



WINTER 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

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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, pro bono work, and past and upcoming events.

BISMARCK
BOSTON
LOS ANGELES
MINNEAPOLIS
NEW YORK
SILICON VALLEY
SIOUX FALLS

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ALUMNI NEWS



B. Todd Jones, who recently spent nearly a decade as Senior Vice President and Special Counsel for Conduct at the NFL—overseeing the league’s risk management, investigatory, and disciplinary processes, including matters related to player and employee misconduct and legalized sports betting—has rejoined the firm as a partner in our Minneapolis and New York offices. We are thrilled B. Todd has returned to the firm and sat down with him for a brief Q&A to discuss his journey back to the firm.

Why did you return to Robins Kaplan?

I originally left Robins Kaplan to serve a second term as U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota during the Obama administration. This was a natural transition since I served my first term as U.S. Attorney prior to my eight years as a partner here. The return to Robins Kaplan was driven by two things – long-standing relationships with firm leaders that I know and trust, and the unique nature of the firm’s practice. It is one of the best private sector trial shops in the country. I have always been a trial lawyer at my core, so I have always appreciated Robins Kaplan’s trial focus.

How was your first day back at the firm?

Interesting. The entire first week was filled with onboarding activities, videos, and other HR-related tasks. When getting reoriented with the iManage system, we even found a document I checked out in 2004 and never checked back in!

What is your favorite memory of Robins Kaplan?

I don’t have a single favorite memory, but what stands out to me most are the people I worked with at Robins, some of whom are still here. I have built many trusted partnerships with my colleagues and enjoyed the teamwork that went into each case we worked on together. I also enjoyed building a white collar and government investigations practice from the ground up and getting to use my DOJ experience.

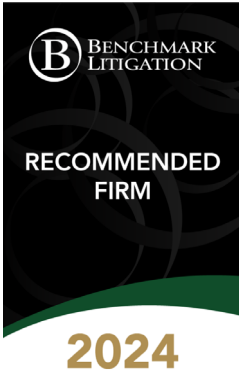
What do you look forward to now that you are back at the firm?

I am looking forward to continuing to focus on complex business litigation, government and internal investigations, corporate governance, appellate advocacy, and white-collar criminal defense, while also bringing extensive experience to emerging areas such as name, image, and likeness (NIL) litigation, copyright and trade protection, and endorsements for athletes and sports clubs.

I am also looking forward to helping grow and mentor the next generation of trial attorneys. I want young attorneys to feel the same trust and teamwork that I felt, which is why reinforcing the firm’s culture is important to me, especially as it relates to diversity. When I was first at the firm, we were a frontrunner in diversity, so I am enthusiastic about continuing to attract and keep top diverse talent.

If you are interested in connecting (or reconnecting) with B. Todd, reach out to him [here](#) or on [LinkedIn](#).

FIRM NEWS



ROBINS KAPLAN RECEIVES HIGH RANKINGS BY *BENCHMARK LITIGATION* 2025

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that *Benchmark Litigation* has recognized the firm as a recommended dispute resolution firm in Minnesota and New York, as well as a nationally recommended firm for antitrust, intellectual property, and commercial litigation. Additionally, the 2025 guide has named 19 partners as “Litigation Stars” or “Future Stars.”

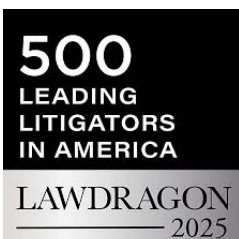
[Read more here.](#)

ROBINS KAPLAN ACHIEVES NATIONAL TIER 1 RANKINGS IN MULTIPLE PRACTICE AREAS ON 2025 BEST LAW FIRMS LIST

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that it has been recognized as a National Tier 1 firm across four practice areas in the 2025 “Best Law Firms” list, compiled by *Best Lawyers*. In addition to earning top-tier national rankings, Robins Kaplan offices also secured Tier 1 placements in several metropolitan areas.

[Read more here.](#)

ROBINS KAPLAN PARTNERS NAMED TO 2025 LAWDRAGON 500 LEADING LITIGATORS IN AMERICA GUIDE



Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that 21 partners have been named to the 2025 Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America guide. This guide recognizes “the best litigators the U.S. has to offer” in antitrust, intellectual property, white collar and investigations, securities, and corporate governance litigation, and a vast array of class actions, product liability, and other complex civil litigation.

[Read more here.](#)

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

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



FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS TRANSFORMATIVE REFORMS AT WEST LA VA CAMPUS IN MAJOR VICTORY FOR DISABLED VETERENS

Robins Kaplan LLP, in collaboration with Public Counsel, Brown Goldstein & Levy, and Inner City Law Center, recently secured a sweeping victory for disabled homeless veterans in a landmark ruling that mandates significant changes at the West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Campus.

[Read more here.](#)

MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL AID, ROBINS KAPLAN BRING CLASS ACTION SUIT AGAINST MOBILE HOME PARK

Exposure to raw sewage, overcharging for utilities, and invalid leases are at the heart of a class action lawsuit filed by Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (“Legal Aid”) and Robins Kaplan LLP against a mobile home park in Sartell, Minnesota. The suit, filed by four longtime residents, names the out-of-state owners of the Sartell Manufactured Home Park (“the Park”) as the Defendants.

[Read more here.](#)

PRO BONO

ASYLUM WIN FOR VICTIM OF FGM FLEEING ARRANGED MARRIAGE IN BURKINA FASO

Our client was subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) in Burkina Faso and later forced into an arranged marriage with a much older man. She came to the United States on a student visa and then applied for asylum and relief under the Convention Against Torture. After a seven-year wait for an asylum interview and an additional two and a half years for a decision, we are happy to share that our client has been granted asylum. The grant of asylum is a path to citizenship and a huge weight lifted off the shoulders of our client, her husband, and her two sons.

OPPORTUNITIES, TRAININGS & CLINICS

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

- [ABA Free Legal Answers](#) (Nationwide): Help a low-income client with legal advice online through the American Bar Association.
- [The Advocates for Human Rights](#) (MN, ND, SD): Represent asylum seekers and survivors of human rights abuses.
- [Tubman Safety Project Training](#) (MN): On February 12, Robins Kaplan will host a training for volunteers interested in representing victim-survivors of domestic abuse. E-mail lhanson@robinskaplan.com to learn more.
- [Kids in Need of Defense](#) (KIND) (Nationwide): Represent an unaccompanied immigrant child in an immigration case.

ROBINS KAPLAN RANKS IN TOP 10% FOR PRO BONO BY LAW360

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that it ranked fourth out of 65 midsize firms in Law360's 2024 Pro Bono Rankings. This recognition is based on the proportion of attorneys who provided at least 50 hours of free legal services, the participation rate in *pro bono* activity, and the average amount of *pro bono* hours per attorney. [Read more here.](#)

STAY CONNECTED

EVENTS

AOC CONFERENCE

As part of its continued commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the firm hosted another educational conference for its attorneys of color this year. The 2024 Attorneys of Color Conference was held at the Boston office in early September. Attorneys from across the firm engaged in a variety of meaningful discussions about empowerment, professional development, business development, and mentoring. The conference also included a client panel of diverse in-house counsel who provided insights about the importance of DEI partnerships.

TWINS GAME

On August 12, 2024, Minneapolis firm members and alumni got together for a summer outing to watch the Minnesota Twins at Target Field. The evening was filled with good food, fun baseball, and great company. *(Individuals in the photos from left to right: Bryan Mechell, Seth Nielsen (alumni), Shelley Gilliss, Diane Peterson (alumni), Tony Hoppa, Dawn Van Alstine, Anne Lockner, Mahesha Subbaraman (alumni))*



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

On October 17, 2024, firm members and alumni gathered in person at the Minneapolis office and online to hear Julia Decker, Policy Director at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, lead an informative and engaging presentation on topics related to immigration. She shared valuable insights about the basics of immigration, the myths and misconceptions surrounding immigration, and how immigration intersects with various aspects of life.

WORK COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

The Women of Robins Kaplan (WoRK) organized several service projects across the Minneapolis, New York, Boston, and Los Angeles offices to support those in need. The Minneapolis office gathered to pack “busy bag kits” for children arriving at [People Serving People](#), the largest and most comprehensive emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. The Los Angeles office hosted its annual service event at the [Westside Food Bank](#) where firm members sorted and boxed food donations for neighborhood families. At the Boston office, firm members prepared care packages for women at [Rosie’s Place](#), the first women-only shelter in the United States. And, finally, the New York office will be participating in the [USPS Operation Santa](#), where firm members will adopt letters to Santa Claus that were sent to the post office, find gifts to fulfill the writers’ wishes, and deliver the gifts to the post office for them to send on behalf of the North Pole.

NEW YEARS MESSAGE



Dear Robins Kaplan Alumni,

As we enter 2025, I want to take this opportunity to connect with you again and share some of how our firm continues to strive for excellence and achieve new heights in our client and community service.

This past year, Robins Kaplan achieved significant victories and set important precedents, reinforcing our dedication to justice and client service in each of our practice areas. From a historic \$42.4 million verdict in a patent infringement dispute to a landmark ruling on behalf of homeless veterans in Los Angeles to name just a few, we are proud of the positive impact we have made in our communities and the legal landscape.

Your contributions as alumni are invaluable. We take pride in seeing our alumni excel in various sectors, making a difference in countless ways. Many of you have taken diverse paths since leaving the firm, and insights from your experiences enrich our firm and its mission. I encourage you to stay engaged with us through networking events, pro bono work, or simply staying in touch. Our alumni network is a vital asset that strengthens our collective efforts, and I am always accessible to each of you.

As we move forward, let's build on our achievements and continue fostering meaningful connections together. With several exciting events already in the works for 2025, there is much to look forward to. Stay tuned! I look forward to hearing from you and celebrating our successes in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your families a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Best regards,

Tony Froio

Chair of the Executive Board and Managing Partner



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