



SUMMER 2024

RK ALUMNI CONNECT

NEWSLETTER

ABOUT RK ALUMNI CONNECT

RK Alumni Connect is a networking group for current and former Robins Kaplan attorneys. We provide forums for learning and professional development, an alumni website, CLE opportunities, development and training, community service activities, diversity and inclusion programming, pro bono opportunities, and networking and social events.

Visit us on [LinkedIn](#) or our [RK Alumni Connect](#) web page to stay current on updates from Robins Kaplan, get news about former colleagues, and receive information on a variety of legal developments, as we continue to build years of friendships.



GREETINGS

PA HOUA VUE

ATTORNEY RECRUITING MANAGER

PVue@RobinsKaplan.com

612.349.8744

Greetings! Welcome back to another edition of RK Alumni Connect, the newsletter that aims to reconnect, inform, and celebrate the accomplishments of our extended legal community.

In the following pages, we are excited to highlight alumni news, firm news, including recent firm successes and pro bono work, and past and upcoming events.



ALUMNI NEWS

Austin Miller, a Robins Kaplan alumnus and current Director Counsel - Litigation at Target Corporation, attended the firm's Associate meeting in March to present on "The Three Knows of In-House." He shared valuable tips on staying connected with in-house counsel and creating potential value from those connections. Austin's insight is invaluable, and the firm greatly appreciates his time and willingness to share his knowledge with our associates.



RK ALUMNI CONNECT

800 553 9910
ROBINSKAPLAN.COM

FIRM NEWS



Robins Kaplan LLP

CHAMBERS USA RECOGNIZES 5 ROBINS KAPLAN PRACTICE GROUPS AND 21 LAWYERS IN 2024 GUIDE

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that five of the firm's practice groups and 21 of its attorneys have been recognized in the Chambers USA Guide 2024.

[Read more here.](#)



ROBINS KAPLAN NAMED TO 2024 BTI CLIENT SERVICE A-TEAM

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that it has been named to BTI Consulting's 2024 Client Service A-Team, recognizing law firms that provide elite client service. [Read more here.](#)



ROBINS KAPLAN, ROBERT BENNETT RECOGNIZED IN ELITE TRIAL LAWYERS AWARDS

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that it has been selected as a finalist for Plaintiff Law Firm of the Year in *The National Law Journal's* 2024 Elite Trial Lawyers Awards. Additionally, Robert Bennett has been honored with *The National Law Journal's* Lifetime Achievement Award. [Read more here.](#)



DAVID MARTINEZ RECOGNIZED AMONG TOP 100 LAWYERS IN LOS ANGELES BY LA BUSINESS JOURNAL

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that David Martinez has been recognized on the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Top 100 Lawyers list, honoring leading attorneys in the Los Angeles region for their outstanding impact on the profession and the community. [Read more here.](#)



PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

The firm continues its track record of success both inside and outside of the courtroom. Here are recent highlights:

ROBINS KAPLAN SECURES \$7.75 MILLION VERDICT IN AEROSOL DUST REMOVER ABUSE CASE

Robins Kaplan LLP secured a landmark \$7.75 million verdict against CRC Industries for its failure to prevent the foreseeable misuse of its aerosol dust remover products. [Read more here.](#)

ROBINS KAPLAN FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS META, SNAP, TIKTOK ON BEHALF OF SPIRIT LAKE NATION, MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

Robins Kaplan LLP filed a first-of-its-kind lawsuit on behalf of the Spirit Lake Tribe in North Dakota and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin against entities that include Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta Platforms, Inc., Snap Inc., TikTok parent company ByteDance, and Alphabet Inc., which owns YouTube and Google. [Read more here.](#)

ROBINS KAPLAN FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST FORMER MINNEAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER DEREK CHAUVIN FOR UNCHECKED USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

Robins Kaplan LLP filed a complaint against former Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) officer Derek Chauvin and his previous partner, officer Ellen Jensen, for use of excessive force dating back to January 2020, months before Chauvin murdered George Floyd. [Read more here.](#)

KELLIE LERNER NAMED INTERIM CO-LEAD COUNSEL IN REPLACEMENT TIRES ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that partner Kellie Lerner has been appointed interim co-lead counsel on behalf of direct purchasers in *In re Passenger Vehicle Replacement Tires Antitrust Litigation*. This significant class action alleges that major tire manufacturers, including Goodyear, Michelin, and Bridgestone, colluded to artificially inflate prices of new replacement tires for passenger cars, vans, trucks, and buses sold in the United States, affecting millions of American consumers. [Read more here.](#)

PRO BONO

CLASS CERTIFICATION GRANTED IN CASE FOR VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Our *pro bono* case team recently obtained class certification in *Powers v. McDonough*. This class action against the federal government on behalf of unhoused veterans alleges claims of disability discrimination, breach of duty as trustee of a charitable trust, and violations of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

Over a decade ago, with the assistance of other counsel, our clients – unhoused veterans with severe disabilities – sued the federal government for failure to provide housing on grounds that were gifted to the United States as a home for wounded veterans. The federal government settled those claims by agreeing to build 1,200 permanent supportive housing units for veterans on the grounds with half of those units to be built by 2022. In 2021, the Veteran’s Administration Office of Inspector General reported that the government had not built any of these units and that “[The} VA envisions all phases of construction will be completed in the next 17 years.” Because the government did not keep its promise, the firm brought this lawsuit in late 2022. With class certification obtained, our case team is now preparing for trial.

OPPORTUNITIES, TRAININGS & CLINICS

Here are a few of the *pro bono* projects our attorneys are working on right now. Join us!

- **Veterans Consortium** (Nationwide): Help a veteran obtain denied benefits. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Immigration Equality** (Nationwide): Help an LGBTQ+ or HIV+ immigrant obtain asylum. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Children’s Law Center** (Minnesota): Advocate for the express wishes of a child in foster care. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Volunteer Lawyers Network** (Minnesota): Represent a low-income client who needs help getting their landlord to make repairs. [Learn more here.](#)

THE AMERICAN LAWYER RANKS ROBINS KAPLAN AMONG TOP 15 FIRMS IN NATION FOR PRO BONO WORK IN 2024

Robins Kaplan is the #14 firm in the nation for *pro bono* according to *The American Lawyer’s* annual *pro bono* scorecard. In 2023, the firm provided more than 19,500 hours of *pro bono* service in partnership with over 60 nonprofit organizations. [Read more here.](#)

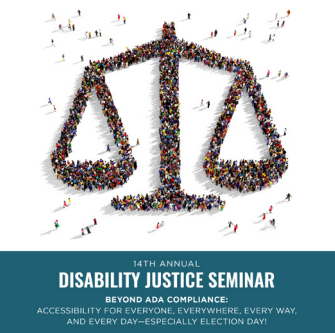
STAY CONNECTED

PAST EVENTS



ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER (AANHPI) HERITAGE MONTH

On May 22, 2024, alumni and firm members gathered both in-person at the Minneapolis office and online to hear Ramsey County Attorney John Choi share insights from his upbringing and career. He discussed how his experiences have shaped him as a person and a legal professional, offered advice for young attorneys, and provided guidance on how law firms can better support their diverse attorneys and improve their DEI initiatives.



ANNUAL DISABILITY JUSTICE SEMINAR

On May 23, 2024, firm members, alumni, and other attendees gathered both in-person at the Minneapolis office and online for the 14th Annual Disability Justice Seminar: “Beyond ADA Compliance: Accessibility for Everyone, Everywhere, Every Way, and Every Day—Especially Election Day!” The seminar featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including Steve Simon, Minnesota Secretary of State; the Honorable Donovan W. Frank, United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota;

Sumukha S. Terakanambi, Public Policy Advocate of the Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) and Minnesota Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities; Justin Page, Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota; Irina Vaynerman, Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights; and Sarah St. Louis, Associate AIA & ADAC, Certified ADA Coordinator, Project Manager of Architecture. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, and attendees appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with former colleagues, meet passionate advocates, and expand their networks in the ADA space.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15)

Robins Kaplan is pleased to announce that Miguel Alexander Pozo will be facilitating our firm’s Hispanic Heritage Month programming. Miguel has served as the president of the Hispanic National Bar Association and was previously the head of U.S. Litigation for Mercedes-Benz USA. Miguel has obtained numerous accolades during his impressive career including recognition on Latino Leaders’ “Top Latino Lawyers” list, Lawyers of Color’s “Power List,” and Hispanic Business’s “50 Influentials” list.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH (NOVEMBER)

An attorney with lived experience and a background in tribal law will be facilitating Robins Kaplan’s Native American Heritage Month programming.

Additional program details will be provided soon. We hope you will join us! Stay tuned for more information.