

State Bar of South Dakota

Newsletter

August 2026



USD Knudson School of Law On-Campus Events



FALL 2026:

OCI Round 1: Aug. 26th-28th

OCI Round 2: Oct. 1st-2nd

Career Fair: Nov. 3rd

SPRING 2027:

OCI : Feb. 4th-5th

Speed-Interviewing Event : March 5th



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

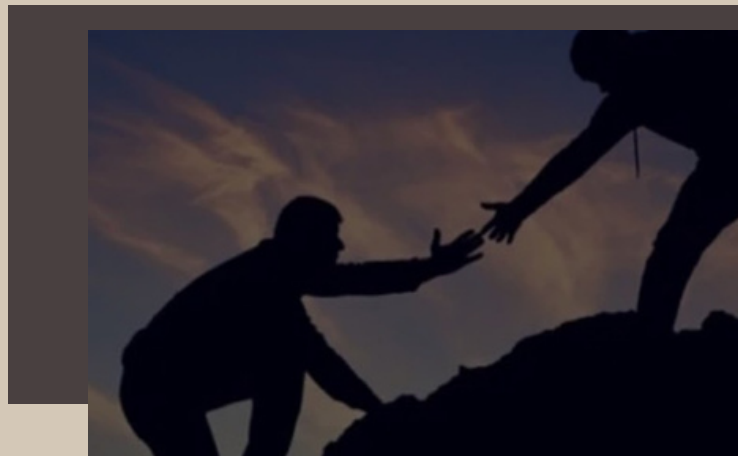
Email Teramie.Hill@usd.edu for more information.

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!



State Bar of South Dakota

August 2026

Newsletter

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President's CORNER

John W. Burke

Having grown up in Isabel, a town of around 300 people back then, I have often speculated that part of the reason people in small towns treat each other a little more decently is because they know each other or know that they will see each other again at church on Sunday or at the grocery store

Just over a week ago, Bar Commissioners and the Young Lawyers Section (“YLS”) Board gathered in Deadwood for two days. On the morning of the first day, the new Bar Commissioners—Eric Nies (Spearfish); Colleen Zea (Sioux Falls); David Geyer (Sisseton); and Matthew Lucklum (Rapid City)—met for orientation. Among other things, the orientation included a presentation by Past President Tom Welk (2004-2005) concerning governance and related matters; he was exceptional.

That afternoon, the Commissioners, YLS Board members, and Bar staff joined for some activities. There was a memorable tour of the dome of the Lawrence County Courthouse [a special thank you to Presiding Judge Michelle Comer for making that happen]; an engaging tour at the original site of the Shasta Rooms brothel; and a four-team mini-tournament of Pictionary and charades. Though basic, the games quickly caused the team members—many of whom did not previously know each other—to unite. The games also quickly revealed individuals’ traits, such as competitiveness, rule enforcers, etc. It was a pleasure to watch the interaction. Later that day—after one group got so caught up in conversation that they somehow ended up in Wyoming—we gathered for dinner in Spearfish. There was discussion of any number of topics, lots of laughter, and, as lawyers are given to do, plenty of “shop talk” as lawyers discussed interesting cases and hearings.

The following morning, the Bar Commission and the YLS

Board convened separately for their respective meetings. The YLS Board was invited into the Commission meeting so that Commissioners and YLS Board members could interact with their Circuit counterparts. By around lunchtime, both meetings were concluded and everyone departed for home.

These events reminded me of the importance of in-person events and caused me to reflect on how some of the relationships I value were formed. I met Tom Sannes (Sisseton) in 1988 when I attended Boys State at Northern State University in Aberdeen. We next saw each other as 1Ls at the University of South Dakota School of Law. We are friends and periodically handle cases together to this day.

I got to know Jack Hieb (Aberdeen) after he happened to see me in the lobby of the law school and invited me to ride with him to Sioux Falls for a brief meeting at Davenport Evans Hurwitz & Smith, LLP. He had interned there the previous summer and knew that I would be interning there the following summer, and thought I might like to join him. I took him up on his offer. On the way back, we grabbed food at Long John Silvers (back when it was a stand-alone restaurant) and we talked about All-State Chorus. I have no idea why I recall either of those facts. In any event, we became friends and that relationship led to me joining him at Schoenbeck Law in Webster after my clerkship. He remains a great friend to this day.

Prior to serving on the Disciplinary Board, I hardly knew Bob and Tom Frieberg. I now count both as friends. Indeed, as a result of my time on the Disciplinary Board, there are a number of attorneys that I perhaps knew of, but now know—including Bill Garry, the Honorable Julie Dvorak, Jana Miner, Jamie Simko, Amy Bartling Jacobsen, Jason Sutton, and Sheila Woodward, to name

only a few. These folks are now friends of mine and among the people that I can reach out to anytime with legal or Bar-related questions. Similarly, while I previously knew who Tom Welk was, I did not get to know him until I spoke with him at a Disciplinary Board reception.

As President Elect, I was able to attend the Western States Bar Conference (“WSBC”) this past April. The speakers were great, and I learned that many of the issues faced by our Bar are not unique to South Dakota. Just as important were some of the relationships that I made. As the lone representative from South Dakota, I knew hardly anyone; however, representatives of the State Bar of North Dakota immediately welcomed me into their group. As a result of our few days together, I now regard them as friends and they are a great resource for Bar-related matters. Incidentally, one of our gatherings unexpectedly coincided with a karaoke night. Thanks to one member of the North Dakota group, the song “The Promise” by the lesser-known 80s band When in Rome now has an entirely different vibe (a word I generally refrain from using due to its overuse, but which seems spot-on here). While on that topic, I hear-tell that the YLS Board recently brought its own unique stylings to karaoke. Returning to the WSBC, I also had the pleasure of having a brief one-on-one chat with ABA President Michelle Behnke.

Later in April, I attended the Strategic Planning Committee’s retreat. Approximately eighteen members of the Bar stepped away from their busy schedules to travel to Rapid City and spend a day focusing on strategic planning. Having never been a member of that Committee, I was not sure what to expect. I was impressed by their process and earnest commitment to safeguarding our Bar by looking 5-10 years down the road. This year, the focus was on the Lawyers Assistance Program. Attendees were invited to gather for dinner the night before, which allowed folks to interact and catch up. During that dinner, I had the opportunity to chat with Past President Pat Goetzinger (2011-2012). I appreciated getting to converse with him because, although we have both practiced in Rapid City for many years, I hardly knew him due to our different practice areas.

Before continuing, I must point out that the foregoing relationships are apart from the many that I have developed over the years litigating cases with and against various attorneys, as well as those that I formed while in law school. Several people that I got to know in law

school are among my closest friends. Because it was the 30th anniversary of our graduation, my law school class (1996) held a reunion at this year’s Bar Convention. Within a matter of minutes, it was clear that while we have all changed, in many respects we have not changed at all—e.g., who is vocal, who is quiet, and of course, the jokesters.

So what’s my point? In-person events and the one-on-one interactions that take place at such events are incredibly important as they often lead to real relationships. Although the formation of such relationships is invaluable, their value is immeasurable. Like everything in life, there is some cost to the formation of these relationships—time away from work; travel expense; dinner and drinks. But the lifelong value of the relationships to our individual lives and the Bar as a whole provides a return on investment far beyond any cost incurred. And while the interactions may not always lead to lifelong friendships, they almost always result in better professional dealings.

There is another significant benefit of such relationships: they foster civility. Past President Heather Bogard (Spearfish)—a law school classmate of mine that I am proud to call a friend—focused on promoting civility during her term (2023-2024). I am certain that I do not know all of the reasons why our profession often struggles with civility; however, I can say this: I feel strongly that an attorney is less likely to be uncivil to an attorney that he/she knows or previously had some type of positive encounter with. Bar members often talk about bad experiences with attorneys from large cities in other States. My theory is that this lack of civility may be facilitated by the fact that such attorneys work in an environment in which they routinely oppose attorneys they do not know—and may never encounter again.

As for me, I can say with confidence that the in-person encounters I have had with attorneys, Past Presidents, members of the judiciary, and others committed to the Bar at various Bar events, dinners, and receptions over the years played an important role in my decision to run for President Elect and commit to the significant time and work it would entail.

I leave you with this challenge. Spend a few moments thinking of some of the more meaningful professional relationships that you have. Then ask yourself how many of them were truly formed during a Zoom call or a Microsoft Teams meeting.



Lora Waeckerle

President



After a little more than a month in office, the YLS Board has launched into action with a ton of exciting things to report.

Fourth and Seventh Circuit Merger Survey. As many of you know, on July 9, 2026, the South Dakota Unified Judicial System issued a press release raising the question of whether to merge the Fourth and Seventh Judicial Circuits. Young lawyers are critical stakeholders in the administration of the Unified Judicial System, and it is important that you voice any thoughts you may have regarding the proposed changes. For that reason, the Young Lawyer's Board has voted to send out a survey to South Dakota young lawyers gathering data regarding your thoughts. *This survey will be administered privately by the YLS Board directly and all identifying data will be anonymous.* This information is being collected to better inform the YLS Board of the position of young lawyers regarding these changes as public forums and comments occur in the coming months. I strongly encourage all stakeholders to participate.

Fall 2026 Programming:

Turning to programming, the YLS Board is invested in networking and career growth. For that reason, at the end of July, the YLS Board met with the State Bar Commissioners to strengthen the connection between these groups as we work together to provide the best possible programming to the membership. At this meeting, the YLS Board also discussed its strategic plan for 2026-2027. We are back in black with some of your favorite events. The following is a non-exclusive list of

activities to watch out for this fall:

- **August 6, 2026:** Law School Orientation Lunch. Each year, the YLS sponsors the law school's orientation lunch, which will be held on August 6, 2026. One of the YLS Board's goals is to encourage inclusion and a sense of community for those beginning their legal career. Representatives of the YLS Board will be in attendance to welcome the incoming students and introduce those individuals to helpful networking and resources within the State Bar.

- **August 26, 2026:** Public Forums Regarding Merger of Seventh and Fourth Circuits. A series of public forums will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 to present information related to the proposal to merge the Seventh and Fourth circuits and to gather comments and feedback in advance of any formal rule proposed to the South Dakota Supreme Court. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Rapid City. Pennington County Courthouse (Courtroom C2), 315 St. Joseph Street, 8:30-9:30 a.m. (MDT);
- Sturgis. Meade County Courthouse (Courtroom 3), 1425 Sherman Street, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (MDT);
- Lemmon. Lonesome Dove Conference Center, 312 Main Ave., 3:30-4:30 p.m. (MDT).

- **September 25, 2026:** YLS Nuts and Bolts CLE and Statewide Swearing In Ceremony. On September

25, 2026, the YLS Board will again be hosting the annual Nuts and Bolts CLE and the Statewide Swearing In Ceremony. This event is held in Pierre, with the Nuts and Bolts CLE programming occurring in the morning, followed by the Swearing In Ceremony for the new admittees that afternoon. Lunch is provided, there is no admission fee, and people of all ages are welcome to attend. Need we say more? Check out future announcements in the newsletter for more information on the specific time and location.

- **Fall Mixers (dates vary):** Every year, each YLS Board circuit representative holds two mixers in their respective areas, one in the fall and one in the spring. These events are awesome opportunities for young lawyers to engage with one another. If you have a cool idea for a mixer in your circuit (all ideas are welcome), contact your circuit representative today to brainstorm! We have considered events from lowkey brewery hangouts to approaching law

enforcement and engaging in a “wet lab” to assist them in DUI training (responsibly, of course).

As a reminder, your circuit representatives are as follows:

President: Lora Waeckerle

Vice President: Stephen Gemar

Secretary/Treasurer: John Noyes

First Circuit: Natasha Allen

Second Circuit: Erin Ballard

Third Circuit: Jacob Dawson

Fourth Circuit: Garrett Keegan

Fifth Circuit: Alex Stange-Weig

Sixth Circuit: Catherine Seeley

Seventh Circuit: Olivia Edoff

At Large: Callie Pospishil

Law School Liaison: Aftyn Heitkamp

Your YLS Board members are here to serve the membership, and specifically those within its section. Please do not hesitate to engage with the group. We would love to hear from you!

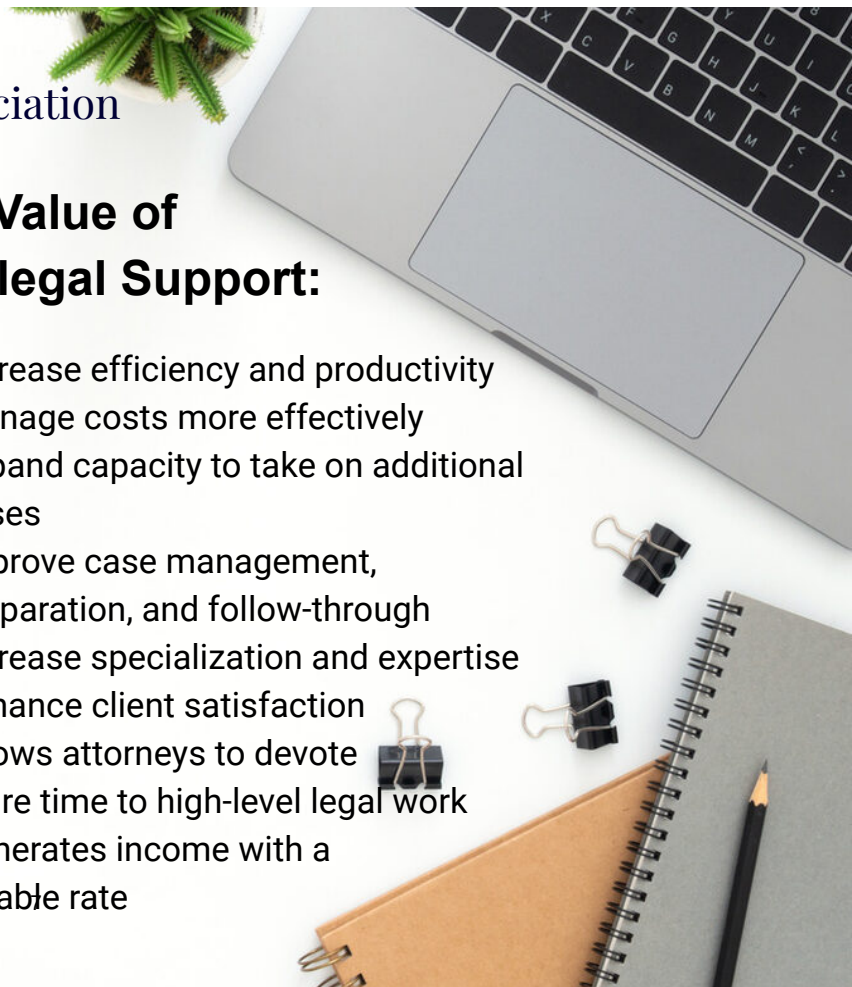


What is a Paralegal?

Paralegals are key members of the legal team, providing essential support to attorneys, agencies, and legal departments. With specialized education, training, and/or experience, they handle substantive legal tasks delegated by an attorney, who remains ultimately responsible for their work. Experienced paralegals can efficiently complete many legal tasks performed by attorneys, sharing the workload at a lower cost to the office.

The Value of Paralegal Support:

- Increase efficiency and productivity
- Manage costs more effectively
- Expand capacity to take on additional cases
- Improve case management, preparation, and follow-through
- Increase specialization and expertise
- Enhance client satisfaction
- Allows attorneys to devote more time to high-level legal work
- Generates income with a billable rate





JUSTICE SQUAD

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

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



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

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 VAUGHN BECK
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Special Thanks to:

KYLE KRAUSE
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 STEVE HUFF
 MARWIN SMITH
 JOSEPH HOGUE
 ADAM ALTMAN
 ALISON RAMSDELL

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

VOLUNTEER

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

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DEAN'S LIST: NEWS FROM THE LAW SCHOOL



Neil Fulton
Dean, School of Law

As you read this column, the Class of 2029 is on campus for Orientation. It always feels like a bit of a time warp to write my column about the incoming class. So much of the spring and summer feels recent. The joy of graduation is still faintly in the air. It is significantly tempered for the members of the Class of 2026 grinding away at the final weeks of bar study, however. It seems like just yesterday that I had a chance to chat with so many of you at the Bar Convention and our 125th Anniversary Gala. My knees are still vaguely aching from a hiking trip with Molly and our boys, who no longer need carried on the trail and wait patiently for me to catch up on the long uphill stretches. Disorienting as it seems, summer is over at the Law School, and we are excited to ramp up another academic year.

We are welcoming 96 new members of our community of excellence, service, and leadership this week. That is a huge number. It is actually just slightly *too* huge, requiring some roller desks at the back of Room 101 for a couple of students. That class size reflects a couple of realities. First, it was a boom cycle nationwide. We had over 500 applications this year; that is dramatically up from last year. Other law schools also saw similarly dramatic increases. Second, from within that larger pool our yield was a bit higher than normal. Why that is so cannot be reduced to a single factor, but the competition for spots did not hurt.

Although this is another year of high enrollment, it should not distract us from the work to recruit our successors into the profession. The demographic cliff is coming. Undergraduate enrollment declined nationwide

this year. That trend will hit law schools in a couple of years. The downward trend will continue. There will be 1.5 million fewer 18-year-olds in three years than there are this year. Right now, students are competing for law school seats; in five years, law schools will be fighting desperately for students. We need to continue to work together to be prepared. I encourage you to look at the work of Destination Dakota Legal Careers to find a way to help recruit: <https://sd-ddlc.org/>. I also deeply appreciate everyone who continues to invest in student scholarships with our 1901 Fund. This work retains existential importance, even in a boom recruiting year.

Along with the theme of getting bigger, the Class of 2029 continues our theme of getting better. Our LSAT and UGPA numbers at each percentile of the class are steady or slightly up: 150/3.36, 152/3.63, 156/3.83. These objective measures are never a guarantee of success, but they are predictive and it is good to see them remain strong.

Just over 60% of the Class of 2029 is coming to Vermillion from outside South Dakota. This has happened twice before in recent years. It does not reflect a de-emphasis on recruiting South Dakota students. It is simply the effect of a higher volume and yield of applicants from beyond the borders of South Dakota. A couple of factors drive that yield.

First, affordability remains a significant competitive strength. Even with a tuition increase by the Board of Regents, resident tuition and fees remain under \$18,000. That rate is available to any applicant at or

above a 150 LSAT, which puts us in competition for a broad swath of excellent students. Our affordability is magnified by recent changes to federal student loan policy. There is now an annual limit of \$50,000 and a lifetime limit of \$200,000 for law school attendance. Additionally, the Grad PLUS program was eliminated; that program allowed students to borrow up to “full cost of attendance” (i.e., living expenses). Relatively low tuition and cost of living at the Law School can fit within these limits for most students. That is not the case at some regional competitors, especially private institutions with much higher base tuition.

Second, the community at the Law School is highly appealing. More than 80% of students who visit campus matriculate. They find a community where they will be welcomed, engaged, known as individuals, and invested in. Not every law school chooses to have a strong culture of community. We do. And “we” does a lot of work in that sentence. Applicants notice the engagement of faculty and staff, other students, alumni and friends and gravitate toward it. In an increasingly disconnected and hostile world, the culture of community here is a massive competitive advantage. Thank you for building and sustaining it.

I can share a few other numbers about the Class of 2029. They are made up of 41% “non-traditional” students who took one or more years off between undergraduate graduation and law school. The class is almost exactly evenly divided among men and women. 15% are the first members of their family to go to college and 76% are the first to go to law school.

Students come from twenty states, but the top five are no surprise: South Dakota (36), Iowa (14), Minnesota (13), Colorado (6), and Nebraska (4). We focused on

competing harder in North Dakota this year and had three students from our neighbors to the North this year. We hope to continue that trend.

Undergraduate institutions are likewise “the usual suspects.” USD sent nineteen graduates, SDSU sent nine, Augustana had seven, Iowa State and University of North Dakota each produced three. I anticipate bonding around the television or at tailgates, as spirited but respectful rivalry remains strong on game days. Importantly, the entire Class of 2029 will bond against common adversaries like understanding probable cause and Bluebook citation form, however. I think that metaphor somehow makes Mrs. Palsgraff into NDSU, I’ll think more about it.

I am thrilled to welcome the Class of 2029. Writing this column annually scrambles the sense of time in my brain, but it stokes the fire in my heart. This is the eighth time I have had the privilege of welcoming students on the first morning of Orientation. It is as inspiring as the first time. It is as exciting as my own first day of law school, although it is a bit less frightening from this side of the courtroom. Having spent this year thinking about our 125 years of existence, I have spent a lot of time thinking about all the people who have built our past and those who will build our future. I cannot be certain what lies ahead for the Class of 2029, but I am confident in their ability and hopeful for their achievements.

Let’s go to work Class of 2029—it’s gonna be great!

Click the link below to view my orientation speech.
https://libguides.law.usd.edu/fulton_orientation_2026

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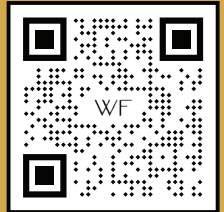
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SCAN TO CONNECT

2026 SOUTH DAKOTA BANKRUPTCY LAW

CLE

Friday, September 18, 2026
9:00 am - 4:15 pm



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

For the schedule of events and registration, please click [HERE](#).

Registration opens at 8:30 am.

12

Please note that registration is required!

SOUTH DAKOTA BANKRUPTCY LAW CLE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKERS
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:10	Welcome Remarks	• Anthony Sutton (CLE Committee Co-Chair) • The Honorable Laura Kulm Ask
9:10-9:30	A View from the Court: Rules, Reminders & Resources	• Rick Entwistle (Bankruptcy Clerk) • Vicky Reinhard (Chief Deputy) • Shan Stroup (Courtroom Deputy) • Danielle Bohman (Case Administrator) • Erica Ertz (Case Administrator) • Jaymie Lillestol (Case Administrator) • Taly Bialostocki (Judicial Law Clerk) • Ryan Kroger (Judicial Law Clerk)
9:30-10:30	Exploring Options Outside of Bankruptcy	• Sander Morehead (Woods Fuller) • Steve Huff (Marlow, Woodward & Huff)
10:30-10:45	Networking Break	
10:45-11:15	Client Management & Filing Hygiene in Bankruptcy Cases	• Julie Anacker (Gerry Law Firm) • Halle Meadors (Meadors Law Firm)
11:15-11:30	Networking Break	
11:30-12:15	Ethics in the Trenches: Conflicts, Fee Disgorgement, and the Rise of AI in Bankruptcy Practice	• Professor Robert Miller (USD Knudson School of Law) • Alex Dugan (Bradley Arant Boult Cummings)
12:15-12:30	Up & Coming Bankruptcy Stars in South Dakota	• Victoria Mendoza (USD Knudson School of Law) • Karena Verbitsky (USD Knudson School of Law)
12:30-1:15	Networking Lunch	
1:15-1:45	Legislative Update	• Jenna Weir Riedel (Gerry Law Firm)
1:45-2:15	Case Law Update	• The Honorable Charles Nail
2:15-2:30	Networking Break	
2:30-3:00	When the United States is a Creditor	• Yvette Lafrentz (Assistant US Attorney) • Stephanie Bengford (Assistant US Attorney)
3:00-3:30	Crypto Currency as Collateral: Liens, Perfection, & Bankruptcy	• Keith Gauer (Davenport Evans)
3:30-4:15	Issues and Defaults Post-Confirmation	• Jordan Feist (Woods Fuller) • Anthony Hohn (Davenport Evans)
4:30	Happy Hour/Reception	Location TBD

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynn Jackson Attorneys
is pleased to announce that

Meghann M. Joyce
has become a shareholder in the firm
Effective May 1, 2026

Lynn Jackson Attorneys
110 N Minnesota Ave Ste 400
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: (605) 332-5999

Email: mjoyce@lynnjackson.com
www.lynnjackson.com

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, Inc. Receives Non- Profit Status

We are pleased to announce that Lawyers
Concerned for Lawyers, Inc. has officially been
approved as a non-profit organization.
As a result, donations to the organization are now
tax deductible to the donor, to the extent allowed
by law.

We appreciate your continued support of this
important organization and its mission to assist
members of the legal community.



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SDTLA Fall Seminar

Thursday, September 17 & Friday, September 18, 2026,

1:00 - 4:00 P.M. / 9:00 A.M. – Noon (MT)

Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, South Dakota

Join us for six hours of CLE.

POKER RUN & SILVERADO BUFFET – Thursday Evening

Thursday, September 17, 2026

1:00 – 3:00pm “Focus Groups & Case Framing”

Presenter: Saul Gruber, Gruber Trial Consulting (Miami Beach, FL)

3:00 – 3:15pm SPONSOR UPDATE: Colin Wein, Compass Consulting Engineers (Westminster, CO)

3:20 – 4:20pm “Making a Clean Record”

Presenter: David Barari, Federal Public Defenders Office (Rapid City, SD)

Friday, September 18, 2026

9:00 – 10:30am MT

“How to Keep Trial Lawyers from Becoming Extinct” & “Handling the Expert Witness”

Presenter: Lee Schoenbeck, Schoenbeck & Erickson, P.C. (Watertown, SD)

10:30 – 12:00pm “Vetted Case Intake Strategies: Civil, Criminal & Family Law”

Presenters: Brad J. Lee, Beardsley, Jensen & Lee, Prof. L.L.C. (Rapid City, SD); Ellery Grey, Grey &

Eisenbraun, Prof. L.L.C. (Rapid City, SD); Melissa Nicholson Breit, Nicholson Law (Sioux Falls, SD)

REGISTRATION FEES:

_____ \$75.00 SDTLA Sustaining Members Includes Poker Run - PAC Fundraiser

_____ \$125.00 SDTLA Members Includes Poker Run - PAC Fundraiser

_____ \$175.00 Nonmembers Includes Poker Run - PAC Fundraiser

_____ \$25.00 CLE credit in this state: _____

Please photocopy and use a separate registration form for each registrant. Return this form to: SDTLA, 214 Marina Dell Ave., Yankton, SD 57078. Make a check to SDTLA. Questions, call (605) 660-5064.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

REGISTER ON-LINE by sending an email message with the above information to
SDTrialLawyersAssoc@gmail.com .



SAVE THE DATE

STATEWIDE SWEARING-IN
CEREMONY



SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA



Nuts & Bolts CLE

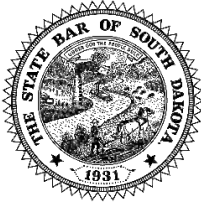


September 25th



Drifters, Fort Pierre

More details coming soon!



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

1

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Mallori Barnett, Pierre
Justin Bell, Pierre
Kelsey Blair, Rapid City
Steven Blair, Rapid City
Eric Bogue, Sioux Falls
Meghan Borchert, Sioux Falls
Scott Carlson, Sioux Falls
Niclas Dahlvang, Wessington Springs
Kristen Edwards, Pierre
Amanda Engel, Sioux Falls
Emily Greco, Pierre
Brett Koenecke, Pierre
Kody Kyriss, CH Pierre
Amanda LaCroix, Pierre
Tamara Lee, Pierre
Gregory Litton, Rapid City
Frank Marnell, Pierre
Gerald McCabe, Claremont
Amber Mulder, Sioux Falls
John Richter, Pierre
Ali Schaefbauer, Rapid City
Gregory Tishkoff, Pierre
Andrew Wilka, Sioux Falls
Catherine Williamson, Pierre

AGRICULTURAL LAW

Stan Anker, Rapid City
Elliot Bloom, Rapid City
Kylee Boomsma, Aberdeen
James Cremer, Aberdeen
Kristen Edwards, Pierre
Craig Evenson, Clear Lake
Amanda Gaikowski, Sioux Falls
Alex Hoffman, Sioux Falls
David Larson, Chamberlain
Kiera Leddy, Dimock
Rachelle Norberg, Burke
Clint Roberts, Pierre
Danny Smeins, Britton
Kelsea Sutton, CH, Burke
Michael Traxinger, Aberdeen
Paul Tschetter, Sioux Falls
Joshua Weinheimer, Pierre
Todd Wilkinson, CH, DeSmet

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE

RESOLUTION

Stephanie Amiotte, Sioux Falls
Bert Bucher, Sioux Falls
Katelyn Cook, Rapid City
Gregory Erlandson, Rapid City
Hon. David Gienapp, Madison
Lindsay Harris, Sioux Falls
Benjamin Hummel, Sioux Falls
Katie Johnson, Beresford
Meghann Joyce, Sioux Falls
Garrett Keegan, Rapid City
David Larson, Chamberlain
Michael McKnight, Sioux Falls
Erica Reber, Sioux Falls
Elizabeth Rosenbaum, Sioux City, IA
Laura Rowe, Onida
Marilyn Trefz, CH, Vermillion
Joe Williams, Hill City

ASK A LAWYER

Aidan Goetzinger, Co-CH, Rapid City

Anthony Metzgar, Vice-Chair, Sioux Falls
Brooke Schmidt, Co-CH, Sioux Falls

BUSINESS LAW

Amy Arndt, Sioux Falls
Micayla Bamberg, Mitchell
Frances Becker, Rapid City
Josh Brown, Sioux Falls
Jessica Carmichael, Belle Fourche
Lisa Carrico, Watertown
Trevor Case, Sioux Falls
Joshua Clark, Sioux Falls
Sarah Covington, Summerset
James Cremer, Aberdeen
Ty Daly, Rapid City
Thomas Deadrick, Pierre
Justin DiBona, Rapid City
Matthew Dorothy, Sioux Falls
Amanda Engel, Sioux Falls
T. Cale Fierro, Rapid City
Vincent Foley, Watertown
Keith Gauer, Sioux Falls
Tom Geu, Vermillion
Patrick Goetzinger, Rapid City
Eric Hanson, Sioux Falls

Brooke Harms, Sioux Falls
Lindsey Harris, Sioux Falls
Laura Hauser, Rapid City
Dixie Hieb, Sioux Falls
Travis Hindt, Sioux Falls
Darrell Jesse, Dakota Dunes
Tommy Johnson, Sioux Falls
Dominic King, Aberdeen
Brian Kirby, Sioux Falls
Andrew Knutson, Sioux Falls
Brett Koenecke, Pierre
Jessica Larson, Rapid City
Brittany McKnight, Brookings
Carey Miller, Sioux Falls
Jess Pekarski, Rapid City
Kalen Peterson, Sioux Falls
Lisa Prostrullo, Sioux Falls
Barry Sackett, Sioux Falls
Michael Steve, Rapid City
Mark Stilwell, Spearfish
Trent Swanson, Sioux Falls
Timothy Thomas, Rapid City
Amy Thompson Sunderland, Omaha, NE
Rod Tobin, CH, Aberdeen
Michael Traxinger, Claremont
Nicole Tupman, Sioux Falls
Shane Vogt, Sioux Falls
Reece Weber, Rapid City
Sheila Woodward, Yankton

CLIENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Beth Baloun, CH, Sioux Falls
Amy Bartling-Jacobsen, Gregory
Matthew Naasz, Rapid City
Nancy Oviatt, Watertown
Aaron Pilcher, Huron

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Hon. Tara Adamski, Pierre
Stanton Anker, Rapid City
Holly Farris, Pierre
Alecia Fuller, Rapid City
Neil Fulton, Vermillion
Eric Hanson, Co-CH, Sioux Falls
Meghann Joyce, Sioux Falls
Jessica Larson, Rapid City
Cheryl Laurenz-Bogue, Sioux Falls
Tyler Matson, Yankton

**Italacized = new committee member*

Last Update: 8/3/2026



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

2

Amanda Miiller, Pierre
Melissa Neville, Aberdeen
Mrg Simon, Glen Rose, TX
Traci Smith, Sioux Falls
Renee Stellagher, Pierre
Anthony Sutton, Co-CH, Sioux Falls
Jason Sutton, Sioux Falls
Tony Teesdale, Brookings
Jeff Tronvold, Pierre
Jennifer Williams, Rapid City

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Eric Bogue, Sioux Falls
Lisa Carrico, Watertown
Jeff Collins, Rapid City
Katelyn Cook, CH, Rapid City
Greg Erlandson, Rapid City
Aidan Goetzinger, Rapid City
Jeremy Lund, Aberdeen
Jonathan McCoy, Rapid City
Anthony Osborn, Sioux City
Jason Smiley, Rapid City
Michael Tobin, Sioux Falls
Paul Tschetter, Sioux Falls
Gregory Wheeler, Sioux Falls

CRIMINAL LAW

Jason Adams, Sioux Falls
Jenn Albertson, Rapid City
Alyssa Blasius, Pierre
Kylee Boomsma, Aberdeen
Melissa Fiksdal, Sioux Falls
Koln Fink, Sioux Falls
Zach Flood, Mitchell
Danielle Foiles, Sioux Falls
Alecia Fuller, Rapid City
Ellery Grey, CH, Rapid City
Nicole Griesse, Sioux Falls
John Hinrichs, Sioux Falls
Tanner Jackson, Sturgis
Christian Jensen, Sioux Falls
Derrick Johnson, Brookings
George Johnson, Gregory
Amanda Kippely, Sioux Falls
Dylan Kirchmeier, Sisseton
Heather Knox, Rapid City
Ryan Kolbeck, Sioux Falls
Jeremy Lund, Aberdeen

Katie Mallery, Sioux Falls
John Murphy, Rapid City
Matthew Powers, Sioux Falls
Elise Rasmussen, Sioux Falls
Cody Raterman, Sioux Falls
Lara Roetzel, Rapid City
Jason Rumpca, Pierre
Olivia Siglin, Rapid City
Traci Smith, Sioux Falls
Katie Thompson, Pierre
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Emily Toms, Rapid City
Brett Waltner, Sioux Falls
Nolan Welker, Pierre

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Anthony Hohn, Sioux Falls
Steve Huff, CH, Yankton
David Jencks, Madison
Robert Meadors, Sioux Falls
Dylan Miller, Yankton
Sander Morehead, Sioux Falls
Nicholas Moser, CH, Yankton
Robert Nelson, Sioux Falls
Lee Ann Pierce, Brookings
John Richter, Pierre
Eric Ronke, Sioux Falls
Kristina Schaefer, Sioux Falls
Donald Swanson, Omaha, NE
Brian Utzman, Rapid City
Kiira Weber, Sioux Falls
Lea Wroblewski, Sioux Falls

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Timothy Billion, Sioux Falls
Abby Breit, Sioux Falls
Amber Cook, Rapid City
Kristin Derenge, Sioux Falls
Jennifer Doubledde, Sioux Falls
Emily Easton, Pierre
Hon. Francy Foral, Sturgis
Neil Fulton, Vermillion

Renee Stellagher, Pierre
Wendy Hess, Vermillion
Cesar Juarez, Sioux Falls
Denise Langley, Pierre
Jonathon Leddige, Sioux Falls
Tamara Nash, Vermillion
Mali Oyen, Rapid City
Mae Pochop, Sioux Falls
Stephanie Pochop, Gregory
Alison Ramsdell, Sioux Falls
Lara Roetzel, Rapid City
Jillian Smith, CH Rapid City
Lori Stanford, Sioux Falls
Amanda Work, Pierre
Lea Wroblewski, Sioux Falls

EDUCATION LAW

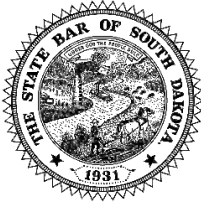
Brett Arenz, CH, Sioux Falls
Michele Bennett, Huron
Tyler Coverdale, Sioux Falls
Holly Farris, Pierre
Jessica Filler, Pierre
AJ Franken, Vermillion
Tracy Greene, Brookings
Gerald Kaufman, Huron
Samuel Kerr, Rapid City
Amanda LaCroix, Pierre
Nathan Lukkes, Pierre
Lisa Marso, Sioux Falls
Scott Morstad, Sioux Falls
Peyton Mueller, Yankton
Howard Pallotta, Pierre
Kelsey Parker, Rapid City
Rex Schlicht, Mitchell
Paul Sedlacek, Rapid City
Catherine Seeley, Pierre
James Taylor, Mitchell
Sheila Woodward, Yankton

ELDER LAW

Cameo Anders, CH, Sioux Falls
Brenda Ask, Canton
Kate Bartell Nowak, Sioux Falls
Elliot Bloom, Rapid City
Jessica Carmichael, Belle Fourche
Sam Denevan, Sioux Falls
Lindsay Harris, Sioux Falls
Lane Haskell, Sioux Falls

**Italacized = new committee member*

Last Update: 8/3/2026



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

3

Laura Hauser, Rapid City
Alex Hoffman, Sioux Falls
Dominic King, Aberdeen
Andrew Knutson, Sioux Falls
Lisa Maguire, Sioux Falls
Peyton Mueller, Yankton
Nancy Oviatt, Watertown
Michael Porter, Spearfish
Gabriele Sayaloune, Rapid City
Ali Schaefbauer, Rapid City
Mallory Schulte, Yankton
Michael Sharp, Emery
Traci Sherman, Hendricks, MN
Thomas Simmons, Vermillion
Nathan Drew Skjoldal, Spearfish
David Strait, Watertown
McLean Thompson Kerver, Rapid City
Nicole Tupman, Sioux Falls
Bobbi Thury, Sioux Falls
Jerad Tomac, Rapid City
Kristi Vetri, O Fallon, IL
Stephen Wesolick, Rapid City
Sarah Weyrich, Rapid City
Rebecca Wilson, Sioux Falls

ETHICS

Cameo Anders, Sioux Falls
James Billion, Sioux Falls
Jeffrey Bratkiewicz, Sioux Falls
Jennifer Bunkers, Sioux Falls
Tracey Dollison Decker, Rapid City
Kimberly Dorsett, Aberdeen
Dan Fritz, Sioux Falls

Alecia Fuller, Co-CH Rapid City

David Jencks, Madison
Paul Linde, Sioux Falls
Christopher Madsen, Sioux Falls
Ashley McDonald, Rapid City
Dylan Miller, Yankton

Sander Morehead, Co-CH, Sioux Falls

Kimberly Pehrson, Rapid City
Thomas Simmons, Vermillion
Ryan Snell, Sioux Falls
Sara Waeckerle, Rapid City
Owen Wiese, Rapid City

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Josey Blare, Sioux Falls
Michele Bordewyk, Sturgis
Tyler Bradley, Sioux Falls
Renee Christensen, Sioux Falls
Hon. Natalie Damgaard, Canton
Tracey Dollison Decker, Rapid City
Jackson Dziedzic, Sioux City
Danny Ellis, Signal Mountain
Aidan Goetzinger, Rapid City
Bradley Gordon, Rapid City
Ellery Grey, Rapid City
Nicole Griese, Sioux Falls

John Hinrichs, CH, Sioux Falls

Chris Hutton, Philadelphia, PA
Jennifer Hynek, Sioux Falls
Jeremy Jehangiri, Sioux Falls
Garrett Keegan, Rapid City
Mathew Laidlaw, Rapid City
Elliott Lund, Sioux Falls
Mandy Miiller, Pierre
Matthew Murphy, Sioux Falls
Katie O'Leary, Sioux Falls
Eric Preheim, Sioux Falls
Lindsey Quasney, Sioux Falls
Kristopher Reed, Canton
Laura Rose, Vermillion
Martha Rossiter, Rapid City
Clint Sargent, Sioux Falls
Rex Schlicht, Mitchell
Catherine Seeley, Pierre
Hon. Janki Sharma, Rapid City
Olivia Siglin, Rapid City
Michael Snyder, Sioux Falls
Caleb Vukovich, Pierre
Karly Winter, Pierre

FAMILY LAW

Stephanie Amiotte, Sioux Falls
Beth Baloun, Sioux Falls
Kate Benson, Watertown
Jodi Brown, Aberdeen
Carla Glynn, Aberdeen
Jennifer Goldammer, Brookings
Hannah Haksgaard, Vermillion
Thomas Keller, Sioux Falls
Ann Knudson, Sioux Falls
Kristen Kochekian, Redfield

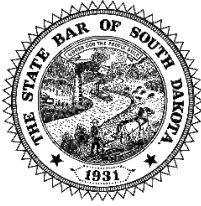
Kyle Krause, Rapid City
Megan Labat, Sioux Falls
Denise Langley, Pierre
KyLee Manthei, Sioux Falls
Tyler Matson, Yankton
Chris McClure, Sioux Falls
Rebekkah Mouw, Sioux Falls
Melissa Neville, Aberdeen
Melissa Nicholson Breit, Sioux Falls
Steven Nolan, Rapid City
Kari Nordstrom, Rapid City
Kaleb Paulsen, Sioux Falls
Rachel Preheim, Sioux Falls
Whitney Reed, Sioux Falls
Kylie Riggins, Rapid City
Elizabeth Rosenbaum, Sioux City, IA
Jill Swanson, Sioux Falls
Michael Tobin, Sioux Falls
Marilyn Trefz, Vermillion
Brett Waltner, Sioux Falls
Christi Weideman, Aberdeen
Mindy Werder, Sioux Falls
Dava Wermers, Mitchell
Terri Williams, CH, Rapid City
Murl Woods, Rapid City
Joshua Zellmer, Sioux Falls

IMMIGRATION LAW

Amanda Bahena, Sioux Falls
Deborah Birgen, Sioux Falls
Diana Boni, Okaton
Jonathon Chapman, Sioux Falls
Caitlin Collier, Vermillion
Jacob Dempsey, Pierre
Ilisja Duffy, Rapid City
Casey Eekhoff, Sioux Falls
Margaret Egan, Rapid City
Henry Evans, Sioux Falls
Janice Godtland, Sioux Falls
Sandi Haeuszer, Sioux Falls
Pradeep Jayaraman, Sioux Falls
Anna Kerner Andersson, Burke
Ellina Oniscuic, Sioux Falls
Mali Oyen, Rapid City
Rex Schlicht, Mitchell
Kari Scofield, CH, Sioux Falls

**Italacized = new committee member*

Last Update: 8/3/2026



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

4

INDIAN LAW

Kirk Albertson, CH Pierre

Stephanie Amiotte, Sioux Falls
Tim Billion, Sioux Falls
Josey Blare, Sioux Falls
Ruth Burns, Agency Village
Aisha Carr, Valentine
Elizabeth Cave, Pierre
Leonika Charging-Davison, Omaha
Kyle Chase, Sioux Falls
Raegan Chavez, North Sioux City
Jacob Dempsey, Pierre
Cara DiMare, McLaughlin
Daniel El-Dweek, Watford City, ND
Angelique EagleWoman, Prior Lake, MN
Shaun Eastman, Eden
Margaret Egan, Rapid City
Roxanne Erickson, Flandreau
Hon. Robert Gusinsky, Rapid City
Stacy Hegge, Pierre
Pete Heidepriem, Sioux Falls
Alayna Holmstrom, Sioux Falls
Brendan Johnson, Sioux Falls
Garrett Keegan, Rapid City
Leroy LaPlante, Sioux Falls
Candice Lucklum, Rapid City
Danielle McQuillen, Aberdeen
Lorrie Miner, Lower Brule
Tom Mortland, Mission
Lacy Neuenfeldt, Flandreau
Ellina Onisciuc, Sioux Falls
Mali Oyen, Rapid City
Seth Pearman, Flandreau
Frank Pommersheim, Vermillion
Alison Ramsdell, Sioux Falls
Matt Rappold, Rapid City
Judith Roberts, Bismarck ND
Laura Rowe, Pierre
Thomas Simmons, Vermillion
Jillian Smith, Rapid City
Lori Stanford, Sioux Falls
Anthony Sutton, Sioux Falls
Michael Thompson, Sioux Falls
Thad Titze, Sioux Falls
Ann Tweedy, Vermillion
Ron Volesky, Huron

JUDICIAL BAR LIAISON

Robert Anderson, Pierre
Erin Ballard, Sioux Falls
Renee Christensen, Sioux Falls
Jeff Collins, Rapid City
Dennis Duncan, Sioux Falls
Edwin Evans, Sioux Falls
Hon. Francy Foral, Sturgis
William Garry, Sioux Falls
Hon. Steven Jensen, Vermillion
Stacy Johnson, Aberdeen
Hon. Janine Kern, Rapid City
Hon. Heidi Linngren, Rapid City
Hon. Carmen Means, CH, Watertown
Amanda Miiller, Pierre
Ann Mines-Bailey, Pierre
Cameron Morgan, Vermillion
Sarah Morrison, Rapid City
Thomas Nicholson, Sioux Falls
Stephanie Pochop, Gregory
Hon. James Power, Sioux Falls
Lisa Prostrullo, Sioux Falls
Greg Sattizahn, Pierre
Erin Schoenbeck Byre, Sioux Falls
Hon. Patrick Smith, Mitchell
Justin Smith, Sioux Falls
Hon. Marya Tellinghuisen, Fort Pierre
Caleb Vukovich, Pierre
Joshua Zellmer, Sioux Falls
Ex-Officio:
Lora Waeckerle, YLS President

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW

Susan Anderson, Rapid City
Mallori Barnett, Pierre
Mariah Bloom-McNeece, Aberdeen
Brock Brown, Sioux Falls
Catherine Cano, Omaha, NE
Jonathan Chapman, Sioux Falls
Carla Cushman, Rapid City
Kimberly Dorsett, Aberdeen
Jennifer Doubledee, Sioux Falls
Jennifer Frank, Rapid City
Travis Hindt, Sioux Falls
Sarah Baron Houy, Sioux Falls
Julie Johnson, Ipswitch
Lisa Marso, Sioux Falls
Jerry McCabe, Claremont

Kimberly McNulty, Omaha, NE

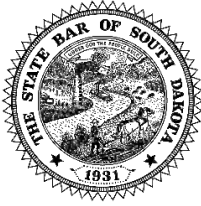
Nichole Mohning, Sioux Falls
Amber Mulder, Sioux Falls
Beth Roesler, Sioux Falls
Brooke Schmidt, Sioux Falls
Britni Summers, Omaha NE
Amy Thompson Sunderland, Omaha NE
Sheila Woodward, Yankton

LAW SCHOOL

Taylor Anderson, Sioux Falls
Beth Baloun, Sioux Falls
Hon. Douglas Barnett, Sioux Falls
Ashlynn Burke, Watertown
Natalie Damgaard, Sioux Falls
Edwin Evans, Sioux Falls
Anne Marie Feiock, Sioux Falls
Thomas Frieberg, Beresford
Robert Hayes, Sioux Falls
Hon. Douglas Hoffman, Sioux Falls
Alayna Holstrom, Sioux Falls
Alyssa Horn, Huron
William Hustead, Hot Springs
Hon. Steven Jensen, Vermillion
Darrell Jesse, Dakota Dunes
Dylan Kirchmeier, Wilmot
Anna Limoges, Sioux Falls
Hon. Marshall Lovrien, Aberdeen
Brittany McKnight, Brookings
Bob Morris, Belle Fourche
Tamara Nash, Vermillion
Hon. Margo Northrup, Pierre
Hon. Craig Pfeifle, Rapid City
Reed Rasmussen, Aberdeen
Erica Reber, Sioux Falls
Pamela Reiter, Sioux Falls
Beth Roesler, Sioux Falls
Hon. Susan Sabers, Sioux Falls
Clint Sargent, Sioux Falls
Greg Sattizahn, Pierre
Hon. Eric Schulte, Sioux Falls
Catherine Seeley, Pierre
Jillian Smith, Rapid City
Caroline Srstka, Sioux Falls
Kristen Taggart, Colman
Tony Teesdale, Brookings
Sarah Theophilus, Sioux Falls
Mary Thorstenson, Rapid City

**Italacized = new committee member*

Last Update: 8/3/2026



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

5

Thad Titze, Sioux Falls
Paul Tschetter, CH, Sioux Falls
Kiira Weber, Sioux Falls

LAWYERS ASSISTANCE

Deborah Birgen, Sioux Falls
Leah Ceranski, Rapid City
Thomas Clayton, Sioux Falls
Emily Easton, Pierre
Todd Epp, Harrisburg
Henry Evans, Sioux Falls
Dan Fritz, Sioux Falls
Gregg Greenfield, Sioux Falls
Jason Hasty, Aberdeen
Scott Hoy, Co-CH Sioux Falls
George Johnson, Gregory
Cesar Juarez, Sioux Falls
Lon Kouri, Sioux Falls
Rena Kruse, Sioux Falls
Robert Lewis, Rapid City
Emily Maurice, Sioux Falls
Michael McKnight, Co-CH, Sioux Falls
Jana Miner, Pierre
Stephanie Pochop, Gregory
Rebecca Porter, Rapid City
Vincent Purtell, Sioux Falls
Michelle Randall, Sioux Falls
Matthew Roby, Watertown
Barry Sackett, Sioux Falls
Mrg Simon, Glen Rose, TX
Traci Smith, Sioux Falls

LEGAL SERVICES

Jodi Brown, Aberdeen
Caitlin Collier, Vermillion
Cara DiMare, McLaughlin
Kimberly Dorsett, Aberdeen
Daniel El-Dweek, Wartford City, ND
William Garry, Sioux Falls
Steven Huff, Yankton
Taneeza Islam, Sioux Falls
Heather Lammers Bogard, Rapid City
Denise Langley, Pierre
Rebekkah Mouw, CH, Sioux Falls
Robert Riter, Pierre
Lori Stanford, Sioux Falls
Jill Swanson, Sioux Falls
James Taylor, Mitchell

**Italacized = new committee member*

Marilyn Trefz, Vermillion
Murl Woods, Rapid City

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Steven Blair, Rapid City
Elliott Bloom, Rapid City
Ruth Burns, Agency Village
Kristen Edwards, Pierre
Emily Greco, Pierre
Dwight Gubbrud, CH, Belle Fourche
Brett Koenecke, Pierre
Jessica Larson, Rapid City
Max Main, Bell Fourche
Matthew Naasz, Rapid City
Wade Nyberg, Rapid City
Jess Pekarski, Rapid City
Matthew Pesicka, Sioux Falls
Kellen Willert, Belle Fourche
Richard Williams, Rapid City
Tracy Ann Zephier, Eagle Butte

NEGLIGENCE AND TORT LAW

Douglas Abraham, Pierre
Michael Bornitz, Sioux Falls
Katie Cook, Rapid City
Stephen Demik, Rapid City
Eric DeNure, Sioux Falls
Jackson Dziedzic, Sioux City
Danny Ellis, Sioux Falls
Zach Flood, Mitchell
Pete Heidepriem, CH, Sioux Falls
Elizabeth Hertz, Sioux Falls
John Hinrichs, Sioux Falls
Kathy Hoskins, Sioux Falls
Kim Lanham, Sioux Falls
Jolene Nasser, Sioux Falls
Erica Ramsey, Sioux Falls
Noah Reeves, Sioux Falls
Robert Rohl, Rapid City
Erin Schoenbeck Byre, Sioux Falls
Wade Schutz, Aberdeen
Roger Sudbeck, Sioux Falls
Heidi Thoennes, Sioux Falls
Brett Waltner, Sioux Falls
Bram Weidenaar, Sioux Falls
Mark Welter, Sioux Falls

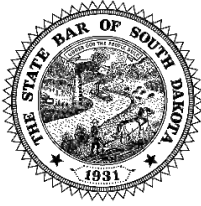
PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS - CIVIL

Erin Ballard, Sioux Falls
Hon. John Bastian, Belle Fourche
Gregory Bernard, Rapid City
Nancy Turbak Berry, Watertown
Josey Blare, Sioux Falls
Michael Bornitz, Sioux Falls
John Burke, Rapid City
Delia Druley, Sioux Falls
Joe Erickson, Watertown
Abigale Farley, Sioux Falls
Aidan Goetzinger, Rapid City
Pete Heidepriem, Sioux Falls
David Hieb, Sioux Falls
Hon. Douglas Hoffman, Sioux Falls
Benjamin Hummel, Sioux Falls
Andrew Hurd, Sioux Falls
Jeffrey Hurd, CH, Rapid City
Anna Limoges, Sioux Falls
Ashley McDonald, Rapid City
Steven Morgans, Sioux Falls
Rebekkah Mouw, Sioux Falls
Erica Ramsey, Sioux Falls
Sara Show, Sioux Falls
Thad Titze, Sioux Falls
Matthew Tysdal, Sioux Falls
Shane Vogt, Sioux Falls
Lora Waeckerle, Rapid City
Jennifer Wosje, Sioux Falls

PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS - CRIMINAL

Jason Adams, Sioux Falls
Hon. Tara Adamski, Fort Pierre
Kirk Albertson, Pierre
Alison Bakken, Watertown
Kyle Beauchamp, Rapid City
Kylie Beck, Sioux Falls
Hon. Tami Bern, Yankton
Robert Bolger, Sioux Falls
Michele Bordewyk, Sturgis
Caitlyn Griesse, Sioux Falls
Amanda Eden, Canton
Koln Fink, Sioux Falls
Danielle Foiles, Sioux Falls
Stephen Gemar, Pierre
Nicole Griesse, Sioux Falls

Last Update: 8/3/2026



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

6

Stacy Hegge, Pierre
Roland Henry, Sioux Falls
Jennifer Hynek, Sioux Falls
Christian Jensen, Sioux Falls
Derrick Johnson, Brookings
Mathew Laidlaw, Rapid City
Hon. Jennifer Mammenga, Co-CH, Sioux Falls
Cullen McNeece, Pierre
Alexa Moeller, Rapid City
Hon. Sarah Morrison, Rapid City
Gina Nelson, Rapid City
Katie Oleary, Sioux Falls
Seth Klentz, Beresford
Lindsey Quasney, Sioux Falls
Cody Raterman, Sioux Falls
Kristopher Reed, Canton
Jason Rumpca, Pierre
James Sadkovich, Sioux Falls
Hon. Janki Sharma, Rapid City
Olivia Siglin, Rapid City
Michael Smith, Vermillion
Hon. Richard Sommers, Aberdeen
Carrie Srtka, Sioux Falls
Caleb Vukovich, Pierre
Nolan Welker, Pierre
Nicholas Walter, Sioux Falls
Chelsea Wenzel, Co-CH, Pierre
Wendy Kloeppner, Sioux Falls

PRACTICE RULES REVISION

John Burke, Rapid City
Ed Carpenter, Rapid City
Jeff Collins, Rapid City
Delia Druley, Sioux Falls
Aaron Eiesland, Rapid City
Danny Ellis, Signal Mountain
Gregory Erlandson, Rapid City
Shannon Falon, Sioux Falls
Abigale Farley, Sioux Falls
Gregory Grajczyk, Milbank
Hannah Haksgaard, Vermillion
Hon. Sandra Hanson, Sioux Falls
Jeffrey Hurd, Rapid City
Hon. John Sogn, Sioux Falls
Ashley McDonald, Rapid City
Kimberly McNulty, Omaha, NE
Sander Morehead, Sioux Falls

Jason Sutton, Sioux Falls
Matthew Tysdal, CH, Sioux Falls
Lora Waeckerle, Rapid City
Chelsea Wenzel, Pierre
Jennifer Wosje, Sioux Falls
Colleen Zea, Sioux Falls
Ex-Officio:
Shirley Jameson-Fergel, Pierre

PROJECT RURAL PRACTICE

Ashley Anson, White Lake
Amy Bartling, Gregory
Alyssa Blasius, Pierre
Turner Blasius, Pierre
Aisha Carr, Valentine NE
Ryan Cwach, Bloomfield, NE
Dennis Duncan, Sioux Falls
Kristian Ellendorf, Howard
Roxanne Erickson, Flandreau
Dennis Evenson, Clear Lake
Danielle Foiles, Sioux Falls
Thomas Frieberg, Beresford
Dusty Ginsbach, Buffalo
Patrick Goetzinger, Co-CH, Rapid City
Hannah Haksgaard, Vermillion
Teramie Hill, Vermillion
Austin Hoffman, Eureka
William Hustead, Hot Springs
Amy Jo Janssen, Kennebec
Derrick Johnson, Scotland
Mason Juracek, Winner
Dylan Kirchmeier, Sisseton
Kristen Kochejian, Redfield
Kirby Krogman, White River
Denise Langley, Pierre
David Larson, Chamberlain
Cheryl Laurenz-Bogue, Sioux Falls
Rachel Mairose, Plankinton
Cody Miller, Madison
Lorrie Miner, Ft. Thompson
Bob Morris, Belle Fourche
Thomas Mortland, Mission
Rachelle Norberg, Co-CH, Burke
Zach Pahlke, Winner
Shane Penfield, Lemmon
Hon. Bob Pesall, Flandreau
Scott Peterson, Valentine, NE
Aaron Pilcher, Huron

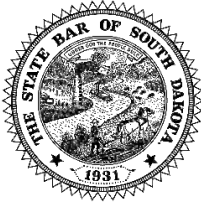
Victor Rapkoch, Britton
Austin Schaefer, Hot Springs
Jackson Schwandt, Milbank
Danny Smeins, Britton
Caroline Srtka, Sioux Falls
Kelsey Stock, Ortonville, MN
Kelsea Sutton, Burke
James Taylor, Mitchell
Sarah Sharp Theophilus, Sioux Falls
Sarah Thorne, Pierre
Stephanie Trask, Phillip
Jeff Tronvold, Pierre
Daniel Van Gorp, Kadoka
Cassie Wendt, Phillip
Amanda Work, Pierre

SOLO AND SMALL FIRM

Corey Bruning, Flandreau
Erika Campbell, Northfield, MN
Lisa Carrico, Watertown
Nathan Chicoine, Co-CH, Rapid City
Olin Clyne, Sioux Falls
Sarah Covington, Summerset
James Craig, Sioux Falls
Kristian Ellendorf, Howard
Henry Evans, Sioux Falls
Vincent Foley, Watertown
Gregory Grajczyk, Milbank
Richard Johnson, Sioux Falls
Katie Johnson, Co-CH, Beresford
Thomas Keller, Sioux Falls
Kristen Kochejian, Redfield
Scott Kuck, Aberdeen
David Larson, Chamberlain
Rachel Mairose, Plankinton
Chris McClure, Sioux Falls
George Nelson, Rapid City
Langu Okall, Sioux Falls
Katie Oleary, Sioux Falls
Nicole Phillips, Sioux Falls
Aaron Pilcher, Huron
Michael Porter, Spearfish
Elise Rasmussen, Sioux Falls
Mallory Schulte, Yankton
Mrg Simon, Glen Rose, TX
Danny Smeins, Britton
Tony Teesdale, Brookings
Katie Thompson, Pierre

**Italacized = new committee member*

Last Update: 8/3/2026



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

7

Shane Vogt, Sioux Falls
Joseph Williams, Hill City
Terri Williams, Rapid City
Sheila Woodward, Yankton

STRATEGIC PLAN

Richard Casey, Co-CH, Sioux Falls

Hon. Francy Foral, Sturgis
Thomas Frieberg, Beresford
Patrick Goetzinger, Rapid City
Taneeza Islam, Sioux Falls
Hon. Janine Kern, Rapid City
Samuel Kerr, Rapid City
Emily Maurice, Sioux Falls
Melissa Neville, Aberdeen
Alison Ramsdell, Sioux Falls
Pamela Reiter, Sioux Falls
Rod Tobin, Aberdeen

Jennifer Williams, Co-CH, Rapid City

Colleen Zea, Sioux Falls

Ex-Officio:

Ellie Bailey, BC Rep.
Paul Bachand, Interim Executive Director
Neil Fulton, USD Law Dean
Donald McCarty, 26-27' President Elect
Stacy Johnson, BC Rep.
John Burke, SBSB President
Carrie Sanderson, SPC
Tony Teesdale, BC Rep.
Stephen Gemar, YLS President-Elect

VETERANS COMMITTEE

Kirk Albertson, Pierre
Leslie Bryson, Sturgis
Craig Evenson, Clear Lake
Travis Hindt, Co-CH, Sioux Falls
Edward Hruska, Pierre
Christian Jensen, Sioux Falls
Darrell Jesse, Dakota Dunes
Amanda Kippley, Sioux Falls
Karla MacArthur-Harris, Rapid City
Jonathon McCoy, Rapid City
Bob Morris, Belle Fourche
David Natvig, Enterprise, AL
Jonathan Olson, Sioux Falls
Kaleb Paulsen, Co-CH, Sioux Falls
Matthew Powers, Sioux Falls
Alice Rokahr, Sioux Falls

Tracye Sherrill, Sioux Falls
Melissa Sommers, Sioux Falls
James Sword, Hot Springs
John Taylor, Sioux Falls
Sarah Sharp Theophilus, Sioux Falls
Kellen Willert, Belle Fourche

WOMEN IN LAW

Robin Aden, Sioux Falls
Jenn Albertson, Rapid City
Taylor Anderson, Sioux Falls
Ellie Bailey, Pierre
Micayla Bamberg, Mitchell
Deborah Birgen, Sioux Falls
Kelsey Blair, Rapid City
Diana Boni, Okaton
Megan Borchert, Sioux Falls
Ruth Burns, Agency Village
Erika Campbell, Northfield, MN
Jessica Carmichael, Belle Fourche
Leah Ceranski, Rapid City
Ashlee Christensen, Sioux Falls
Jenna Christensen, Omaha NE
Amber Cook, Rapid City
Karen Cremer, Pierre
Hon. Natalie Damgaard, Sioux Falls
Tracey Dollison Decker, Rapid City
Caitlyn Dommer, Vermillion
Elizabeth Duffy, Sioux Falls
Shaun Eastman, Eden
Emily Easton, Pierre
Abigale Farley, Sioux Falls
Hon. Sandra Hanson, Sioux Falls
Stacy Hegge, Pierre
Laura Hofer, Sioux Falls
Ann Hoffman, Sioux Falls
Alayna Holstrom, Sioux Falls
Aleesa Jansick, Sioux Falls
Suzanne Jones Pranger, Sioux Falls
Wendy Kloeppner, Sioux Falls
Amy Koenig, Rapid City
Laura Korson, Hermosa
Amanda LaCroix, Pierre
Yvette Lafrentz, Sioux Falls
Jessica LaMie, Pierre
Candice Lucklum, Rapid City
KyLee Manthei, Sioux Falls
Wendy McGowan, Rapid City

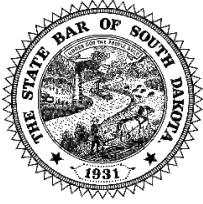
Brittany McKnight, Brookings
Sarah Morrison, Rapid City
Amber Mulder, Sioux Falls
Gina Nelson, Rapid City
Paige Petersen, CH, Sioux Falls
Kalen Peterson, Sioux Falls
Nicole Phillips, Sioux Falls
Mae Pochop, Sioux Falls
Stephanie Pochop, Gregory
Alison Ramsdell, Flandreau
Erica Ramsey, Sioux Falls
Lara Roetzel, Rapid City
Gabriele Sayaloune, Rapid City
Kristina Schaefer, Sioux Falls
Erin Schoenbeck Byre, Sioux Falls
Mallory Schulte, Yankton
Traci Sherman, Hendricks, MN
Renee Stellagher, Pierre
Kelsey Stock, Ortonville MN
Kiira Weber, Sioux Falls
Christi Weideman, Aberdeen
Anne Weyer, Sioux Falls
Sarah Weyrich, Rapid City
Claire Wilka, Sioux Falls
Murl Woods, Rapid City
Amanda Work, Pierre
Lea Wroblewski, Sioux Falls
Rosa Yaeger, Pierre

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Jami Bishop, CH, Sioux Falls
Jenna Christensen, Omaha NE
Kerri Cook Huber, Rapid City
Zach Flood, Mitchell
Kristi Holm, Sioux Falls
Julie Johnson, Mina
Margo Julius, Rapid City
Charles Larson, Sioux Falls
James Leach, Rapid City
Brad Lee, Rapid City
Rebecca Mann, Rapid City
James Marsh, Tripp
Gerald McCabe, Aberdeen
John McCoy, Rapid City
Jolene Nasser, Sioux Falls
Tracye Sherrill, Sioux Falls
Jeff Shultz, Sioux Falls
Justin Smith, Sioux Falls

**Italacized = new committee member*

Last Update: 8/3/2026



State Bar of South Dakota Committee Assignments 2026-2027

8

Matthew Tysdal, Sioux Falls
Bram Weidenaar, Sioux Falls
Jennifer Wosje, Sioux Falls

For questions or concerns, please email committees@sdbar.net.

**Italacized = new committee member*

Last Update: 8/3/2026

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Minutes, October 23, 2025

Military Heritage Alliance, Sioux Falls, and via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM on October 23, 2025. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect Mark Haigh, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair. Also present were Executive Director/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Cremer, Director of Operations Tracie Bradford, Lawyers Assistance Program Director Becky Porter, Bar Services Coordinator Alyssa Blasius, Communications/Membership Coordinator Tailynn Bradford, Administrative Assistant Brooklyn Drewes, and Parliamentarian Tom Welk.

President's Welcome: President Richter discussed the success of the mixer held on October 22 and efforts to be inclusive and encourage involvement.

Board Conflict Disclosure: No conflicts were noted.

Approve minutes of September 18, 2025, Meeting: Commissioner Covington moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025, Bar Commission meeting. Commissioner Teesdale seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cashroom Member Benefit: The Commission considered a proposal from Cashroom to provide a discount to members as part of a member benefits program. President Elect Haigh made a motion to reject the proposal. Commissioner Teramie Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fastcase Update: Bar staff worked with the South Dakota Bar Foundation and the Bar Commission to provide Fastcase legal research resources to State Bar members as a free member benefit. Legal research resources previously available on DakotaDisc are now available on Fastcase on the State Bar website. Bar staff is continuing to work with Fastcase and related entities vLex and Clio to raise awareness that State Bar members and USD Law students now have access to this free legal research platform.

Old/New Business: President Richter discussed the status of the Bar Commission conflict of interest form and the Public Sector bylaw change with staff. Bar staff will continue to work on both projects.

Strategic Planning Committee Discussion: Dick Casey and Jennifer Williams provided a summary report of the May 30, 2025, Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) retreat. SPC proposed and the Bar Commission adopted a new strategic plan in 2024. SPC recommends that the State Bar prioritize Goal 2, Strategy 3 (support well-being) and make well-being efforts more sustainable. These efforts generally include addressing the culture of well-being, identifying and addressing barriers, and messaging.

SPC created a work group consisting of Judge Francy Foral, Stacy Johnson, Sam Kerr, and Alison Ramsdell to continue these efforts. Stephanie Pochop and Becky Porter will serve as resources for this group. The work group plans to report to the Bar Commission later. Longer term efforts may include forming a Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) board to oversee well-being services and developing a succession plan for current LAP leadership. Commissioners provided additional thoughts.

Casey and Williams thanked Strategic Plan Coordinator Carrie Sanderson for facilitating the May retreat. Casey, Williams, the Bar Commission, and Bar staff recognized and thanked Becky Porter for her tireless and compassionate work as our LAP Director. Porter thanked members and State Bar staff for their support. The Bar Commission thanked Casey, Williams, and SPC for their work.

Commissioner Teesdale made a motion to approve the SPC recommendations. Commissioner Justin Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MCLE Update: UJS and the State Bar are finalizing committee appointments for the MCLE rules drafting committee.

Personnel Discussion: Commissioner Bailey made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Teesdale seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:03 AM. Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect Mark Haigh, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kimberly Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair.

The Commission adjourned Executive Session at 11:21 AM.

CLE Committee Discussion: The Commission deferred discussion on this agenda item.

YLS Section Report: Young Lawyers Section President Mae Pochop provided the following report of YLS activities.

- Provided lunches for bar exam candidates.
- Held Second Circuit mixer at Remedy Brewing following the Bankruptcy CLE in Sioux Falls on September 6, which was well attended.
- Organized the Nuts-and-Bolts CLE, swearing-in ceremony, and mixer, which included 22 new admittees who attended the swearing-in ceremony on September 26 in Pierre.
- Held First Circuit mixer in Vermillion, after the Supreme Court session at the law school on October 7, which included a reception honoring Justice Kern. Co-sponsors included Project Rural Practice and SD Defense Lawyer's Association, and turnout was good.
- Law for Lunch webinar discussing how to get involved with State Bar activities is scheduled for November 18.
- Scheduled to deliver snacks to law school students in late November before finals.

- Scheduled to assist with more mixers, and YLS Boot Camp in Deadwood, in the spring.
- Scheduled to assist with social and networking events at the annual convention.
- The YLS Initiative this year is creating legacy documents for future YLS members.
- YLS is continuing to work on the Mentorship program.

The Commission thanked Pochop and YLS for their continued work.

Contract Management: Commissioner Justin Johnson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contract management. Commissioner Teesdale seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Commission entered Executive Session at 11:49 AM. Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect Mark Haigh, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kimberly Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair.

The Commission adjourned Executive Session at 2:03 PM.

Bar Convention Program: Commissioner Teesdale made a motion to discontinue printing paper programs and transition to an online or digital app program. Commissioner Justin Johnson seconded the motion.

President Elect Haigh and some Commissioners expressed opposition and further discussion occurred. Commissioner Justin Johnson made a substitute motion to keep the printed Bar Convention program. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. The Commission voted by roll call as follows:

Aye (8) - President Elect Haigh, Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Ellie Bailey, Matt Naasz, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson

Nay (5) - President Richter, Tony Teesdale, Jerry McCabe, Kristen Edwards, Steven Blair
Motion carried.

Bar Office Security Discussion: The Commission discussed Bar office security.

Commissioner Input/Ideas/Concerns: No discussion noted.

Executive Director Financial Report: The Commission briefly discussed the monthly financial statements and the new format for the statements prepared by Anderson Nill, the State Bar bookkeeper.

Upcoming Meetings: November 18 and December 16 via Teams.

Adjourn: President Elect Haigh moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Teesdale seconded the motion. Motion carried. President John Richter adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM CDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Cremer
Executive Director/Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes (Executive Session), November 18, 2025, Via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM on November 18, 2025. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect Mark Haigh, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair. Also present was Executive Director/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Cremer.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Mulder seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 2:04 PM.

Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect Mark Haigh, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair.

The Commissioners adjourned executive session at PM .

Next Meeting: The next Bar Commission meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2025, at 2:00 PM CST (online).

Adjourn: Commissioner made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at PM CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Cremer
Executive Director/Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting – March 3, 2026, via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM on March 3, 2026. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair. Also present was Executive Director/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Cremer and Melanie Carpenter.

Commissioner Justin Johnson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 3:05 PM.

Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect Burke, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Sarah Covington, Stacy Johnson, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair. Also present was Melanie Carpenter.

The Commissioners adjourned executive session at 4:56 PM.

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting – March 6, 2026, via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM on March 6, 2026. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Sarah Covington, Jerry McCabe, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Kristen Edwards, Stacy Johnson, Justin Johnson, Amber Mulder, Steve Blair, and Executive Director Paul Cremer.

Commissioner Teesdale moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner J. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 4:02 PM.

Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Sarah Covington, Jerry McCabe, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Kristen Edwards, Justin Johnson, Amber Mulder, Stacy Johnson, and Steve Blair.

The Commissioners exited the executive session and promptly adjourned the meeting at 5:58 PM

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting – March 30, 2026, via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM on March 30, 2026. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Ellie Bailey, Emily Maurice, Sarah Covington, Jerry McCabe, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Kristen Edwards, Stacy Johnson, Justin Johnson, Amber Mulder, Steve Blair, and Executive Director Paul Cremer.

Commissioner Teesdale moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 2:02 PM.

Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Ellie Bailey, Emily Maurice, Sarah Covington, Jerry McCabe, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Kristen Edwards, Stacy Johnson, Justin Johnson, Amber Mulder, and Steve Blair.

The Commissioners exited the executive session and promptly adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM.

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Memorialize April 2, 2026 Motion via Email in Lieu of a Formal Meeting

Memorialize April 2, 2026, Commissioner McCabe made a motion via email regarding a personnel matter. The Bar Commission proceeded to vote via email in lieu of a formal meeting, as permitted under Bylaws Section 7.15 and approved the Motion regarding a personnel matter.

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting - April 9, 2026, via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM on April 9, 2026. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Sarah Covington, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Kristen Edwards, Justin Johnson, Amber Mulder, and Steve Blair. Hilary Williamson was also present.

Commissioner Covington moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 3:03 PM.

Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Kim Kinney, Sarah Covington, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Kristen Edwards, Justin Johnson, Amber Mulder, and Steve Blair. Hilary Williamson also participated in the executive session.

The Commissioners exited the executive session and promptly adjourned the meeting at 5:06 PM

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting - April 13, 2026, via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM on April 13, 2026. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, and Steve Blair. Hilary Williamson was also present.

President Elect Burke moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Maurice seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 4:33 PM.

Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Emily Maurice, Anthony Teesdale, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, and Steve Blair. Hilary Williamson also participated in the executive session.

The Commissioners exited the executive session and promptly adjourned the meeting at 5:18 PM

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting - April 21, 2026, via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on April 21, 2026. Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Emily Maurice, Kristen Edwards, Sarah Covington, Anthony Teesdale, Jerry McCabe, Justin Johnson, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, and Steve Blair. Hilary Williamson was also present.

Commissioner Covington moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Maurice seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 1:02 PM.

Present for all or part of the executive session were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Emily Maurice, Kristen Edwards, Sarah Covington, Anthony Teesdale, Jerry McCabe, Justin Johnson, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, and Steve Blair. Hilary Williamson also participated in the executive session.

The Commissioners exited the executive session and promptly adjourned the meeting at 2:15 PM.

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2026**

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BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Minutes, April 23, 2026

President John Richter called the meeting to order.

Present for all or part of the meeting were President Richter, President Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Justin Johnson, Emily Maurice, Kim Kinney, Jerry McCabe, Ellie Bailey, Matthew Naasz, Teramie Hill, Amber Mulder, Kristen Edwards, and Steve Blair. Director of Operations Tracie Bradford, Lawyers Assistance Program Director Becky Porter, Communications/Membership Coordinator Tailynn Bradford, and Parliamentarian Tom Welk.

President's Welcome: President Richter thanked all commissioners for the time spent on the commission meetings.

Board Conflict Disclosure: No conflicts were disclosed.

Nate Chicoine ABA Update: Nate Chicoine explained the role of the ABA representatives. It was noted that South Dakota supported view-point ideology. Other topics addressed included judicial security and confidentiality, the economics of law survey, and the NextGen Bar Exam. Commissioner Bailey noted that House Bill 1298 has made it a Class 6 felony to provide judges' information.

Audit/990s: The Commission discussed what a GAAP audit entails and the oversight required by the Commission. A discussion regarding an appropriate amount of oversight ensued. The auditor suggested categorized financial statements each month for all financials, with the A&F committee asking for follow-up transaction-level detail as needed. The State Bar meeting was suspended.

Access to Justice (A2J) 990s Discussion: The A2J meeting convened at 9:04 AM. Commissioner Blair made a motion to approve the A2J 990s. Commissioner Naasz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The A2J meeting was suspended.

CLE Discussion: The CLE meeting convened at 9:07 AM. Commissioner Blair made a motion to approve. Commissioner Justin Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At 9:10 AM, President Richter directed the conclusion of the CLE meeting and resumed the State Bar meeting.

990s Approval: Commissioner Blair moved to approve the 990s. Commissioner Justin Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Evidentiary Rules Amendment: Commissioner Bailey moved for the Evidentiary Rules amendment suggestion to go to the floor at the business meeting. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Rule 15-6-56(d) Amendment: Commissioner Naasz moved for the amendment suggestion to Rule 15-6-56(d) to go to the floor at the business meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Remote Voting: Commissioner Hill moved to present remote voting to the members. Commissioner Mulder seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

LAP Update: Lawyers Assistance Program Director Becky Porter provided an update, noting over 100 calls in December 2025, with slower call volume at the beginning of this year. Typical calls involve alcohol, illegal drugs, and prescription drug usage. Financial issues for conditional admittees are often related to LAP calls.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) will be a 501(c)(3) completely separate from the State Bar to help increase the chances of success for those who may hesitate to contact an entity associated with the State Bar for help. LCL SD Inc. will allow grants to help with counseling or treatment. An anonymous study/survey will provide data to help guide the new LCL SD Inc.

Porter has spent significant time working with Strategic Planning for a final report regarding the LAP. The working group's recommendations will be discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting tomorrow. Porter noted that Sand Creek utilization numbers are disappointing, costing the State Bar \$5,000 per year. Porter recommended the 988 lifeline instead of Sand Creek, as it is a 24/7, free option that lawyers are more likely to access.

President Richter thanked Porter for her service to the Bar over the years and for her selflessness, passion, and dedication to the state bar membership.

Approval of Young Lawyers Section Bylaw Changes: Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the Young Lawyers Section bylaw changes. Commissioner Justin Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A2J Report: The Commission received the A2J Report.

Executive Director Report: The Commission received the Executive Director report. It was noted that an email vote was conducted on March 3, 2026, to allow Tamara Nash to attend the ABA event; however, Tamara Nash was ultimately unable to attend.

MCLE Update: Commissioner Edwards reported that the MCLE committee is drafting rules to go to the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Bar Convention Planning: Director of Operations Tracie Bradford reported that Bar Convention planning is ahead of schedule. The Thursday night activity is still being arranged.

Commission Input: The Commission discussed South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) at the Bar Convention. The CLE Committee has the discretion to decide whether and when SDPB could broadcast parts of the Bar Convention for both livestreaming and video. Commissioners Hill and Maurice brought up the need for a future meeting to address needed policy changes.

Old/New Business: Nothing to report.

Executive Session: Commissioner Justin Johnson made a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Maurice seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:59 AM MT.

The Commission adjourned Executive Session at 11:46 AM MT.

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS

Memorialize May 5, 2026 Motion via Email in Lieu of a Formal Meeting

Memorialize May 5, 2026, Commissioner Mulder made a motion via email to accept the written resignation of Executive Director Paul Cremer effective May 12, 2026 and to authorize the President to effectuate any and all activities necessary to implement the resignation and commence the search for a new Executive Director. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. The Bar Commission proceeded to vote via email in lieu of a formal meeting, as permitted under Bylaws Section 7.15, and approved the Motion regarding a personnel matter.

BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS
Minutes, May 29, 2026
The Box Event Center, Box Elder and via Teams

President John Richter called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM, MT.

Present for all or part of the meeting were President John Richter, President-Elect John Burke, and Commissioners Ellie Bailey, Jerry McCabe, Amber Mulder, Emily Maurice, Teramie Hill, Anthony Teesdale, Matt Naasz, Kristen Edwards, Justin Johnson, Stacy Johnson, and Steve Blair. Also present were Director of Operations Tracie Bradford, Lawyers Assistance Program Director Becky Porter, Carrie Sanderson, Mallory Barnett, Denise Langley, and Jennifer Anderson.

Board/Staff Conflict Disclosures: Board and staff were reminded to submit conflict disclosures to comply with Form 990 requirements.

Announcements: President Richter thanked everyone for the mixer, noting strong feedback from members throughout the year, including from the South Dakota Supreme Court. It was also announced that Circuit Connect was taking off as an opportunity to allow younger attorneys to learn about their local courts and connect with more experienced attorneys.

Budget: Jennifer Anderson explained the budget process and how the Bar is modernizing financial reports.

CLE Budget: The previous format was cumbersome and incompatible with the current software. Budget-to-actual comparisons from the past three years are being used to project budget needs. Anderson recommended that the Commission allow a monthly flat-fee management contract with CLE that captures shared salary expenditures, eliminating unnecessary administrative work for the auditors. The Bar would bill CLE 50% up front rather than splitting fees at the end of the audit. An alternative discussed was to bring CLE as an entity into the State Bar. CLE shares the same nonprofit classification as the State Bar, and there is no longer a separate governing body, so combining should be considered in the future. Combining could also increase interest in the sweep account. Keeping them separate results in the State Bar losing out on interest income. President Richter asked the Audit and Finance Committee to research the issue and recommend whether to enter into an MOU or combine the CLE budget with the State Bar. The Commission will vote after Audit and Finance looks into this further.

A2J Budget: A new grant-tracking system was recommended to better track and understand grant cycles. Anderson Nill will build a standard A2J template for grant tracking, which should take only 5-7 hours.

Bar Budget and Dues Collection: Changes were made to improve reporting and align it with the system. The Commission discussed bar dues income, noting there are currently no projections for expected bar dues income or necessary bar dues increases. The Bar incurs \$18,000 in bank fees but recoups that later through credit card fees passed along to members. Growth Zone determines credit card membership fees. Anderson suggested negotiating with Growth Zone to reduce fees and asking BankWest to eliminate remote capture fees. Staff noted that processing

checks and entering them into the system is very time-consuming. Members paying by credit card would help reduce staff time spent on dues. Tracie Bradford suggested eliminating the credit card fee to improve office efficiency. Discussion followed on encouraging members to pay by credit card and on ACH payment options. Bradford will run a report comparing checks and credit card payments to see what membership is doing. The Commission also discussed the dues collection policy. Bylaws require sending a list of member dues by March 15th. Untimely dues result in unnecessary staff time spent sending initial reminders, notices of non-payment, and final notices.

Extra Income: The sweep account is earning much more income than before, though it fell a little short of initial projections. When Bar staff switched from personal credit cards to an organizational credit card, the Bar began earning over \$400 per month in interest, which is reflected in the added income.

The meeting recessed and resumed at 9:50 AM.

Committee Budgets: The Commission discussed committee budgets and whether to adopt zero-based budgeting. A suggestion was made to start with a fixed dollar amount and justify any amounts above the standard amount. Written requests from chairs would improve communication, budget awareness, and data collection. Any amount above the standard amount would require Commission approval, encouraging fiscal responsibility. Becky Porter noted that Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) is now a 501(c)(3) and may need additional budgetary requirements for the upcoming year.

Capital Acquisition Fund: Jennifer Anderson noted that \$200,000 is held in a BankWest account for a capital acquisition fund and asked whether the Bar wants to keep it or is looking to buy or build a building. Anderson will check with the auditor to confirm whether these funds are restricted. The Audit and Finance Committee will meet with Anderson after this meeting for clarification.

Strategic Planning Committee Discussion: Carrie Sanderson discussed the Strategic Planning Meeting. For Goal 1, the committee's main focus was leadership academies and the job description and hiring for the LAP program when Becky Porter retires. For Goal 2, Sanderson met with UJS to help and offer suggestions for their strategic plan. For Goal 3, various outreach opportunities occurred, with a focus on DDLC. Stacy Johnson added that the subcommittee reviewed the 2015 ABA report and focused on recommendations for the LAP job description and its future feasibility, as well as how different bars handle LAP. Johnson also discussed the leadership component, what the Bar can do to develop leadership, and how to be leaders in communities. Carrie introduced Mallori Barnett, a new attorney with Good Stewards Consulting.

Oath for New Commissioners: The Commission discussed whether there should be an oath for new commissioners at the business meeting. It was decided that an oath would be administered in July.

Executive Session: Commissioner Stacy Johnson moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Kristen Edwards seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Commission entered Executive Session at 12:32 PM MT. The Commission adjourned Executive Session at 1:12 PM MT.

Digital Compliance: The Commission discussed the digital compliance certificate and data gathering through that process.

Adjourn: President John Richter adjourned the meeting at 1:21 PM MT.



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Certified in Business Appraisals

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT



23 Players

BEGINNERS' BRACKET

Erin Oster and Kirsten Taggart won the feature finals match against Tony Metzgar and Haley Drapeaux.

ADVANCED BRACKET

Judge Gregg Magera and Sam Goodhope won the final match against Judge Roberto Lange and Caleb Vukovich.



2026

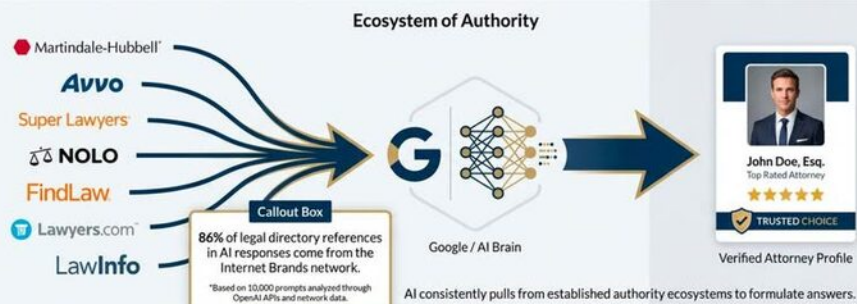
Bar Commission Retreat



Beyond Websites: Getting Clients in the DIY Era of *Gemini, ChatGPT and AI Summaries*

The future of legal marketing stands at a pivotal crossroads. While some in the field proclaim the death of search engine optimization (SEO) in the age of artificial intelligence (AI), the reality is not that simple. Google's integration of generative AI features into search results has not rendered traditional SEO obsolete – it has simply raised the stakes and changed the playing field.

The attorneys who will thrive in this new landscape understand a fundamental truth: AI-powered search results still need authoritative sources to generate answers. When potential clients ask Google's AI about finding a personal injury lawyer, navigating a divorce, or understanding their rights after an arrest, the technology pulls information from somewhere. The question your firm must answer is simple: Who will be that source – you or your competitor?



The Trick to Increase Visibility on Google and in AI-Generated Answers

Research has found that strategic SEO practices, combined with the use of legal directories, create a powerful dual approach to establishing your firm as the authoritative voice in your practice area. It is important to highlight that research continues to debunk the “SEO is dead” myth. Not only is SEO still relevant, but AI features actually amplify the importance of traditional ranking factors as well.

The authoritative signals that are bedrock to SEO are bleeding through to the AI models in multiple ways: The large language models (LLMs) feed their training data on websites that rank high in search engines, go to the same ranked websites when performing real-time web searches to capture recency data, and lean into the same authority signals to back up their own recommendations as those that drive consumer engagement and SEO (i.e. ratings, reviews, awards, consistent information about the business). Some messaging wants to claim that AI tools have overtaken the entire journey, but Google search usage increases every year. Thus far in 2026, Google has reported the following:


More than 5 trillion global searches every year; that's
5.9 million
searches every minute


Over 5 billion users so far this year, which translates to
84.3%
of all internet users


Over
16.4 billion
search queries every day worldwide


Almost
90%
of the global search market in 2026

AI tools have not replaced search engines. They are simply new supplemental tools in the digital ecosystem of information gathering. The journey to find counsel may start or end with an AI tool, just as it could start or end with a paid digital ad or a social media video. Or, it may not be part of the consumer journey at all. It is important to learn, understand and respond to when and where AI tools are being used, especially for your business, your industry and, ultimately, for your personal brand presence.

There Is
No-One-Size-Fits-All
Answer

The future of legal marketing belongs to those who adapt without abandoning proven principles. Let us explore how your firm can harness both innovation and authority to help better ensure that you remain visible, credible and profitable.



Ryan Tauer
Senior Sales Executive, FindLaw

📞 651-587-1022
✉️ rtauer@findlaw.com

Meet the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law's 2026 Public Interest Network Fellows

This year, thanks to your support, the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law Public Interest Network (PIN) annual fundraising auction raised over \$20,000. PIN is a student-led organization dedicated to supporting USD Knudson School of Law students who volunteer their time working unpaid, summer internships with public interest organizations (such as government agencies, nonprofits, and public defender offices). With the amount raised this year, PIN awarded eleven fellowships to USD Knudson School of Law students to help cover cost-of-living expenses as they complete their public interest summer internships.



2026 PIN Fellows (left to right): Walter Furstenu (Antelope County Attorney's Office & Madison County Attorney's Office (NE)); Samantha Hollister (Natrona County District Attorney Office (WY)); Dawsen Van Ede (Clay County State's Attorney's Office); Cher Hibbing (Sioux County Attorney's Office (IA)); Victoria Thompson (DOJ Civil Rights Division (DC)); Samantha Ochoa (U.S. Attorney's Office (SD)); Meredith Schumacher (Brown County State's Attorney's Office); Shelby Cox (Clay County State's Attorney); Collin Shurtleff (Iron County Attorney's Office (UT)); Shirley Ortega (Polk County Prosecutors Office (IA)); and (not pictured) Haley Drapeaux (U.S. Attorney's Office (SD)).

PIN's auction was made possible by its indefatigable 2025-2026 student leaders: Tia Vlasman (President); Miranda Schulte (Vice President); Haley Drapeaux (Secretary); Anthony LoBaido (Treasurer); Jillian Kreps (3L Representative); Ryleigh Christopherson (2L Representative); and Meredith Schumacher and Lacey Wingert (1L Representatives).

PIN is grateful to those who supported the auction by: donating money, items, and experiences; volunteering time and resources; and/or attending the auction. We could not support these students' public interest service without you.

Student organizations donated custom baskets, greatly helping the fundraising efforts. Winners of this year's student organization basket competition are: Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) for the "Most Fruitful" basket, and Agricultural Law Society for the "Unicorn" basket.



NALSA President Sydney Schad



Ag Law President, Karena Verbitsky

Please see our list of sponsors and donors below and stay tuned for more information about PIN's 2027 fundraising activities. Want to know more? Please contact PIN's Faculty Advisor, Wendy Hess, at wendy.hess@usd.edu.

With gratitude from USD Knudson School of Law's Public Interest Network

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Lacey Wingert
Lea Wroblewski
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XiX Brewery

IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF THE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

* * * *

In the Matter of the Discipline	)	JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT
of ROBERT J. DOODY,	)	
as an Attorney at Law.	)	#31522
	)	

The Disciplinary Board of the State Bar having filed with the Court a resignation executed by respondent Robert J. Doody, consenting to disbarment pursuant to the provisions of SDCL 16-19-65, now, therefore, in compliance with the provisions of SDCL 16-19-66, it is

ORDERED that Robert J. Doody is disbarred from practicing as an attorney and counselor at law in all of the courts of this state, and the license to practice law heretofore granted by this Court to said attorney is hereby canceled and revoked and the Clerk of the Court is authorized and directed to strike the name of Robert J. Doody from the roll of licensed attorneys and counselors at law on file in the office of the Clerk.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall comply with the provisions of SDCL 16-19-77 through 16-19-81 and that noncompliance shall constitute contempt. SDCL 16-19-82.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to SDCL 16-19-77, the disbarment of respondent shall become effective as of the date of this judgment.

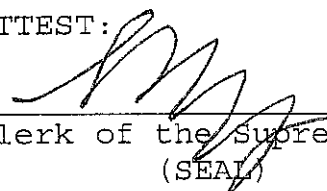
#31522, Judgment of Disbarment

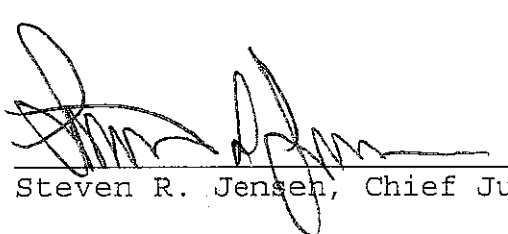
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall on or before August 78, 2026, pay Four-hundred, Thirteen and 15/100 Dollars (\$413.15) to the State Bar of South Dakota as reimbursement of its itemized expenses allowable under SDCL 16-19-70.2, proof of said payment to be filed with the Clerk of this Court on or before September 17, 2026.

DATED at Pierre, South Dakota this 17th day of July, 2026.

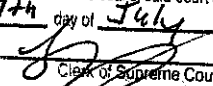
BY THE COURT:

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Supreme Court
(SEAL)

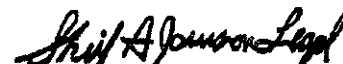

Steven R. Jensen, Chief Justice

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

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
In the Supreme Court
I, Shirley A. Jameson-Fergel, Clerk of the Supreme Court of South Dakota, hereby certify that the within instrument is a true and correct copy of the original thereof as the same appears on record in my office. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at Pierre, S.D. this
17th day of July, 2024.

Clerk of Supreme Court
Deputy

SUPREME COURT
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
FILED

JUL 17 2026


Clerk

IN THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

* * * *

In the Matter of the Discipline	)	JUDGMENT OF DISBARMENT
of MICHAEL A. HENDERSON,	)	
as an attorney at law.	)	#31048
	)	

The Disciplinary Board of the State Bar having filed with the Court a resignation executed by respondent Michael Henderson, consenting to disbarment pursuant to the provisions of SDCL 16-19-65, now, therefore, in compliance with the provisions of SDCL 16-19-66, it is

ORDERED that Michael A. Henderson is disbarred from practicing as an attorney and counselor at law in all of the courts of this state, and the license to practice law heretofore granted by this Court to said attorney is hereby canceled and revoked and the Clerk of the Court is authorized and directed to strike the name of Michael A. Henderson from the roll of licensed attorneys and counselors at law on file in the office of the Clerk.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall comply with the provisions of SDCL 16-19-77 through 16-19-81 and that noncompliance shall constitute contempt. SDCL 16-19-82.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to SDCL 16-19-77, the disbarment of respondent shall become effective as of the date of this judgment.

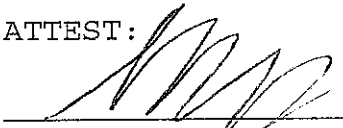
#31048, Judgment of Disbarment

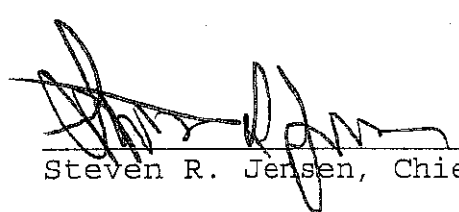
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall on or before August, 17 2026, pay Nine-hundred, Thirty-two and 12/100 dollars (\$932.12) to the State Bar of South Dakota as reimbursement of its itemized expenses allowable under SDCL 16-19-70.2, proof of said payment to be filed with the Clerk of this Court on or before September 17, 2026.

DATED at Pierre, South Dakota this 17th day of July, 2026.

BY THE COURT:

ATTEST:

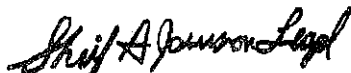

Clerk of the Supreme Court
(SEAL)


Steven R. Jensen, Chief Justice

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

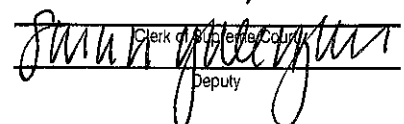
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
FILED

JUL 17 2026


Clerk

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
In the Supreme Court

I, Shirley A. Jameson-Fergel, Clerk of the Supreme Court of South Dakota, hereby certify that the within instrument is a true and correct copy of the original thereof as the same appears on record in my office. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at Pierre, S.D. this 17 day of July, 2026.


Deputy

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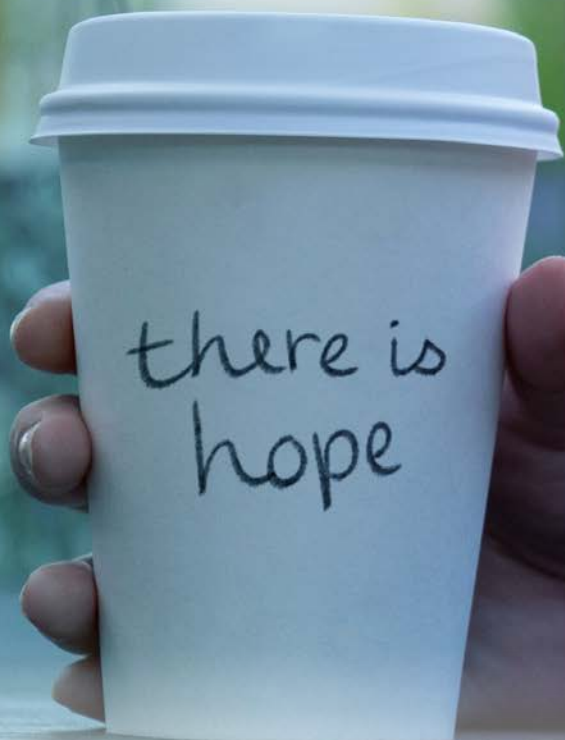


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How to Safeguard Your Law Practice from Current Malpractice Trends

By: Mark Bassingthwaighe, Risk Manager



Law firm risk management is no longer just about avoiding obvious mistakes. Today's malpractice landscape shows that many claims arise from routine practice failures, preventable process breakdowns, and increasingly complex client relationships. The data tells a clear story, and it's one every solo and small-firm lawyer should pay attention to.

The Claims Data: What's Actually Driving Risk Today

The ABA's Profile of Legal Malpractice Claims 2020 - 2023 (published in 2024) highlights a pattern that has held steady for decades. The same five practice areas continue to generate the highest volume of claims:

- Estate, Trust & Probate — 13.58% (up 1.6% from the prior study)
- Real Estate — 13.19% (up 0.81%)
- Personal Injury (Plaintiff) — 12.73% (down 3.58%)
- Family Law — 10.02% (down 2.79%)
- Collections & Bankruptcy — 8.84% (up 0.27%)

These areas have **dominated the top five for 25 years**, underscoring that the profession's biggest vulnerabilities are not new, they are persistent.

The same is true for the types of activities most associated with claims:

- Preparation, Filing & Transmitting Documents — 35.66%
- Commencement of Action/Proceeding — 18.90%
- Advice — 13.25%
- Settlement/Negotiation — 11.04%
- Pre-trial/Pre-hearing — 6.89%

With only minor exceptions, these categories have remained unchanged since 2003. That consistency is telling us that the profession's most common **risks stem from everyday tasks, not extraordinary ones**.

There are several broad observations and shared

concerns in the ABA report also worth mentioning. Together they paint a nuanced picture of the current claims environment.

1. **Administrative errors**, such as failing to calendar properly and failing to react to the calendar, **are rising and now account for nearly 25% of all claims**.

2. **Substantive errors**, to include failure to know or properly apply the law and drafting errors, **remain high at slightly over 50%**.

3. **Both conflict-of-interest claims and claims connected to settlement issues** (e.g., the settle and sue plaintiff) **are at an all-time high**.

4. **Routine errors**, especially calendaring mistakes and errors involving the filing and service of critical documents, **remain a primary cause of claims despite widespread adoption of legal technology**.

The above findings naturally raise several important questions for lawyers because they are not abstract concerns; they go directly to how firms structure workflows, supervise matters, and define responsibility. Taken together, these findings, which from all indications remain current today, raise two critical questions: Why are these problems still happening, and what can firms do about them?

Why These Problems Persist

The complexity of conflict of interest claims seem to be increasing, which suggests that client relationships and client matters are becoming more intricate, making conflicts harder to recognize and resolve.

Technology is not a substitute for process - Software can't fix inconsistent routines, ineffective internal processes, or poor documentation habits. Many "tech

failures” are actually process failures.

And perhaps too many lawyers continue to rely on their institutional memory instead of institutional systems - That works, until it doesn't.

Five Practical Risk-Management Steps Every Firm Should Implement

These recommendations are simple, but they are powerful when applied consistently.

1. **Stop** “shooting from the hip.” Quick decisions made without adequate research or reflection are a major source of claims. And never dabble in unfamiliar practice areas because the risk is rarely worth the fee.

2. **Strengthen** calendaring practices. Ask yourself: If someone enters a date incorrectly or misses a deadline buried in a document, are you certain the misstep will be caught? If the answer is no, your calendaring process needs attention.

3. **Formalize your** conflict-resolution process. And in every matter always document who the client is and who the client isn't because ambiguity is the enemy of risk management.

4. **Always** thoroughly document the advice being given and the client's decisions. Every file should tell the story of what was recommended, what the client decided, and why.

5. **Prioritize your health** and well-being. Fatigue, stress, and burnout degrade judgment. Shoddy work is rarely a mystery, it's a symptom.

Two Additional Risk Concerns Not Highlighted in the ABA Report

1. **Defense firms are no longer “low risk.”** The insurance defense world has changed. Carriers are quicker to blame panel counsel, quicker to pursue recovery, and quicker to second-guess decisions with hindsight. Your best protection is to document everything, especially settlement recommendations. Document as if the long-term health of your firm depends on it, because it just might.

2. **Aging and competency concerns are growing.** More lawyers are practicing later in life, and normal age-related slips, be it a memory, hearing, or vision problem can become a serious professional risk if ignored. The challenge is recognizing when occasional slips become patterns. Don't ignore or dismiss what's happening. Try to age gracefully, be aware of your limitations as they arise, and be open to hearing the concerns of others. Most importantly, should a pattern of slips ever start to develop, take the necessary steps to responsibly address the situation.

The Bigger Picture: Building a Culture That Prevents Mistakes

In sum, managing risk isn't just about deadlines, documents, and conflicts checks. It is also about exercising sound judgment, staying humble, and building a culture where people can raise concerns before they become crises. Lawyers who formalize their processes, thoroughly document all their files, clearly define all client relationships, and prioritize the health and well-being of everyone at the firm put themselves in the best position to avoid preventable missteps. Ultimately, the trends discussed here show that many of the profession's biggest exposures arise in the ordinary moments of practice, which is precisely why they deserve extraordinary attention.



Authored by: Mark Bassingthwaighe, ALPS Risk Manager

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

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.

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.**

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>



State Bar of South Dakota: Association Group Health Plan

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

Who Qualifies?

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

Available Network Options

The following networks are available:

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

Why Enroll?

The plan offers the following benefits:

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

Additional Details

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

Learn More by Reaching Out

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

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



Avera 
Health Plans



State Bar of South Dakota Association

Avera Healthcare Plans

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

EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

Office Location

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

Agency

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

Contact

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

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

Office Location

West River

Agency

Black Hills Insurance Agency
Black Hills Insurance Agency
Carver Insurance

Contact

Dan Maguire
Everett Strong
Lisa Knutson

Questions on Eligibility, Rates, and Services?

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



Receive Lifestyle Support with Personal Assistant Referrals

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

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

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

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

In Memoriam



Paul B. Van Buren
October 9, 1938 -
July 2, 2026

Paul Bartlett Van Buren was born in Minneapolis, MN, on Oct. 9, 1938, to Ervin P. and Mae (Bartlett) Van Buren, residents of Dell Rapids, SD.

He attended Dell Rapids Public Schools through his first year of high school and graduated from Tustin [CA] Union High School in 1956. He earned a B.A. (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of South Dakota in 1960, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity where he made many lifelong friends.

Paul attended University College of Oxford University in England as a Rhodes Scholar where he read Law, before earning a J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1964.

He first practiced law with May, Boe & Johnson in Sioux Falls, SD, before relocating to California. He was Legal Counsel to the Pacific Coast Division of Owens Corning Fiberglas Corp, and then a Department Counsel at General Electric Co.'s Nuclear Energy Division in San Jose, CA. After the demise of the nuclear power industry, Paul became a Senior Counsel at AT&T/Pacific Bell in San Francisco where he worked on contracts, property tax, and intellectual property matters. After the court-ordered breakup of the Bell System in 1984, he was involved in breaking up the various Bell entities and successfully resolved many antitrust and other litigation cases. Paul retired from AT&T/Pacific Bell in 1994 and for 30 years has provided pro bono legal services through Senior Adults Legal Services (SALA) of San Jose, CA.

Paul and Karen Lynn Harper were married on April 15, 1981, in Los Altos, CA. They were blessed with two children, Erik Harper Van Buren and Amy Van Buren Rhodes, and two grandsons, Max Van Buren Rhodes and Colin Bartlett Rhodes.

He was a sports fan who played football, basketball, baseball and captained the golf team at Tustin (CA) High School. Paul also played basketball for Oxford University competing against other British universities. He attended

the first Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game in Los Angeles in 1958, the first Minnesota Vikings football game (a pre-season game in Sioux Falls in 1961), and the first Oakland A's baseball game in Oakland in 1968. Paul was a season ticket holder of both Stanford football and basketball for more than 50 years.

Paul continued his close ties to the University of South Dakota, serving as chair of the USD Foundation and vice-chair of the USD Alumni Association and was active with the Farber Fund. He was also Class Correspondent for his Stanford Law class and Class Secretary for his 1960 Rhodes Scholars class.

Paul's principal hobby was genealogy, and he was a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants (as the direct descendant of four of the 102 Pilgrims who settled the Plymouth Colony), the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and The Society of the Cincinnati, an organization founded in 1783 by George Washington and Alexander Hamilton whose members are direct descendants of an officer in the Revolutionary War.

Paul was a long-time member of the Los Altos United Methodist Church, the Los Altos Golf & Country Club and the Oxford & Cambridge Club in London, England. A Kiwanian for over 50 years, he served as president of the Kiwanis Club of San Francisco and as a member of the Kiwanis Clubs of San Jose and Los Altos. He served on the boards of the Los Altos Community Foundation and the Los Altos Cultural Association and as a member and chair of the City of Los Altos Financial Commission.

Paul and Karen traveled extensively, in the U.S. and abroad. They were nearing the end of a Mississippi River cruise when he was suddenly taken ill and died at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

He is survived by his wife Karen, son Erik of Sioux Falls, SD, daughter Amy (Matt) and grandsons Max and Colin, of Washington, DC.

A private family interment was held at Hills of Rest Memorial Park in Sioux Falls. A memorial service will be held at Los Altos United Methodist Church in August.

Memorials may be directed to the Van Buren Family Scholarship at the University of South Dakota Foundation in Vermillion, SD.

The Case the Supreme Court Never Decided - Written by South Dakota Bar Member Joe Kirby

It began with an unexpected phone call from the downtown Sioux Falls library. A librarian had received an inquiry from a researcher on the East Coast looking for information about a long-dead Sioux Falls attorney: my great-grandfather, Joe Kirby. Knowing I had become the family's unofficial historian, she wondered whether I would like to speak with him. I certainly did.

The caller was Thomas Healy, a professor at Seton Hall Law School. He was researching a book about Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. and the evolution of free speech in America. While examining Holmes's private papers, released decades after his death, Healy had stumbled across an unpublished Supreme Court case that historians didn't even know existed. My great-grandfather was the lawyer for the South Dakota defendants.

That came as a surprise, although perhaps it shouldn't have. Joe Kirby was one of South Dakota's leading trial and appeals attorneys during the early twentieth century. He argued hundreds of cases before the South Dakota Supreme Court and several before the United States Supreme Court. What I didn't know was that one of those cases almost changed constitutional history. I thought I had heard about his most interesting cases, but apparently not this one.

A Case Born in Wartime

In 1917, the United States entered World War I. Congress responded by passing the Espionage Act, making it a crime to interfere with the draft or undermine the nation's war effort. The law immediately collided with the First Amendment.

Among the first people prosecuted were thirty German-American farmers from Hutchinson County, South Dakota. They had signed an awkwardly written petition asking Governor Peter Norbeck to seek changes in the nation's draft laws. Many objected to the prospect of their sons fighting relatives in Germany.

Whether their petition was wise is beside the point. The federal government charged them under the new Espionage Act, secured convictions, and sent them to prison at Leavenworth. Joe Kirby was called in to appeal their case to the United States Supreme Court.

His central argument was remarkably simple. However misguided the petition might have been, citizens have a constitutional right to petition their government. The government could not criminalize that right simply because it disliked the message.

Behind Closed Doors

After oral arguments, the justices met in private to vote. The government appeared headed for victory. One justice was assigned to write the majority opinion affirming the convictions. But the decision was not unanimous. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. disagreed. He wrote a dissent arguing that the farmers' petition was protected by the Constitution. Two other justices, including the Chief Justice, joined him.

According to Professor Healy, "what occurred next is one of the strangest episodes in Supreme Court history."

Someone inside the Court leaked word of Holmes's dissent to federal prosecutors. That should never have happened. Supreme Court deliberations are among the most closely guarded confidences in American government. Nevertheless, they did it.

The Justice Department immediately recognized the danger. Holmes's reasoning could undermine future prosecutions under the Espionage Act, many involving defendants whose conduct was far more threatening than a poorly worded petition from South Dakota farmers.

Rather than risk creating an unfavorable Supreme Court precedent, federal prosecutors did something virtually unheard of. They confessed error. In effect, they abandoned the case before the Court issued its decision.

The convictions disappeared. The farmers went back to Hutchinson County. Joe Kirby returned to his law practice in Sioux Falls. The Supreme Court never issued an opinion.

A Lost Chapter of Constitutional History

For decades, no one outside the Court knew any of this had happened. The draft opinion and Holmes's dissent remained buried among his private papers until they

were released many years later near the end of the 20th century. By then, legal history had occurred.

Shortly after the South Dakota case was dropped, Holmes wrote his famous opinions in the landmark Espionage Act cases of Schenck, Debs, and Abrams, opinions that shaped modern First Amendment law and established him as one of the nation's most influential constitutional thinkers.

The forgotten South Dakota case reveals that Holmes had begun developing those ideas even earlier than scholars realized. Professor Healy tells this remarkable story in his book, *The Great Dissent*. I often wonder what my great-grandfather would have thought had he known how close his case came to becoming one of the great constitutional decisions in American history.

SIoux FALLS ESTATE PLANNING COUNCIL

Joint Meeting with the SD State Bar

PLEASE JOIN US ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH FOR THIS JOINT BREAKFAST EVENT WITH THE STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

ESTATE *Planning*

 DATE: Friday, September 18, 2026	 TIME: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	 ADDRESS : Minnehaha Country Club	 SPEAKER: Steven Siegel, JD, LLM
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Please note that breakfast will be served beginning at 8:15 am.



More

UPCOMING LIVE WEBINARS

From *AlOne Health*

Free to all Bar Members!

Discover a whole new approach to well-being.



12 AUG

Sleep Basics

August 12, 2026
1:30 pm EDT - 2:30 pm EDT
[Register for this Webinar](#)



19 AUG

Managing the Stress of Parenting

August 19, 2026
12:00 pm EDT - 12:45 pm EDT
[Register for this Webinar](#)



Public Sector Section 2026 Award Winners



PUBLIC SECTOR ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

CHRISTOPHER MILES

Awarded to Christopher Miles for his visionary leadership and monumental undertaking this past year as the Chief Defender for the South Dakota Office of Indigent Legal Services.

PUBLIC SECTOR RISING STAR

TIA VLASMAN

Awarded to Tia Vlasman for her dedicated leadership and service to USD law students and the public sector through her volunteer work, including organizing the 2026 Public Interest Network Auction to benefit law students in public interest internships.



Career Center

STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASSIFIEDS

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



Transactional Attorney (2-5 Years Experience) - Nooney & Solay, LLP

Location: Flexible (In-Person, Hybrid, or Remote for the Right Candidate)

Position Type: Partnership Track or Staff Attorney

Compensation: Competitive and Commensurate with Experience

Nooney & Solay is a busy and fast-paced law firm seeking a motivated attorney with approximately 2–5 years of experience to join our transactional practice. This position offers substantial client contact, meaningful responsibility, and the opportunity to work on sophisticated matters in a collaborative environment.

Our transactional practice group focuses primarily on:

- Estate Planning, Probate, and Trust Administration
- Business Formation, Governance, and Transactions
- Real Estate Transactions

Commercial Contracts and General Business Counseling
The ideal candidate will be comfortable managing matters independently while also collaborating closely with attorneys and staff. Strong drafting skills, attention to detail, practical problem-solving abilities, and excellent client service are essential.

Qualifications:

- Juris Doctor (J.D.) from an accredited law school
- Licensed to practice law in South Dakota, or willing and eligible to obtain South Dakota licensure within a reasonable period following hire
- 2–5 years of experience in one or more transactional practice areas
- Strong legal research, writing, and drafting skills

- Ability to manage multiple matters and deadlines efficiently
- Desire to build client relationships and contribute to firm growth

What We Offer:

- Competitive compensation based on experience and qualifications
- Flexible work arrangements, including in-office, hybrid, and remote opportunities for the right candidate
- Meaningful client interaction and responsibility from day one
- Collaborative and supportive work environment
- Opportunity for professional growth and business development
- Partnership-track opportunity for candidates interested in long-term firm leadership
- Staff attorney position available for candidates seeking a non-partnership role

We are committed to finding the right fit and are open to tailoring the position based on the candidate's experience, goals, and preferred work arrangement. Qualified candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and writing sample for consideration to Marli A. Schippers (marli@nooneysolay.com).

HIRING?

Find out how you can post
your open positions here!

Email: tailynn.bradford@sdbar.net

Deputy/Senior Deputy Public Defender

Salary- \$3,780.00 - \$4,376.00 Biweekly

Location- 415 N. Dakota Ave Sioux Falls, SD

Job Type- Full Time

Job Number- 26-54

Department- Public Defender

Division- Public Defender

Opening Date- 07/07/2026

Why Join Our Team

The Minnehaha County Public Defender's Office is looking for a dedicated Deputy/Senior Deputy Public Defender with excellent advocacy skills who is committed to ensuring justice to indigent clients appearing in the criminal and juvenile justice system. We are currently seeking an applicant who is interested in becoming part of an experienced litigation team that has a high capacity for trials and offers an expansive opportunity for courtroom practice. Apply now to be considered for this opportunity to grow your criminal defense practice, access our expansive document library, and surround yourself with skilled criminal defense attorneys.

A comprehensive benefits package includes paid holidays; health, dental, vision, and life insurance; generous PTO program; extended sick leave program; inclusion in the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS); and a deferred compensation plan!

*****Please attach a cover letter to the online application.*****

This posting will remain open until filled. Review of applications begins on July 21st, 2026.

The hiring range is \$3,780.00 to \$4,376.00/biweekly.

How You Will Make an Impact

- Advocate on behalf of individuals charged with felonies and misdemeanors through all phases of litigation to include pre-trial, trial, and litigating all aspects of the case through disposition.
- Coordinate efforts with a support team of paralegals and other staff to ensure the responsible handling of a demanding caseload through disposition of the case.
- Maintain client communications by telephone, office appointments, and institutional visits. Keep client apprised of investigations, negotiations, and court rulings.
- Appear at regularly scheduled court dockets and appearances related to an assigned caseload.
- Conduct legal research and draft motions and pleadings.
- Interview witnesses and review legal documents, police

reports, transcripts, and related correspondence.

- Attend professional development training both within and outside the office.

What You Need to Succeed in this Role

Graduation from a college of law and attainment of a Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school. Admission by the Supreme Court of South Dakota to practice law in the State of South Dakota; be licensed to practice law in any other state and able to take the next bar examination offered in South Dakota; or be a recent law school graduate, eligible to sit for the next available South Dakota bar examination. Comparable combination of education and experience may be considered. Possession of a valid driver's license and must maintain a safe driving record with Minnehaha County. Must successfully complete pre-employment background process.

Working knowledge of civil and criminal law, court procedures, and the principles and practices of legal research. Ability to work with a diverse population and be attentive to the needs of the clientele. Working knowledge of principles, methods, materials, and practices utilized in legal research. Working knowledge of general law and established precedents. Effective verbal and written communication in the preparation and presentation of legal matters in hearings, courts of law, and meetings with others. Ability to work independently within general policy guidelines and legal parameters. Knowledge of and skill in using technology and related software systems. Ability to build and maintain positive, collaborative relationships with colleagues, other agencies, clients, and the public. Present a professional appearance and communicate with others in a respectful and approachable way.

Consideration for appointment as a Senior Deputy Public Defender requires a minimum of two years of relevant work experience.

EEO Statement

Minnehaha County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national origin or ancestry, citizenship, sex or gender including pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity, marital status, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status. Arrangements for accommodations required by disabilities can be made by contacting Human Resources at (605) 367-4337.

For more information visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/minnehaha/jobs/5401389/deputy-senior-deputy-public-defender?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>.

SD Division of Banking – Financial Institution Examiner

Location: Sioux Falls or Pierre, SD

Salary: \$27.86 - \$29.25 per hour, depending on qualifications

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

This is a full-time, 40 hours/week, position with the South Dakota Division of Banking, part of the Department of Labor & Regulation. The Division of Banking (<https://dlr.sd.gov/banking>) regulates the state's banking, trust, and financial services industries to assure that our citizens have confidence in our state's financial markets and services. We are seeking inquisitive individuals with analytical and communication skills to join our team of professional Bank, Trust Company, and Financial Services Examiners in Pierre or Sioux Falls.

As part of a team, examiners:

- determine the financial condition of state-chartered or licensed companies;
- evaluate adequacy of company internal control procedures;
- determine compliance with state and federal statutes and rules;
- evaluate investment portfolios and decision-making to determine suitability;
- review and evaluate the oversight and governance structure of companies;
- make recommendations on findings; and,
- investigate consumer complaints related to supervised companies.

The ideal candidate will have:

- At least a bachelor's degree in trust, banking, finance, accounting, or a related field, with an advanced degree preferred. Professional experience that leads to mastery of the following knowledge and abilities will be considered.
- Knowledge of accounting and auditing principles and procedures; the organization of companies; financial work environments; state and federal statutes and regulations; and Microsoft Office products and management information systems.
- Skill to communicate effectively; gather, interpret, report, and use financial information; understand and interpret federal and state trust regulations; effectively manage time and prioritize tasks.

Examiners at the Division of Banking enjoy regular on-the-job internal and external training, pay advancements, positive working environments, personal growth, and opportunities for certifications and advancement.

Additionally, state employees are offered strong retirement, insurance, holiday, and vacation, sick, and family leave benefits.

Must apply online: <https://gen-stateofsouthdako-trn.inforcloudsuite.com/hcm/xmlhttp/shorturl.do?key=476>.

Application requirements: a letter of interest, resume, post-secondary transcripts, and a writing sample.

Successful applicant(s) will be required to undergo a background investigation. An arrest/conviction record will not necessarily bar employment.

This position is exempt from the Civil Service Act. This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference per ARSD 55:10:02:08.

Deputy State's Attorney Position, Hughes County

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

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

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

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

Preferred Qualifications: One or more years' experience is highly preferred. The ideal candidate would have 2 to 5 years' experience in the abuse and neglect area but will consider all applicants with a strong desire to work on behalf of and ensure the safety of children.

Hughes County offers a comprehensive benefits package for employees including health and dental insurance, participation in the SD Retirement System, and paid time off. Salary range is \$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.

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

Associate Attorney - Criminal Defense

Location: Hybrid Position – based in Sioux Falls, SD
Position Type: Full-time

About Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm: Halbach|Szwarc is a full-service law firm with offices in Sioux Falls, SD, and Sioux City, IA. Founded in 2023, we offer a modern, hybrid work environment built on responsiveness, quality, and a people-first culture. Our attorneys serve clients across a broad range of practice areas, including business and real estate law, trust and estate planning, litigation, criminal defense, government investigations, family law, employment and labor, and nonprofit and regulatory matters.

We are deeply committed to mentorship, collaboration, and long-term professional growth. Whether you're just starting your legal career or looking to expand your expertise, you'll find a supportive team that values your development and trusts you to contribute meaningfully from day one.

Behind every client experience is a close-knit team of attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and administrative professionals working together to deliver efficient, thoughtful, and client-centered legal solutions.

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 the Criminal Defense 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.

Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

Senior Attorney - Litigation

Company: Halbach|Szwarc Law Firm

Location: Hybrid-Remote Position | Sioux City, IA area

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.

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 Iowa and eligible to become licensed in South Dakota and Nebraska.

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, and 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 Iowa; ability to obtain licensure in 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 and Alex Halbach at 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.

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.

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

Assistant Attorney General - Civil Division

Agency: Office of Attorney General

Location: Pierre

Salary: \$85,000.00 - \$100,000.00

Pay Grade: L1-L2

Closing Date: September 1, 2026

This is a full-time position with the Office of the Attorney General. For more information on the Office of the Attorney General, please visit <http://atg.sd.gov>.

The South Dakota Attorney General's Office seeks a highly motivated and detail-oriented attorney to serve as an Assistant Attorney General with a primary focus on administrative law and representation of public health boards and agencies. This position offers a unique opportunity to work at the intersection of law, policy, and public health, providing legal counsel on matters that directly impact the health and safety of South Dakota residents.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide legal advice and representation to state public health boards, commissions, and agencies, including licensing boards and regulatory bodies
- Handle administrative hearings, including contested case proceedings, disciplinary actions, and rulemaking matters
- Draft legal opinions and policy guidance related to public health regulation and enforcement
- Represent agencies in state and federal court proceedings, including appeals of administrative decisions

- Advise on compliance with state and federal laws, including due process requirements, open meetings laws, and public records laws
- Collaborate with agency staff, investigators, and other stakeholders on enforcement actions and regulatory initiatives
- Assist in developing and interpreting legislation impacting public health and administrative governance

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must have a juris doctorate from an accredited law school, be licensed to practice law in South Dakota or can promptly obtain licensure, and have excellent writing, research, and communication skills. Assistant Attorneys General must uphold the highest degrees of professionalism, integrity, and sound judgment.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Starting salary for this position ranges from \$85,000 to \$100,000 annually, depending on experience. In addition, the office offers a structured path for career advancement and pay growth on a merit basis. On top of a set salary, the State of South Dakota has an exceptional benefit package including retirement, health insurance, paid leave, and paid training opportunities. More information on our benefits package can be found at: <http://bhr.sd.gov>.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume containing three references, and a writing sample of no more than ten pages by **September 1, 2026**.

Submit application materials to Amanda Müller, Civil Division Deputy, amanda.mueller@state.sd.us or online at <http://bhr.sd.gov/workforus>.

This position is exempt from the Civil Service Act.

This position is eligible for Veterans' Preference per ARSD 55:10:02:08.

Successful applicant(s) will be required to undergo a background investigation. An arrest/conviction record will not necessarily bar employment. Successful applicant(s) will undergo an abuse and neglect screening. Offers of employment are conditional upon successful completion of a drug screening.

The State of South Dakota does not sponsor work visas for new or existing employees. All persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and complete an Employment Eligibility Verification, Form I-9. The State of South Dakota as an employer will be using E-Verify to complete employment eligibility verification upon hire.

The State of South Dakota offers employer paid health insurance plus eleven paid holidays, generous vacation and sick leave accrual, dental, vision, and other insurance options, and retirement benefits. You can view our benefits information at <https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/work-for-state-government/>. This position is a member of Class A retirement under SDRS.

Assistant Attorney General - Civil Division

Agency: Office of Attorney General

Location: Pierre, Rapid City, or Sioux Falls

Salary: \$115,000.00 - \$125,000.00

Pay Grade: L3

Closing Date: September 1, 2026

This is a full-time position with the Office of the Attorney General. For more information on the Office of the Attorney General, please visit <http://atg.sd.gov>. The South Dakota Attorney General's Office seeks an experienced civil litigator to serve as an Assistant Attorney General who will defend actions brought against the State and initiate affirmative litigation on behalf of the State. This position offers a unique opportunity to represent the State of South Dakota, its agencies, and officials in complex, high-impact civil litigation in both state and federal courts.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serve as lead counsel in civil litigation matters involving the State, including constitutional, administrative, and general civil claims
- Represent state agencies, boards, and officials in trial and appellate courts
- Provide legal advice and strategic counsel to client agencies on litigation risk and case development
- Draft pleadings, motions, briefs, and appellate filings
- Conduct discovery, take and defend depositions, and manage case strategy from inception through resolution
- Handle evidentiary hearings, trials, and oral arguments
- Collaborate with other divisions within the Attorney General's Office, as well as other state agencies

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must have a juris doctorate from an accredited law school, be licensed to practice law in South Dakota or can promptly obtain licensure, and have excellent writing, research, and communication skills. The ideal candidate will have eight or more years of litigation experience. Assistant Attorneys General must uphold the highest degrees of professionalism, integrity, and sound judgment.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Starting salary for this position ranges from \$115,000 to \$125,000 annually, depending on experience. On top of a set salary, the State of South Dakota has an exceptional benefit package including retirement, health insurance, paid leave, and paid training opportunities. More information on our benefits package can be found at: <http://bhr.sd.gov>.

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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

Career Opportunity

US PROBATION & PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER

DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA



Vacancy No.: 08-26

Number of Vacancies: 1

Location: Rapid City, 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 August 14th, 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)

www.sdd.uscourts.gov

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 Rapid City, 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.
- Documents and maintains 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 08-26" in the subject line to:

recruitment@sdd.uscourts.gov



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, custodial, 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

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 of 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 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 OF SOUTH DAKOTA UPCOMING EVENTS

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SEP, 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026 BANKRUPTCY CLE

9:00 AM - 4:15 PM HILTON GARDEN INN SIOUX
FALLS DOWNTOWN

25

SEP, 2026

2026 NUTS & BOLTS CLE

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM DRIFTERS, FT. PIERRE,
SOUTH DAKOTA

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

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