

June 7, 2022

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate Minnesota Women Lawyers (MWL) on its 50th anniversary. The American Bar Association recognizes the importance of MWL's work to advance the success of women lawyers and strive for a just society. Your efforts strengthen the legal profession, promote equal opportunity, and ensure our commitment to equal justice under law.

I am proud to join President Kristin Haugen and all MWL members in celebrating this impressive milestone. May Minnesota Women Lawyers continue to build on its past successes and make a positive difference for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Deborah Enix-Ross, President-Elect
American Bar Association

MABL

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAWYERS

600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 380, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 | www.mabl.org

VIA Email

May 27, 2022

Minnesota Women Lawyers
Katherine Gunaratne, Membership & Communications Coordinator (she / her / hers)
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390B
Minneapolis, MN 55402
kgunaratne@mwlattorneys.org

Re: MABL Congratulates Minnesota Women Lawyers on its 50th Anniversary

The Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers congratulates Minnesota Women Lawyers on 50 years of leadership in the advancement of women in the law. MWL's strength and lasting legacy is not only seen in its leadership but in its willingness to collaborate with MABL and other affinity organizations. MABL and MWL share more than just members, we share the same fundamental value: the promotion of equity within the legal profession. MWL and MABL's commitment to equity is seen in their statements on improvement of the judicial system and on important social justice issues. Both MWL and MABL, along with other affinity bars, have worked together to diversify the Minnesota bench, as well as worked to increase diversity within the legal profession.

MABL members have proudly attended MWL's Annual Rosalie Wahl Leadership Lecture every year since its inception and MABL has welcomed MWL members to each and every one of its Annual Scholarship Galas. MABL looks forward to continued partnership with MWL in its next 50 years and beyond!



Frank Aba-Onu
President
Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers

2021-2022 Officers:

Uzodima Frank Aba-Onu – *President*
Amran Farah – *Immediate Past President*
Dana Mitchell – *Vice President*
Abou Amara – *Treasurer*
Amanda Matchett – *Secretary*

2021-2022 Board Members:

Amanda Harrington
Jules Porter
Kristien Butler
Pharaoh Lewis
Sara Jane Baldwin



May 13, 2022

Minnesota Women Lawyers
Kristin Haugen, President

Minnesota
State Bar
Association

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Dear Kristin:

It is with great joy that I write on behalf of the Minnesota State Bar Association to congratulate Minnesota Women Lawyers on its 50 year anniversary! Since 1972, MWL has paved the way for the success of women lawyers in Minnesota and, in so doing, has impacted Minnesota's legal profession in countless and fundamental ways.

The connection and affinity between MSBA and MWL extends from the very beginning of MWL. MSBA's first woman president, Helen Kelly, was president of MWL in 1977. Ms. Kelly's MSBA presidency in 1987 broke the mold of 104 years of male leadership of our profession and undoubtedly was made possible because of the mission-driven commitment, work and determination of the founders and early leaders of MWL.

One of MWL's core values is developing and supporting women lawyers as leaders. I want to speak to the work MWL has done in service of this value and the impact it has had. Over the years, MWL has provided women lawyers the incredible opportunity to engage in leadership intensive courses. I personally was fortunate to participate in the inaugural year of MWL's *Leadership Project: A Core Development Program for Women Attorneys* and the follow up courses. I have also known many other women who have participated in this programming and I have observed the direct and measurable impact that MWL has had on the trajectory of these women's careers. Women have been empowered to seek bar leadership, achieve judicial appointments, start law firms, lead law firms, create connections between law and other professions, and much, much more. Our profession and the larger community are better for contributions MWL has made to cultivating, supporting, and advancing women lawyer leaders in our state.

MWL has so much to be proud and to celebrate on this golden anniversary! The MSBA wishes MWL all the success for the next fifty years and looks forward to continuing to engage and partner with MWL in support of its mission.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thompson

President



MITCHELL | HAMLINE
School of Law

May 23, 2022

Minnesota Women Lawyers
600 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Minnesota Women Lawyers,

Congratulations on 50 years of advancing the success of women lawyers and striving for a just society. Your organization is an important part of the story of how Minnesota's legal community has continued to become more inclusive. There's still work to do, but with groups like yours, I know we can get there.

I recently saw the list of women who attended that first meeting of Minnesota Women Lawyers, on September 21, 1972.

I will admit to some personal pride that a majority of those women in attendance were alums – or would become alumni – of what is now Mitchell Hamline School of Law. But regardless of where they attended, it's an impressive group of judges, partners, and other attorneys who blazed the trail for so many women to follow.

Your recent "50 Years, 50 Voices" feature was also an impressive recollection of the work women have done in our field this past half century. Again, I was proud to see so many of our alums – and even one current student! – among the group.

As you look to your next 50 years, I want to assure you that Mitchell Hamline School of Law remains your partner, excited to do the work to advance your mission. I was recently reminded of the importance when we hosted an event honoring former State Supreme Court Justice Esther Tomljanovich. When she began her studies at St. Paul College of Law (one of our predecessor schools), Tomljanovich was the only woman in her class. She noted in a video we made for the event that her male classmates did not view her as competition because she would never be considered for the jobs they would seek upon graduation.

Today, Mitchell Hamline's enrollment is majority women, and our students help change the world every day, in ways big and small. Justice Tomljanovich, who attended that first MWL meeting in 1972, is a big reason for that. Through a scholarship in her name, she has become an important mentor for our women students. They often cite their friendships with her as part of how they found their own voice and vocation within the law.

I know that's the spirit with which Minnesota Women Lawyers operates. You are also changing the world, in ways big and small. On behalf of Mitchell Hamline School of Law, I thank you for that, congratulate you on 50 years, and look forward our future working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Niedwiecki".

Anthony Niedwiecki
President and Dean



NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
OF WOMEN'S
BAR ASSOCIATIONS

May 27, 2022

Minnesota Women Lawyers
600 Nicollet Mall
Suite 390B
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Re: Minnesota Women Lawyers' 50th Anniversary Celebration

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, I would like to extend the sincerest of congratulations to the Minnesota Women Lawyers on reaching the notable milestone of 50 years of service to thousands of women attorneys across the state. From the beginning, MWL has embodied its mission to advance the success of women lawyers and strive for a just society.

The NCWBA has been particularly impressed with the equity initiatives that MWL has developed and instituted, as they align with the NCWBA's very own mission, which focuses on advocating for equality in the legal profession. MWL has been instrumental in establishing initiatives focused on advancing the rights and interests of women in the legal profession, evidenced through programs such as the MWL Leadership Institute and the Pay Equity Initiative. Through its various programs, MWL's clear dedication to its values of equity, leadership and community has remained prominent. Further, the NCWBA recognizes and respects the impactful leaders represented by the MWL, such as Judge Cara Lee Neville, President at Benchmark National ADR, LLC and an MWL Founding Member.

The NCWBA wholeheartedly commends the MWL, a long-time NCWBA member, on achieving 50 years of promoting the success of women lawyers and furthering equity in the profession, and looks forward to witnessing the future events of the organization. The NCWBA also looks forward to witnessing MWL's continued success during its **next** 50 years. Congratulations again!

Very truly yours,

Shiloh D. Theberge

Shiloh D. Theberge
President

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, PO Box 260721, Boston, MA 02126
www.ncwba.org



United States District Court
District of Minnesota

Chief Judge John R. Tunheim

May 27, 2022

Minnesota Women Lawyers
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390B
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Sent via email at:
kgunaratne@mwlawyers.org

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Judges of the United States District Court in the District of Minnesota, I want to congratulate you for 50 years of very strong support for women in the legal field and for working so hard for a more inclusive, equitable future.

Minnesota Women Lawyers has been very important for our legal community and the community at large. MWL strengthens and enriches our lawyers and legal profession by offering a community for women to connect and support one another in a field that has historically been dominated by men. You support women in growing their legal careers and connect them with larger equity initiatives, offering a larger purpose to their work. A purpose grounded in justice. Our legal community is so much stronger and so much more inclusive because of the outstanding work of MWL. Our Court has been the beneficiary of your hard work with our many terrific women judges, law clerks and staff. Thank you so much.

We are grateful for Minnesota Women Lawyers supporting women in our local community, and thankful for your larger work towards justice and equity for all. So, as you commemorate 50 years, honor your past, celebrate your present, and inspire your future. Congratulations! There is much work still to be done!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Tunheim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John R. Tunheim
Chief U.S. District Judge

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May 27, 2022

Minnesota Women Lawyers
50th Anniversary Celebration
600 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Minnesota Women Lawyers,

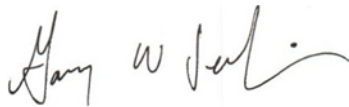
On behalf of the University of Minnesota Law School, congratulations on your 50th anniversary!

Since 1972, decades of Minnesota Law alumnae have contributed to Minnesota Women Lawyers, serving as outstanding lawyer-leaders for the region and state. From Irene Scott '50 (MWL's inaugural president) to Shannon Harmon '06 (MWL president in 2018-19), Minnesota Law graduates have served as your presidents, committee chairs, mentors, members, and more: all focused on our shared mission of advancing the success of women and advancing justice. We are grateful for their service and many contributions.

At the University of Minnesota Law School, we see the success of MWL's work in the support our students and lawyers entering Minnesota's professional legal community. From the strong relationships and important connections through mentoring and events to the impact of the Gender Data Project and Pay Equity Initiative, MWL's work continues to make a significant impact on the profession.

Congratulations on 50 years! Thank you for your work and partnership and for your continued efforts to advance the profession and women lawyers.

Best wishes,



Garry W. Jenkins
Dean & William S. Pattee Professor of Law