



2014 Public Law Section Awards

On May 16, 2014, the Public Law Section presented its annual awards of excellence. The following articles are from presentation comments made at the awards ceremony or from nomination letters submitted on behalf of the recipient.

Rosalie E. Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence: Honorable Thomas J. Kalitowski



The Honorable Thomas J. Kalitowski

Award presentation and comments by Kim Buechel Mesun.

Judge Kalitowski was appointed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals by Governor Perpich in November 1987 at the age of 39. He was the 14th judge appointed to the newly created court. He brought to that court experience as a public lawyer, working with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office from 1973-75. He also had extensive administrative experience with the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture (Asst. Commissioner 1975-77), Minnesota Water Planning Board and Upper Mississippi River Basin Assoc. (Chairman 1977-83), Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (Chair 1983-84), Environmental Division of the State Planning Agency (Director 1983-84), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Commissioner 1984-87).

During his 26 1/2 years on the court of appeals in addition to being an excellent jurist, he served the judicial system in many other capacities serving on various committees, councils, commissions and panels:

- 2001-02 – Member of Special State Redistricting Panel
- 2002-04 – Member of Minnesota Supreme Court Juvenile Protection Rules Committee
- 2006-07 – Member of the Citizens Commission for the Preservation of an Impartial Judiciary
- 2008-09 – Member of the Minnesota Supreme Court Judicial Performance Evaluation Study Committee

2008-14 – At-large Member of the Minnesota Judicial Council (the administrative policy-making authority for the Minnesota Judicial Branch)

Judge Kalitowski also served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota Law School from 2006-14.

In addition to his work with the various judicial groups, Judge Kalitowski served on the Public Law Section Executive Council for 13 years (1999-2012) including several years as the Council Secretary. He really enjoyed that job. While he was on the council he also served on the MSBA Board of Governors and provided a strong voice for the unique perspective of judges and public lawyers. He served with Nancy McLean as Co-chair of the PLS Pro Bono Task Force from 2008-10.

He was also a regular participant over the years in the bi-monthly PLS Loaves and Fishes projects. He was the master dishwasher of the large pans used to fry the hamburger for the tator tot hot dish and no one was better at breaking down boxes for recycling. He also volunteered at the various Habitat for Humanity projects undertaken by the PLS. As will many of the judges and lawyers who volunteered with Habitat over the years, people bring a varying level of skill to the world of home construction. We are judges and lawyers after all. This was true with Tom. He was great at hauling dirt and lumber but there was one time while doing dry walling he commented that he wasn't sure he would live in a house he worked on. As luck would have it, the homeowner was only a few feet away when he said it. Tom was the back-up officiate for the famous Habitat for Humanity Brush with Kindness wedding performed at a PLS project on May 1, 2009.

Judge Kalitowski more than meets the qualifications of the Rosalie Wahl award. Not only does he have high ideals, personal character and judicial competence, but he also has gone beyond the ordinary call of duty participating in projects focused on improving the quality of justice and the judicial system. He is a deserving recipient of the 2014 Rosalie E. Wahl Award for Judicial Excellence.



Award presented to the Hon. Tom Kalitowski by Kim Buechel Mesun

Previous Recipients of the Rosalie E. Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence

2013 *Hon. J. Thomas Mott*

2012 *Hon. Kathleen Gearin*

2011 *Hon. Harriet Lansing*
2010 *Hon. John Rodenberg*
2009 *Hon David S. Doty*
2008 *Hon. Russell A. Anderson*
2007 *Hon. John P. Smith*
2006 *Hon. Ann Montgomery*
2005 *Hon. Allan W. Klein*
2004 *Hon. John R. Tunheim*
2003 *Hon. Joanne Smith*
2002 *Hon. Renee L. Worke*
2001 *Hon. George A. Beck*
2000 *Hon. J. Earl Cudd*
1999 *Hon. Leslie May Metzen*
1998 *Hon Kenneth F. Fitzpatrick*
1997 *Hon. George H. Hoey*

Julius E. Gernes Prosecutor Award of Excellence: G. Paul Beaumaster



G. Paul Beaumaster

Award presentation and comments by Jeff Edblad.

During his legal career and his lengthy tenure as Rice County Attorney, Mr. Beaumaster has demonstrated a significant history of leadership and has consistently strived to improve the quality of justice in the State of Minnesota. Mr. Beaumaster's significant history of leadership includes his service to the Minnesota County Attorney's Association as its president, president elect, secretary and treasurer. Br. Beaumaster has also served as the president of the Minnesota County Attorney's Association Educational Foundation and has been an active member of the Minnesota County Attorney's Association Board of Directors and has served on multiple committees for several years.

Mr. Beaumaster's leadership at the state level also includes having served as a member of the assembly of the Minnesota State Bar Association, as well as having been a member and chair of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Policy Group and holding membership on the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Familial DNA Program. He has also demonstrated leadership in taking an active role in technology issues facing county attorneys by serving as a member of the Executive Board and holding the positions of chair and secretary-treasurer of the

Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative. Mr. Beaumaster has also chaired the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative user group and has been at the forefront of the e-charging process for criminal complaints

Mr. Beaumaster has also been active in leadership positions within Rice County. He has been a member of the Rice County Sex Offender Monitoring Task Force, the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition, the Rice County Safe Communities Coalition, the Rice County Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Action Response Team, the Rice County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Committee, the Rice County Domestic Assault Response Team and the Rice County Bar Association.

Mr. Beaumaster's work to make Rice County a better place for citizens includes his service as a volunteer with a number of civic and community organizations. He has served on the board of directors for the South Central College Foundation, the Rice County Crisis Center/Hope Center, and the Rice County Historical Society. Mr. Beaumaster has worked with youth as a Northfield youth soccer volunteer, a USSA swimming official, a member of the Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and has been the attorney coach of the successful Northfield High School mock trial team. Mr. Beaumaster has also served as an adjunct professor at Anoka Ramsey Community College during his tenure as an Assistant Isanti County Attorney, as well as being an adjunct faculty member at South Central College during his term as Rice County Attorney. Each year Mr. Beaumaster makes a number of presentations to Northfield High School and Faribault High School students on issues involving the criminal justice system.

Mr. Beaumaster has an impressive history of service to the legal profession at both the state and local level, but what impresses me the most about him is that he still remains a courtroom litigator. Mr. Beaumaster consistently carried one of the heavier caseloads in the Rice County Attorney's Office while serving in multiple leadership positions at the state level. It is because of this history of leadership and service to the legal profession of the State of Minnesota that it is my honor and privilege to present the 2014 Julius E. Gernes Prosecutor of Excellence Award to Paul Beaumaster.



Award presented to Paul Beaumaster by Jeff Edblad.

Previous Recipients of the Julius E. Gernes Prosecutor Award of Excellence

2013 *William Klumpp, Jr.*

2012 *Eric Leonard*
2011 *Mark S. Rubin*
2010 *Minneapolis City Attorney's Office Domestic Assault Team*
2009 *Gail Baez*
2008 *Jeffrey R. Edblad*
2007 *Susan E. Gaertner*
2006 *Cary William Schmies*
2005 *Steve Redding*
2004 *Kathryn A. Santelmann*
2003 *Larry M. Collins*
2002 *Al Zdrzil*
2001 *Alan J. Harris*
1999 *James C. Backstrom*
1998 *Dianne A. Ward*
1997 *John R. Speakman*
1996 *Conrad I. Freeberg*

William E. McGee Public Defender Award of Excellence: William M. Ward



William M. Ward

Award presentation and comments by Patrick Kittridge.

For the past three decades Bill Ward has dedicated his considerable energies to the fair, nondiscriminatory administration of justice and representation of litigants of limited means. He has brought innovation and exhibited creativity and initiative in the representation of the indigent. All the while he's shown extraordinary leadership on the local, state and national level. It is fitting that Bill be recognized with the William E. McGee Public Defender Award of Excellence for those many years of tireless service vindicating the rights of those whose voices have been muted by powerlessness. This recognition rewards Bill for his continuing efforts and ennobles the memory and legacy of the man for whom this award is named.

After graduation from law school at DePaul in 1986, Bill moved into the world of public defense with vigor as a trial attorney with the Office of the Cook County Public Defender. Ultimately Bill's outstanding work there resulted in his placement in the capital division of the office.

He's tried over eighty criminal matters to verdict before juries and had had over one hundred bench trials. As a trial attorney he always conducts his defense with integrity and diligence. He

never marginalizes a client, always respects their right to self-determination while zealously safeguarding their rights and advancing their defense. By the nature of his employment, and by choice, his clients have always been those of limited means.

It is our good fortune that Bill came to Minnesota in 2001 to assume the job of chief public defender in the Tenth Judicial District. He brought with him some new ideas for the tenth and the rest of the state. He championed creative, client-centered advocacy, the collaborative brainstorming of cases and the assignment of co-counsel to better serve the needs of those appointed a public defender. The tenth is a sprawling district composed of rural, urban and suburban clientele. Bill promoted accountability within the office and worked to forge a stronger partnership among the constituent agencies making up the criminal justice system. After eight years Bill left the district in great shape and it remains a model of excellence.

Next, like Bill McGee, Bill was appointed to lead the Fourth District Public Defender's Office. The Fourth has a longstanding history of innovation, independent thought and powerful representation. It has a national reputation as a standard bearer for public defense. Managing the office, however, is not for the faint of heart. Bill undertook his duties with characteristic vision and confidence. His team restructured office assignments and operations to better serve the needs of their clients on the ever-changing landscape of criminal justice. They formalized a forensic unit and brought in-house expertise to the volatile and dynamic issues surrounding immigration. Today the office remains a national leader.

Bill has been appointed, and will assume the position of, State Defender on July 1 when John Stuart retires after nearly a quarter century in the job.

Bill McGee and Bill Ward both served the indigent of Minnesota as advocates and administrators. Each served as the chief public defender in the fourth district. Both dedicated their professional careers to justice on the micro and macro levels. They are both visionaries. Each has cast a long shadow on the geography of advocacy for the indigent. By recognizing Bill Ward we honor the values and still existing vitality of William McGee's vision. I give you Bill Ward.



Award presented to Bill Ward by Pat Kittridge

Previous Recipients of the William E. McGee Public Defender Award of Excellence

2013 Michael F. Cromett

2012 *Connie Iversen and Patrick Valentini*
2011 *Daniel Sadowski*
2010 *Patrick Kittridge*
2009 *Lisa Kristine McNaughton*
2008 *F. Richard Gallo, Jr.*
2007 *Noreen C. Phillips*
2006 *Daniel M. Scott*
2005 *Brad Colbert*
2004 *Paul G. Thompson*
2003 *Richard G. Carlson*
2002 *Ronald Greenley*
2001 *Cynthia T. Daley*
2000 *Larry Hammerling*
1999 *Manley Zimmerman*
1998 *Harry Newby, Jr.*
1997 *Candace Rasmussen*
1996 *Fred Friedman*

**Public Attorney Award of Excellence – Attorney Working in a Government Agency:
Katherine A. Engler**



Katherine A. Engler

Award presentation and comments by Lynn Belgea

I am honored by the opportunity to present this 2014 Public Attorney Award of Excellence for a lawyer practicing in a government agency to Katherine Engler. Katie exemplifies the dedication and commitment to public service and the public practice of law recognized by this award.

Katie has a wealth of public law experience, including serving as a Minnesota district court law clerk, a staff attorney for the Minnesota Secretary of State, and the Assistant Director of the Minnesota Department of Administration Information Policy Analysis Division. For the last six years, Katie has served as the Senior Legal Analyst for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) in the BCA's Minnesota Justice Information Services Division and as the BCA's Legislative Coordinator.

Katie's work at the BCA is at the crossroads of public safety and individual privacy. The BCA is entrusted to maintain and disseminate highly sensitive data related to all aspects of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Katie has spent the past six years working on criminal justice information integration issues to ensure that criminal justice information is shared and accessed appropriately and securely, and that criminal justice professionals get the right information at the right time and in the right place. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of a new system and related training to provide driver and vehicle information to law enforcement in a more secure environment, which rolled out statewide in February 2014.

Katie is recognized throughout the state as a data practices and legal expert and uses her expertise to advise others on state and federal laws impacting countless public policy issues. During the past year, Katie has been integrally involved in the policy discussion surrounding clarifying and expanding current adult and juvenile expungement law in Minnesota. She has advised the Legislature and the Governor's Office on the implementation of proposed legislative changes. I am sure her involvement will continue, as I understand the expungement bill was signed by the Governor yesterday.

Katie is a regular attendee at and valued contributor to the Public Law Section's Data Practices Committee. In particular, speaking as one of the co-chairs of that committee, I appreciate her willingness to keep us apprised of the court decisions and legislative work groups dealing with expungements over the past couple of years. Simply put, she pays attention to the details so I don't have to.

In addition to Katie's professional accomplishments, she volunteers with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. She teaches individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members how to advocate for themselves on issues such as data practices and provides them coaching on the legislative process and parliamentary procedure.

Katie's nominator for this award summed up Katie's contributions, saying, "In my time spent working with Katie, I've found her to be fiercely intelligent and passionate about her work. She enjoys coaching, teaching, and sharing her expertise with others, and is committed to maintaining integrity in her profession."



Award presented to Katie Engler by Lynn Belgea

Previous Recipients of the Public Attorney Award of Excellence: Attorney Working in a Government Agency

2013 *Ann Stiem Ahlstrom*
2011 *Debra Swaden*
2009 *Stephen A. Shakman*
2008 *Virginia Rae Bly*
2007 *Allen E. Giles*
2006 *Dennis Wade Erickson*
2005 *Gail M. Olson*
2004 *Kenneth A. Nickolai*
2003 *Richard A. Wexler*
2001 *Thomas W. Anderson*
2000 *Laura D. Kadwell*
1999 *Ann Russell*
1998 *Michael B. Johnson*
1997 *Julie M. Brunner*

**Public Attorney Award of Excellence – Civil Attorney Working in a Public Law Office:
Eric D. Larson**



Eric D. Larson

Award presented by Laurie Hansen. Comments by Louis Jambois.

Eric Larson has distinguished himself by his extraordinary leadership skills and by his drive and creative thinking. A public redevelopment organization like the Port Authority is always under scrutiny from our wide-ranging public and private partners. And, at any one time, Eric will have 10 or more legal requests from staffers on his desk.

He consistently and efficiently disposes of these assignments with the utmost professionalism. But he also provides strategic counsel to me – and others on the Port staff – on non-legal areas. As a result we consistently put our best foot forward on all of our projects.

His dedication to the Port's mission is personal as well as professional. It's as if he was born to make it easier for businesses to grow and expand in Saint Paul, while growing good-paying jobs and a sustainable tax base.

Two years ago, when the Port began its first-ever outreach program touting the benefits of a healthy industrial section in Saint Paul, Eric volunteered to make some of the presentations himself. To date, we have reached over 160 businesses, neighborhoods, and other community organizations with our message. Eric has contributed greatly to this effort by either reaching out to these organizations himself, or helping us hone our message to various groups. Recently, when Minnesota's minority councils, chambers of commerce and other organizations asked us to help them land good-paying jobs for their members, Eric took the lead in looking for ways the Port Authority could encourage customers to widen their job searches.

Personally he is a joy to be around. His enthusiasm for his work is contagious. There is a lot more laughter in the Port offices since Eric became our general counsel.

So it is my great pleasure to ask you to recognize at the State Bar Association what we already know and covet at the Saint Paul Port Authority – Eric is an extraordinary public attorney.



Award presented to Eric Larson by Laurie Hansen.

Previous Recipients of the Public Attorney Award of Excellence: Civil Attorney Working in a Public Law Office

- 2013 *John L. Kirwin*
- 2012 *Gregory J. Wiley*
- 2011 *Jocelyn F. Olson*
- 2010 *Anthony C. Palumbo and Robert E. Asleson*
- 2009 *Christie B. Eller and John T. Kelly*
- 2008 *Jay M. Heffern*
- 2007 *Kenneth E. Raschke, Jr.*
- 2006 *Douglas J. Gregor*
- 2005 *Joan D. Humes*
- 2004 *Toni Beitz*
- 2003 *Mark J. Ponsolle*
- 2002 *David R. Ornstein*
- 2001 *Robert A. Stanich*
- 2000 *John L. Kirwin and Desyl Peterson*
- 1999 *William P. Donohue*
- 1998 *Alan C. Williams*
- 1997 *Richard S. Slowes*
- 1996 *Beverly Jones Heydinger*

Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Awards:
Frederick T. Friedman
Thomas A. Fitzpatrick
Stephen J. Bubul
Nancy McLean



Frederick T. Friedman

Award presented by Daniel Lew, Bruce Williams, and James Perunvich. Comments by Bruce Williams.

Fred Friedman retired March 31, 2014 from the Sixth Judicial Public Defender's Office where he had served as Chief since 1986. He is only the second supervisor this office has ever known and is Minnesota's most senior chief defender.

Fred has been an attorney since 1972 having graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Law. He has been a public defender since February 1, 1973 and has served the public for 41 years.

He was born and raised in Chicago and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Fred moved to Duluth in March of 1964 and graduated from Duluth Denfeld High School in 1965. He attended the University of Minnesota - Duluth where he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1969. He has taught at schools and seminars for the public and private criminal bar in Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Washington D.C., the U. K., France, Germany, and Singapore. He knows at least ten individuals in each location and who was their fourth grade math teacher.

Fred is also an associate professor at the University of Minnesota - Duluth where he has taught since 1975 and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and the School of Medicine. I, myself, was a student in Fred's class in 1986 shortly before I graduated from UMD in 1987. As a result of taking his course, Sociology of Criminal Law, I was able to intern at the Sixth District Public Defender's Office for three months. It changed my life. After graduating from Hamline Law School in 1990, Fred hired me as an Assistant Public Defender for the Sixth District where I have remained part-time handling felony matters in Virginia, Minnesota for 24 years.

As I told Fred at our last annual public defender meeting in Hermantown, Minnesota, “We are not losing a supervisor, we are losing a friend.” Fred has consistently maintained a highly talented core of attorneys to defend indigent folks charged with serious crimes. He not only tried hundreds of jury trials himself, but provided assistance and advice to others. He was also responsible for assigning and assisting counsel in many of our state’s most high profile cases, such as *State v. Donald Blom*.

Fred is a friend to many and passionately advocated for those who could not advocate for themselves. He made thousands of trips to our state’s capital in a continuing effort to serendipitously obtain and maintain current funding levels for all public defenders in Minnesota. He is a friend to not only other public servants such as prosecutors, judges and probation officers but is generous with his time by volunteering at the National Public Defender Trial School at the University of Dayton and the North Carolina School of Government Trial School.

Please consider the credentials of my retiring mentor and friend for the Douglas K. Amdahl Award. He has earned it.



Fred Friedman was unable to attend the awards ceremony and his award was received by Sixth Judicial District Public Defender colleagues Daniel Lew, Bruce Williams and James Perunvich.



Thomas A. Fitzpatrick

Award presentation and comments by Patricia Beety.

I am pleased to be able to present the 2014 Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Award to Tom Fitzpatrick. Tom recently retired from the practice of law after a 40 year public service career which included serving as Brainerd’s city attorney for the past two

decades. His contributions to the Brainerd community and Minnesota's municipal law practice are significant and long-lasting.

Tom graduated from Brainerd High School in 1964 and St. John's University in 1968. He then attended the University of Minnesota Law School where, as a law clerk, he got his first taste of public law working on municipal labor law projects, including some new legislation for public sector labor relations which we know today as MPELRA. After graduating from law school in 1971, Tom returned to Brainerd and worked in the family law firm with his father, S.G. Fitzpatrick, and Tom's older brother John. The firm also included Duane Larson, who was a long time Brainerd city attorney. Tom's father was Brainerd's city attorney in the 1940s and 50s. So it is no doubt true that Tom grew up immersed in local government issues. While it may have been destiny, Tom's career was anything but ordinary. Ask any attorney practicing municipal law today in Minnesota, and Tom's name will be received with reverence and respect.

Here is a very quick summary of Tom's public service: Tom was hired as Brainerd's City Attorney in 1992 and continued in this position until his retirement last December. Tom, along with his father, also provided the Brainerd School District with an amazing 75 years of legal service. Between city council and school board meetings, Tom estimates that he has attended between 1,400 – 1,500 night meetings over the course of his career. I'm sure his wife Anna is just getting used to having him home every night. In addition to serving as legal counsel for the city and school board, Tom represented close to 20 other government entities including cities, counties, and school districts in the Brainerd area. Over the course of his career, Tom's labor relations expertise became widely sought after in north central Minnesota, having negotiated labor contracts on behalf of Crow Wing County, Cass County and most recently, Wadena County.

If you have spent any time in the Brainerd Lakes area, or know something of the region's history and growth, you can appreciate that Tom was never bored in his job. Tom was at the center of many changes over the past four decades and oversaw numerous development projects as the Brainerd Lakes area grew both commercially and residentially. As Tom's longtime assistant Connie Olson told me, Tom truly loved his hometown and enjoyed helping newcomers with planning and zoning issues.

I have known Tom for over twenty years through my position at the League of Minnesota Cities. He has always stood out as a leader in the city attorney community, serving as President of the Minnesota City Attorneys Association and remaining active throughout his career; always contributing his experience and sage advice to his colleagues.

Tom was also one of my favorite clients when on occasion I was appointed defense counsel to Brainerd in litigated matters handled by the League. I always respected Tom thoughtful and practical approach to some very complicated and politically messy situations. His advice always provided the right balance of sound legal authority mixed with a good amount of common sense. As well as a healthy dose of good humor.

Tom has been a role model to many of us in the municipal law community. His kind and humble demeanor is also what makes him so appreciated. In fact when he found out about his

nomination for this award he was genuinely surprised and asked “Why me? I’m just a small town guy.” All who know him, know Tom’s impact has been anything but small. This award recognizes his long and distinguished career in public service. Thank you Tom and congratulations.



Award presented to Thomas Fitzpatrick by Patricia Beety.



Stephen J. Bubul

Award presentation and comments by Corrine Heine.

I am honored to present the Douglas J. Amdahl award to Stephen J. Bubul. Steve has spent his entire career in public service, and he has distinguished himself as one of the best public finance attorneys in the state.

Steve’s public career began before law school, when he was employed as a municipal planner. After law school, he clerked for Justice Peter Popovich at the Minnesota Supreme Court, and in 1988, he joined a municipal law firm, where he learned the craft of representing local government bodies. Later, Steve joined the firm now known as Kennedy & Graven, and it was there that Steve honed his craft to perfection.

Steve has been an advisor on public finance and tax increment financing matters to cities, economic development authorities, and housing and redevelopment authorities all over the State of Minnesota. He was the guiding hand behind the financing of significant redevelopment projects, including Excelsior and Grand in St. Louis Park and the Burnsville

Performing Arts Center. He also served as the City Attorney for the City of Crystal for many years

But Steve never stopped at merely serving his clients. He served his profession and the general public good. He was a board member and president of the Minnesota Institute for Public Finance and an active member in EDAM, the Economic Development Association of Minnesota. He became the “go-to” person when the legislature needed testimony about the impacts of proposed public finance legislation.

Outside the legal profession, he served as a board member and president of Quatrefoil Library, a library dedicated to making materials on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender materials available in a safe and accessible space. He was a board member and board chair for the fundraising group now known as Community Shares of Minnesota. He served on the board of PFund, a foundation that provides grants and scholarships to LGBT-related individuals and organizations. He is a current member of the board for the Rondo Community Land Trust.

To prepare for this presentation, I asked several of Steve’s clients and colleagues to share their thoughts. His clients told me about his passion for serving communities, his calm and reassuring manner, his ability to present complex financial deals in an understandable fashion and his openness to new ideas. There were two responses, though, that captured the essence of “Bubulness.”

Joel Michael, the Legal Services Coordinator at House Research, said that four things stand out about Steve: (quote from letter)

- Steve had an encyclopedic technical knowledge of the complex federal and state rules governing municipal bonds.
- Beyond simply knowing the nuances of the legal rules, he understood and could explain the “why” – the policies underlying them.
- Even more important, Steve could express it all in ways that legislators and other policy makers could understand.
- Steve recognized that as lawyers representing governmental entities, we have a higher duty to the “public” that government is of, by and for.

And Mark Ruff, from Ehlers, mirrored Joel’s comments about Steve’s technical skills. He also said that Steve “engendered a sense of confidence in all of the transaction participants that . . . this project was going to get done.” But Mark summed it up with:

[H]is concern for others was his true gift. Council members instantly trusted him because they knew from his presentations that he wanted what they wanted. In real estate transactions, he was always personable without allowing tense negotiations to become personal. And Steve was always kind and patient with our operations staff, new public sector employees, and all of those people who were just regular people. That is the sign of a true humanitarian.

And THAT is Steve Bubul.



Award presented to Steve Bubul by Corrine Heine.



Nancy McLean

Award presentation and comments by Greg Brooker.

It is my distinct privilege and honor to present the Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Award to Nancy McLean, the long-time Hennepin County prosecutor who devoted her entire legal career to the public practice of law. Nancy recently retired from public service and is unable to be with us today. She is, however, very excited to be receiving this award.

As noted, Nancy spent her entire legal career as a public attorney, first in the St. Paul City Attorney's Office and for most of her career in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. As an assistant county attorney, Nancy handled a wide range of prosecutions, including narcotics, juvenile, and adult felonies. She tried many cases over the years and was a great mentor to new prosecutors and law clerks. She also found time in the office to volunteer for special projects and to coordinate office charity work.

In 1990, Nancy was the co-chair of a task force that recommended to the MSBA the creation of this section, the MSBA Public Law Section, which will soon be celebrating its 25th year. Nancy has been very active in the MSBA and in the Hennepin County Bar Association throughout her career, having served on numerous committees and working groups. For many years she was a member of the MSBA Public Law Section Council and the MSBA Board of Governors. Nancy also spearheaded many volunteer projects for the MSBA and the Public Law Section, including clothing drives at state bar conventions, Loaves and Fishes, and gift drives during the holidays. For her charitable work, Nancy received the MSBA's highest award for pro bono and community service work.

Nancy was also active in the American Bar Association's Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division. She attended several ABA leadership conferences and participated in forums and panels. She was also an active member of Minnesota Women Lawyers.

Throughout her career, Nancy has been a tireless advocate for justice. She logged in long hours trying cases at the same time she was raising two wonderful children.

For her devotion to public service and to the public practice of law, Nancy is very deserving of this public attorney career achievement award. We all wish Nancy well in her active years in retirement. In typical Nancy fashion, she is spending her first year of retirement busily volunteering for charities and making a difference in her community.



Nancy McLean was unable to attend the awards ceremony and her award was accepted by Greg Brooker.

Previous Recipients of the Douglas K. Amdahl Public Attorney Career Achievement Award

- 2013 *Steven C. Moon, Mary E. Miller*
- 2012 *John LeFevre, Judith Rehak, Richard Slowes*
- 2011 *Steven M. Gunn*
- 2010 *Hon. Lawrence Cohen, Jan Petersen*
- 2009 *David J. Kennedy*
- 2008 *Lane Ayres, Hon. Allen Oleisky, Jeanne Schleh*
- 2007 *Quy T. Dam, Karel Lee Moersfelder, Michael R. Dean*
- 2006 *James Lammers, Alan Mitchell*
- 2005 *Philip J. Olfelt*
- 2004 *Carl Conney, Wayne G. Johnson, Eldon G. Kaul, Clayton LeFevre*
- 2003 *William E. Falvey, William E. McGee, John D. Tierney*
- 2002 *Hon. Gary L. Crippen, LeRoy Jackson, Hon. Kenneth J. Maas*
- 2001 *Hon. Douglas K. Amdahl*
- 2000 *Hon. Doris Ohlsen Huspeni, Phillip B. Byrne*
- 1999 *Hon. A. M. Sandy Keith*
- 1998 *hon. Esther Tomljanovich, James N. Bradford, Floyd B. Olson*
- 1997 *Hon. Rosalie E. Wahl, Stanley G. Peskar, William R. Kennedy, Julius E. Gernes*
- 1996 *Earle T. Anderson, Jr., Robert R.W. Johnson, Hon. Jon L. Lunde, Lloyd J. Moosbrugger*

There was not a 2014 recipient of the P. Kenneth Kohnstamm Pro Bono Attorney Award of Excellence. Previous recipients of this award have been:

- 2013 *Nancy McLean*
- 2011 *Beverly Jones Heydinger*
- 2010 *Ann E. Cohen and Gerald T. Hendrickson*
- 2008 *Kathie L. Battle-Sayles*
- 2007 *Patrick Burns*
- 2006 *P. Kenneth Kohnstamm*