remote/Hybrid work environment. Base salary plus performance bonus. Benefits vary based on FTE status. Please submit applications to [kyle@resolvelgl.com](mailto:kyle@resolvelgl.com). No calls please.

**Assistant County Attorney I or II, Nobles County**

Nobles County is a diverse, growing community located in Southwestern Minnesota. We are looking to hire an Assistant County Attorney I or II, dependent on experience. Those interested in working with a diverse community and in attaining jury trial experience are encouraged to apply.

This position will focus primarily on criminal prosecution. Caseload will be dependent on experience. Minimum qualifications are as follows:

Assistant County Attorney I: Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school, State of Minnesota Attorney’s License and Certification to practice before the District Court in the State of Minnesota, or will obtain prior to start date; one year experience as an attorney including courtroom experience is required. Salary dependent on experience, \$85,134.40 - \$116,043.20.

Assistant County Attorney II: Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school, State of Minnesota Attorney’s License and Certification to practice before the District Court in the State of Minnesota, or will obtain prior to start date; and a minimum of four years of experience as an attorney, including a minimum of three years of demonstrated courtroom experience in areas directly relevant to the work required in this position. Salary dependent on experience, \$90,251.20 - \$122,990.40.

APPLY TO: Nobles County Administration Office. Nobles County offers a competitive benefits package. Proficiency in a second language may be eligible for extra compensation. Visit our website: <https://www.co.nobles.mn.us/departments/human-resources/> for application and

to view full job description and benefit sheet. **Closing Date for Applications: Open until filled.** EEO/AA Employer

## Associate Attorney - Sioux Falls, SD

*Location: 101 West 69th Street, Suite 100, Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
Some travel may be required*

Peebles Bergin Schulte & Robinson LLP – a national law firm dedicated to the representation of Native American tribes and tribally owned enterprises – is seeking a full-time Associate Attorney for its Sioux Falls, South Dakota office. We are looking for candidates with experience representing Indian tribes, tribal entities, or businesses, or a demonstrated interest in working in Indian Country. The ideal candidate will have experience or a strong interest in economic development, corporate governance, business transactions, or assisting outside general counsel.

### Qualifications:

- J.D. from an accredited law school
- Active bar membership in any state (South Dakota preferred or willingness to become admitted)
- Strong writing, research, and communication skills
- 2–5 years of relevant legal experience preferred, but all qualified applicants will be considered

### Practice Areas May Include:

- Advising tribal governments and tribally owned businesses
- Drafting and negotiating commercial agreements
- Providing outside general counsel services
- Supporting economic development initiatives and regulatory matters

### We Offer:

- A collegial and mission-driven work environment
- Competitive salary and benefits
- Opportunity to work on cutting-edge legal matters in Indian law, tribal economic development, and corporate law
- Some travel may be required

### To Apply:

Please email a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and references to Patrick Bergin at [pbergin@ndnlaw.com](mailto:pbergin@ndnlaw.com) with the subject line “Sioux Falls Associate Attorney Application.”

## Casualty Claims Consultant

**Who We Are:** With Farm Bureau Financial Services, our client/members can feel confident knowing their family, home, cars and other property are protected. We value a culture where integrity, teamwork, passion, service, leadership and accountability are at the heart of every decision we make and every action we take. We're proud of our more than 80-year commitment to protecting the livelihoods and futures of our client/members and creating an atmosphere where our employees thrive.

**What You'll Do:** As a Casualty Claims Consultant you will manage claims in litigation. You will also:

- Assign litigated files to panel counsel and work with panel counsel to oversee litigation strategy, including any discovery, motion, and trial strategies.
- Contribute to the financial success of Farm Bureau Financial Services by determining when cases should be settled, tried, or submitted to Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- Attend mediations and/or trials on behalf of Farm Bureau Financial Services with State and Commercial Business Unit claims staff members when requested or when necessary.
- Ensure case reserves are adequate.
- Work in conjunction with Business Units partners to ensure that required reinsurance reports/billings are completed and filed on a timely basis when necessary.
- Maintain records on legal counsel and litigated cases and provide reports as requested.
- Serve as a resource to all claims personnel on legal issues and casualty policy interpretation.

### What It Takes to Lead Our Team:

- College degree or equivalent plus seven years of relevant experience required.
- Current license to practice law, and continue to maintain license status required.
- This position will be primarily responsible for Commercial claims in the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota.
- Commercial claims coverage analysis and litigation experience preferred.
- Litigation Supervisor or related experience preferred.
- Must keep current with existing and pending claims precedents and legislation.
- Must be able to fully appraise all damage aspects and have strong knowledge of tort law.

**What We Offer You:** When you're on our team, you get more than a great paycheck. You'll hear about career development and educational opportunities. We offer an enhanced 401K with a match, low-cost health, dental, and vision benefits,

and life and disability insurance options. We also offer paid time off, including holidays and volunteer time, and teams who know how to have fun. **Farm Bureau....where the grass really IS greener!**

If you're interested in joining a company that appreciates employees, provides growth and professional development opportunities, as well as offers great benefits, we invite you to apply today!

### **Work Authorization/Sponsorship**

Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis. We are not able to sponsor now or in the future, or take over sponsorship of, an employment visa or work authorization for this role. For example, we are not able to sponsor OPT status.

## **Independent Contract Attorney**



Albertelli Law (ALAW) is seeking a licensed South Dakota attorney to join our network as an Independent Contract Attorney supporting post-closing title review operations for residential real estate transactions.

The selected attorney will review post-closing title packages to confirm all requirements have been satisfied prior to issuance of an attorney title opinion. This role is ideal for attorneys seeking flexible, production-based work that can be completed remotely on their own schedule.

### **Position Summary**

Following the closing of residential real estate transactions, the attorney will review standardized approval checklists, title search updates, recorded documents, and curative documentation to ensure compliance with South Dakota title requirements and underwriting standards.

### **Responsibilities**

- Review post-closing title packages for accuracy and completeness
- Analyze title search updates, recorded documents, and curative items
- Verify all required conditions and checklist items have been satisfied
- Approve compliant files and provide attorney sign-off for issuance of title opinions
- Reject deficient files with clear corrective instructions

for resubmission

- Maintain accuracy, organization, and timely turnaround of assigned files
- Communicate professionally with internal teams and title partners as needed

### **Qualifications**

- Active license to practice law in South Dakota required
- Strong attention to detail and organizational skills
- Ability to work independently and manage deadlines
- Comfortable reviewing legal and real estate-related documentation
- Prior real estate, title, mortgage, or closing experience preferred but not required

### **Training & Support**

ALAW provides comprehensive onboarding and training prior to assignment of live files, including document-by-document review processes and workflow guidance.

If you are licensed in South Dakota, we'll teach you the rest!

### **Position Details**

- Engagement Type: Independent Contractor
- Schedule: Flexible / Production-Based
- Location: Fully Remote
- Compensation: Per-file / Production-based compensation structure
- Hours: Work may be completed on your own schedule while meeting agreed-upon turnaround expectations

## **Assistant City Attorney I or II, City Attorney's Office, Rapid City SD**

The City of Rapid City is accepting applications for the position of Assistant City Attorney I or II. The City Attorney's Office consists of a team of five attorneys in a fast-paced environment. The office provides legal support and services to all City departments and elected officials.

### **Salary and Benefits:**

The City of Rapid City offers a competitive benefits package, including employer paid health insurance, paid holidays, generous leave accruals, and participation in the South Dakota Retirement System.

Assistant City Attorney I range: \$87,396 to \$117,453

Assistant City Attorney II range: \$112,374 to \$150,708

Pay rate and classification dependent on qualifications and experience.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities – Assistant City Attorney I:**

- Investigates and prepares cases and acts as prosecutor

against individuals and businesses that violate municipal ordinances; represents the City in City ordinance violation cases in Magistrate Court, in appeals from the Magistrate Division to Circuit Court, and in civil cases in Circuit Court representing the City or its administrative boards.

- Provides legal assistance and guidance to City staff, the City Council, and other City officials.
- Prepares, reviews, and interprets ordinances, resolutions, contracts, policies, state laws, and other legal documents for the City, its decision-makers, City staff, and the public.
- Advises City officials and staff by interpreting and providing legal opinions on code enforcement, including building, electrical, mechanical, fire, zoning, and property maintenance codes, state and federal laws, City ordinances, and specialized documents.
- Performs various transactional legal services including, but not limited to, drafting, reviewing, and/or approving easements, deeds, contracts, agreements, ordinances and resolutions, policies and procedures, or amendments thereto. Acts as legal advisor to departments negotiating various contracts, except labor contracts, on behalf of the City.
- Confers directly with the public, press, City staff, and department directors explaining City ordinances, City and state licenses and permits, rights of parties, trial results, various rights of trial and appeal, and responses to complaints.
- Litigates claims by or against the City arising from actions of City Council, other boards or commissions, or City staff; defends complaints against City personnel which arise out of their employment with the City; prepares cases for trial, examining law and evidence, and represents the City at trial.
- Attends meetings with and advises various City boards, committees, and commissions on questions of law and legal issues.
- Develops and conducts training presentations for City officials and employees communicating legal guidance and/or statutory or ordinance requirements on a variety of topics.
- Performs other such duties and functions as are necessary or incidental to the proper performance of this position.

#### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities – Assistant City Attorney II:**

- Performs all Assistant City Attorney I duties.
- Assists in negotiations of union contracts and subsequent administration of these contracts.
- Supervises the City Attorney’s Office in absence of City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney.
- Provides legal advice and assistance to City officials and staff on sophisticated and complex legal matters.

- Assists outside counsel in representation of the City.

#### **Qualifications – Assistant City Attorney I:**

- Juris Doctor degree required.
- Active membership in good standing with a state bar required, or ability to obtain admission within 90 days from date of hire.

#### **Qualifications – Assistant City Attorney II:**

- Juris Doctor degree required.
- Active membership in good standing with a state bar required, or ability to obtain admission within 90 days from date of hire.
- Four years of experience in the practice of law required, preferably in public sector law or regulatory compliance.

Visit [careers.rcgov.org](https://careers.rcgov.org) to submit an application/resume and for more information. Questions may be directed to [carla.cushman@rcgov.org](mailto:carla.cushman@rcgov.org). Position closes July 6, 2026.

### **Associate Attorney**

Williams Law, P.C. is a well-established and growing law firm seeking an Associate Attorney to join the team. The ideal candidate is a proactive advocate who can transition seamlessly between sensitive domestic negotiations and contested family law matters.

We pride ourselves on maintaining a collaborative work environment and a strong commitment to exceptional client service.

Qualified candidates should possess:

- Strong legal writing, research, and advocacy skills
- Excellent organizational and time-management abilities
- The ability to manage multiple matters effectively and professionally

Two or more years of experience in family law is preferred; however, all attorneys with relevant experience are encouraged to apply.

Williams Law, P.C. offers competitive compensation and benefits.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to [tlw@avoicereason.life](mailto:tlw@avoicereason.life).

## **Brown County Deputy Public Defender**

Wage: \$3,110.75 to \$3,884.91, bi-weekly, DOE  
Closing date: Open until filled

The Brown County Public Defender's Office is looking for a Deputy Public Defender to help create its brand-new office. We are considering newly admitted attorneys, attorneys with 20 or more years of experience and everyone in between. (Admission to practice law with the State Bar of South Dakota or ability to obtain admission is required.) This office handles felony and misdemeanor criminal cases; abused and neglected child(ren) cases, juvenile delinquency cases, mental health and involuntary alcohol committal cases.

Do not let lack of experience in criminal law deter you from applying. We are dedicated to providing training opportunities both internal and external that will include handling these types of cases. We offer on-the-job training that includes proper etiquette in court, negotiation tactics, conducting jury trials, drafting motions, meeting with clients, filing appeals, plus more. You will learn valuable skills at no cost to you that will benefit you for your entire career! With that being said, we hope that is with Brown County.

The Brown County Public Defender's Office promotes a team-focused environment where we strive to create a fun and inviting atmosphere while dealing with a difficult but important job, the only one mentioned in the Constitution. (Please see the Sixth Amendment.) We work hard to create a healthy work/life balance by monitoring caseloads and using technology to help streamline case management. Our goal is for you to be at your best while feeling confident in handling your own cases with minimal micro-managing, as we support you each step of the way! The Public Defender's Office also values your opinion, and we encourage you to provide alternative solutions to current practices which help keep us on the path of continued improvement.

We offer competitive starting salaries based on experience and qualifications, ranging from \$80,800 to 101,000 per year for 2026, and negotiable, depending on experience. We provide employer paid premiums on employee health, dental, and life insurance, while offering cost options for employee dependent plans and supplemental insurance. We are part of the South Dakota State Retirement system which offers a 6% employee match for eligible employees. In addition, we provide a generous paid time off and extended sick leave package, while observing 13 paid holidays throughout the year.

Excited by what you've read? Don't wait- apply now and join our team!

### **JOB SUMMARY**

This position is responsible for the representation of individuals who cannot afford legal representation in criminal cases, abuse and neglect cases, juvenile cases, mental health and involuntary committal cases where the new Brown County Public Defender's Office has been appointed to represent them. Candidates for this position may be designated "Senior Deputy Public Defender", depending upon education and experience.

### **MAJOR DUTIES**

- Zealous representation of clients in criminal, abuse and neglect, juvenile, mental health and involuntary committal proceedings. Representation of clients in criminal and juvenile cases happens at all phases of the criminal justice system including initial appearances, arraignments, motions hearings and trials.
- Coordinates with and assists the Chief Public Defender and other staff members in providing information to the Courts, Court Administration, Clerk of Courts, County Auditor and County Commission as requested.

### **EDUCATION/AND OR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

- Professional degree (Juris Doctor) Graduation from a college of law and attainment of JD or LLB.
- 0-10 years of experience.
- Admitted or eligible to be admitted to the South Dakota Bar Association.

### **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 oral and written communication.

### **SUPERVISORY CONTROLS**

The Chief Public Defender assigns work according to 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 law, 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 fast pace of the working environment contributes to the complexity of the position.

**CONTACTS**

- Contacts are typically with co-workers, legal assistants, 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 people; 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, or stooping. The employee occasionally lifts light objects.
- The work is typically performed in an office or courtroom.

**SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY**

This position may supervise assigned personnel.

**APPLY BY**

Submit Brown County application or resume to:

Brown County  
 Human Resources  
 25 Market St  
 Aberdeen, SD 57401  
 Fax: 605-725-2355

Email: [Humanresources@browncounty.sd.gov](mailto:Humanresources@browncounty.sd.gov)

Email: [Allison.Tunheim@browncounty.sd.gov](mailto:Allison.Tunheim@browncounty.sd.gov)

**HIRING?**

*Find out how you can post your open positions here!*

Email: [tailynn.bradford@sdbar.net](mailto:tailynn.bradford@sdbar.net)

**More**

**UPCOMING LIVE WEBINARS**  
*From AllOne Health*

Discover a whole new approach to well-being.

*Free to all Bar Members!*

10 JUN

Parenting Your Teen: Career and Life Goals  
 June 10, 2026  
 1:30 pm EDT - 2:30 pm EDT

17 JUN

Embracing Personal Reflection and Self-Awareness  
 June 17, 2026

**ALLONE HEALTH**



# United States Attorney's Office

## District of South Dakota

*We're Hiring!*

### Assistant United States Attorney

The District of South Dakota is home to a dynamic, committed, and energy-filled environment of colleagues who are passionate about achieving justice on behalf of the United States.

**Job Description.** The Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Dakota is seeking exceptional, motivated attorneys to prosecute federal crime on behalf of the United States. Assistant U.S. Attorneys are entrusted with prosecutorial discretion over robust caseloads. Attorneys benefit tremendously from top-tier training at the National Advocacy Center and from a team of experienced and dedicated colleagues who are experts in the field. There are few moments of professional satisfaction greater than rising to introduce yourself to a judge in federal court and saying: "I represent the United States of America."

Work will be varied, never dull, and includes the prosecution of drug trafficking, child exploitation, violent crime, illegal immigration, firearms offenses, national security matters, cybercrime, and white-collar fraud. Candidates should also be capable of prosecuting Major Crimes Act violations in Indian Country including murder, child sex abuse, rape, and other violent crimes. Assistant U.S. Attorneys partner with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes, present criminal cases to a federal grand jury, research and brief legal issues, and represent the United States before the United States District Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

**Salary and Benefits.** Assistant United States Attorneys enjoy unrivaled salary, extraordinary collateral benefits such as the high performing Thrift Savings Plan 401(k) program, and full health insurance coverage in retirement.

To be considered or for more information, visit USAJOBS at:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/870282200>

Completed applications will be accepted through July 6, 2026.

### Answer the Call!

If you're seeking an exciting and fulfilling legal career dedicated to public service, consider applying to become a federal prosecutor.

The U.S. Attorney's Office proudly represents the United States in a manner that instills confidence in the fairness and integrity of the criminal justice system. Assistant U.S. Attorneys are charged with upholding the rule of law, protecting civil rights, and ensuring the safety and security of our communities and nation.

Join us and be part of a dedicated team enforcing federal criminal and civil laws that protect life, liberty, and the property of all citizens.



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Kristen Townsend, Marketing Director  
605-254-5274 | [ktownsend@dehs.com](mailto:ktownsend@dehs.com) | [www.dehs.com](http://www.dehs.com)

**Davenport Evans lawyer Terry Prendergast named a Howard Wood Honorary Referee**

Davenport Evans lawyer [Terry Prendergast](#) has been named a 2026 Howard Wood Relay Honorary Referee. ReNae Hays has also received the honor in 2026. [Click here](#) for a historical listing of Honorary Referees.

Terry Prendergast grew up in Volga, South Dakota, with his sister Sue and parents Harry and Dorothy Prendergast. Terry's father Harry, a member of the South Dakota sports hall of fame, coached track and field, among other sports. From an early age, Terry was indoctrinated into high school sports. Following graduation from Sioux Valley High School, Terry received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana College, and an MBA and law degree from the University of South Dakota. He has been a practicing attorney in Sioux Falls since 1978 and currently practices at Davenport Evans Law Firm. While at Augustana, he served as a sports reporter for the Sioux Falls Argus Leader working under Hall of Fame member John Egan and covering the Howard Wood Relays and other track meets. He helped establish the Northern League, the first independent professional baseball league, in 1992 and was a co-owner of the Sioux Falls Canaries independent minor league baseball team from 1998-2009.

As a Howard Wood Board member since 1980, Terry served as President of the Howard Wood Relays board in 2002 and 2003 and is a 46-year volunteer counting it as one of his proudest affiliations. Serving as chair of various committees through the years, Terry has headed the Special Events Committee for over 40 years. The Special Events have grown from one event a year to a highlight of the meet with national top times, competitors from nine states and three countries, and great competition for local athletes. "The goal of this committee has been to have all eight runners selected get a personal best in the race." Terry said. "That is success!"

Terry is also active in the community. He is Past President and Board Member of both [Lutheran Social Services](#) and [Lutheran Social Services Foundation](#), Past President of [Siouxland Heritage Museums](#), Past President of the [Sioux Falls Downtown Kiwanis Club](#), Past President and Board Member of [Feeding South Dakota](#)—Food Service Center, Inc., Past Chair of the Elks Youth Services Committee, and Past Vice President and Board Member of the [South Dakota School for the Deaf Foundation](#), where he served for over 25 years. Terry serves his church as Chancellor and is also on the Investigations Committee of the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Terry and his wife of 46 years, Susan, have two sons, Chris and Steven. He also has two grandchildren, Paget and Penley, and would be happy to show you their pictures.

###

# Career Opportunity

## US PROBATION & PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA



**Vacancy No.:** 05-26

**Number of Vacancies:** 1

**Location:** Aberdeen, SD

**Salary:** CL 25-28 \$49,361 - \$116,394

commensurate with qualifications

**Employment:** Permanent, Full-time

**Closing Date:** Open until filled,  
priority given to applications received  
by June 12, 2026.

### BENEFITS

- Paid Annual & Sick Leave
- Paid Paternal Leave
- 11 Paid Holidays
- Employer Subsidized Health Insurance
- Group Life Insurance
- Supplemental Vision/Dental Insurance
- Retirement Benefits Plan (FERS)
- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Pre-tax benefit programs
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

### ABOUT THE COURT

The U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota was established in 1889 when the Dakota Territory was divided into North and South Dakota. The Court handles issues pertaining to federal law within the state of South Dakota and has courthouses in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre, and Aberdeen. Additionally, U.S. Probation has satellite offices in Eagle Butte, Kyle, McLaughlin, Mission, and Winner.

The U.S. District Court consists of federal court chambers, a clerk's office, and a probation and pretrial services office. The district has three Article III district judges, two senior district judges, and three full-time magistrate judges.

### ABOUT THE POSITION

The U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota is seeking a full-time Probation & Pretrial Services Officer in Aberdeen, SD. U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officers play an integral role in the administration of justice, community safety, conduct objective investigations, supervise defendants and persons under supervision, interact with collateral agencies, prepare reports, maintain a detailed written record of case activity, and present recommendations to the Court. Officers investigate and prepare bail and presentence reports for the Court and/or supervise defendants and persons under supervision to reduce risk to the community and foster lawful self-management.

### POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establishes a working alliance with persons under supervision by developing a genuine helping relationship and providing unconditional positive regard, empathy, and a shared agreement on goals.
- Conducts investigations and prepares reports for the Court to assist with detention and sentencing decisions.
- Provides accurate, thorough, and objective information along with best judgment to the Court for the issuance of individualized, fair, and equitable court orders.
- Implements and uses behavioral-based change work methods to achieve the goals of the case plan.
- Interacts with defendants and people under supervision using values such as affirmation, non-judgment, openness, care, and respect.
- Assesses and identifies general risk, risk to do harm, needs, strengths, level of motivation, and imminence for defendants and people under supervision.
- Collaborates with community resources utilizing referrals when necessary.
- Monitors a person's compliance with the conditions of release and/or supervision and reports to the Court any allegations of non-compliance.
- Develops collaborative strategies and/or interventions to promote lawful self-management.
- Communicates clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Document and maintain detailed written records of meetings and case activity.
- Participates in annual safety training and adheres to the district's safety policy.
- Embraces diversity among colleagues and communities served.
- At times, extensive travel to other locations within the district may be required.
- May be requested to perform additional duties and/or projects as assigned.



## How to Apply

Please submit the following:

- Completed [AO78 Application for Judicial Branch Federal Employment](#)
- A current resume that includes three (3) professional references.
- An unofficial copy of your college transcript(s).
- A cover letter that specifically addresses qualifications and relevant experience you possess which make you a good candidate for this position; include your knowledge, skills, and ability to facilitate behavior change.
- Mission critical value statement: Select one of the 4 values listed below and describe how that value has shaped who you are today and how you would demonstrate this value as a U.S. Probation Officer.
- (Optional) A completed [AO78B Voluntary Race/Ethnicity, Gender, & Disability Identification form](#).

All documents must be emailed in pdf format with "Vacancy 05-26" in the subject line to:

[recruitment@sdd.uscourts.gov](mailto:recruitment@sdd.uscourts.gov)



[www.sdd.uscourts.gov](http://www.sdd.uscourts.gov)

## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTIC REQUIREMENTS

- Exercise sound judgment, maintain confidentiality, adhere to high ethical standards, and demonstrate integrity in fulfilling the district's vision, mission, values, and strategic plan.
- Prioritize competing demands while maintaining a positive and professional demeanor.
- Exercise impartiality and discretion with defendants, persons under supervision, courts, justice partners, and communities.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule if needed, including nights, weekends, or holidays.
- Promote and maintain a positive work environment which encourages integrity, respect, individual and organizational growth, and a fulfilling work life.

## KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

### Minimum Education Requirement

Applicants must possess a completed bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. The degree must be from a field of academic study related to human relations and where knowledge was gained in understanding the legal requirements necessary to succeed as a probation officer.

In addition to the minimum required education, classification levels are determined based upon additional education or specialized experience\* as indicated below:

Level	Minimum Additional Education and/or Experience
CL 25	Completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and one of the following academic achievement requirements: - An overall "B" grade point average equaling 2.90 or better of a possible 4.0; - Standing in the upper third of the class; - "3.5" average or better in the major field of study, such as business or public administration, human resource management, industrial relations, or psychology; or - Election to membership in one of the National Honorary Scholastic Societies meeting the minimum requirements of the Association of College Honor Societies, other than Freshman Honor Societies or Completion of one academic year (30 semester credits of 45 quarter hours) of graduate work in a field of study closely related to the position.
CL 27	Two years of specialized experience* or completion of a master's degree in a field of study closely related to the position, or a Juris Doctor (JD) degree.
CL 28	Two years of specialized experience.

\*Specialized experience is defined as progressively responsible experience in fields such as probation, pretrial services, mental health, substance abuse, social work, criminal law, parole, corrections, criminal investigations, public administration, or human relations. **Experience as a police officer, custodial officer, or security officer, other than criminal investigative experience, does not qualify.**



## MISSION CRITICAL VALUES

**Integrity:**  
Our commitment to be honest, fair, compassionate to each other and those we serve. Being accountable for our decisions and the impact of our actions.

**Respect:**  
We honor and respect the dignity and worth of every individual, affirm human potential, act with empathy, and embrace diversity.

**Individual and Organizational Growth:**  
We believe change is essential to the dynamic of our work. We create a learning environment where we and those we serve take courageous steps toward individual and systematic progress through competency building, effective communication, and utilizing evidence-based practices.

**Fulfilling Work Life:**  
We believe every employee can achieve personal satisfaction and fulfillment in their work by commitment to the mission, exercising individual responsibility, building competency, and supporting coworkers. We support a work environment where contributions are appreciated, and conditions are safe and fair.

[www.sdd.uscourts.gov](http://www.sdd.uscourts.gov)

## CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or eligible to work in the United States.
- Judiciary employees must adhere to the *Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees* at all times.
- Employees of the United States District Court are hired under excepted appointments, are not covered by the Civil Service System, and are considered "at will" employees.
- The candidate hired for this position will be subject to a full background record check.
- This position is subject to mandatory electronic funds transfer participation for payment of net pay (direct deposit).
- The U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota reserves the right to amend or withdraw any vacancy announcement with or without written notice to applicants. If a subsequent vacancy of the same position becomes available within a reasonable amount of time after the original announcement has closed, the Court Unit Executive reserves the right to select a candidate from the original applicant pool for the previous vacancy announcement.

### Maximum Entry Age Limit

First time appointees to positions covered under federal law enforcement officer retirement provisions must not have reached their 37th birthday by the time of appointment. Applicants 37 years old and older who have previous law enforcement experience covered under the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) who have either a subsequent break in service or intervening service in a non-law enforcement officer position may be able to have previous federal experience deducted from current age to determine eligibility.

### LEO Training Requirement

A 6-week training program at the Probation and Pretrial Training Academy in Charleston, South Carolina is required within the first year of employment for all law enforcement officer positions.

### Medical Requirements and Background Checks

Prior to appointment and after an accepted offer, candidates must undergo a medical examination and drug screen. Upon successful completion, the candidate will be appointed under a provisional status, pending the outcome of a favorable background investigation. As a condition of employment, officers will be subject to ongoing random drug screens, updated background investigations every 5-7 years or as deemed necessary and may be subject to subsequent fitness-for-duty evaluations. Officers must possess, with or without corrective lenses, good distance vision in at least one eye with the ability to read normal size print. Normal hearing ability, with or without hearing aid(s), is also required. Any severe health problems, such as physical defects, disease, or deformities that constitute employment hazards to the candidate or others, may disqualify an individual from eligibility. See [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov) for additional medical requirement information.

# JUDICIARY BENEFIT DETAILS

## Employer Contributions

- o FERS eligible employees receive judiciary-paid Basic Benefit contributions each pay period
- o Optional Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) enrollment for pre- or post-tax (Roth) withholdings
- o Optional TSP catch-up contribution for employees age 50+
- o Participating TSP employees receive 100% match for first 3% contributed to the plan and \$.50 per dollar on the next 2%
- o TSP eligible employees also receive an automatic 1% contribution to their TSP plan each pay period
- o Social Security benefits contributed at 6.2% of employee earnings up to annual SS Wage Base
- o On average, 72% of an employee's total health insurance premium is paid by the judiciary with enrollment choices of Employee, Employee +1, and Family coverage
  - Over 20 different FEHB plan options available with varying deductible and co-pay limits
- o Judiciary pays 1/3 of the cost for employee's Basic Life Insurance
- o Free Employee Assistance Program (EAP) available to employees, spouse, and/or dependents 24/7

## Time Off

- o Annual leave
  - 0-3 years of service accrue 4 hours/pay period
  - 3-15 years of service accrue 6 hours/pay period
  - 15+ years of service accrue 8 hours/pay period
- o Sick leave: accrue 4 hours/pay period with no limit cap
- o Bereavement Leave: up to 104 hours of paid bereavement leave per year paid from sick leave bank
- o Paid Parental Leave: up to 12 weeks of paid leave for childbirth or adoption (eligibility conditions apply)
- o Bereavement Parental Leave: up to 2 weeks paid for loss of child
- o Compensation time earned based upon employee classification level
- o Administrative Leave: discretionary leave granted for voting, emergency closures, etc.
- o Paid Holidays – minimum of 11 paid holidays per year: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day

## Other Judiciary Benefits

- o 10 different vision insurance plans
- o 16 different dental insurance plans
- o Flexible benefit health care reimbursement
- o Flexible benefit dependent care reimbursement
- o Paid employee parking
- o Supplemental life insurance for spouse and children
- o Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance coverage
- o Long-term care insurance
- o Disability insurance
- o Disability retirement (eligibility conditions apply)
- o Professional liability insurance reimbursement
- o Employee referral bonus
- o Flexible scheduling/telework opportunities (eligibility conditions apply)
- o National Leave Transfer Program - donated paid time off for employees needing extended leave due to medical complications, childbirth, or other emergencies
- o Continuing education and local/national training and informational opportunities:
  - Judiciary Online University virtual learning + monthly benefit webinars

## In Retirement

- o Full continuation of health insurance for employee and spouse with continuation of judiciary-paid premiums (eligibility conditions apply)
- o If FERS-eligible, receive a monthly paid Basic Benefit annuity with survivor annuity option
- o Monthly-paid FERS annuity supplement ("social security bridge") paid by OPM if retiring under age 62
- o TSP participant withdrawal options via monthly, annual, or as needed basis with additional options to purchase TSP annuities
- o Optional continuation of life insurance coverage (eligibility conditions apply)
- o Fully paid out unused annual leave hours
- o Unused sick leave hours are converted and added to service credit time increasing monthly FERS payment

# STATE BAR

## Upcoming EVENTS

24-26  
June

State Bar Convention and  
Annual Meeting

25  
June

A2J All New Great Shots  
Golf tournament

25  
June

Sioux Falls ScavenJuris Hunt  
& Mixer

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

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