



ROBINS / KAPLAN<sup>LLP</sup>

# QUARTERLY

Tackling Tough Business Litigation Matters

VOLUME 5.3 | 2025

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## New Faces, Proven Talent: Q&A with Our Recent Lateral Hires

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As part of our recent wave of new talent across the firm, we're proud to spotlight three exceptional attorneys who joined us this year as lateral hires: Bahram Samie (Counsel, Minneapolis), Brinton Scott (Of Counsel, Los Angeles), and William Kolb (Partner, New York).

BAHRAM SAMIE

BRINTON SCOTT

WILLIAM KOLB

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With backgrounds spanning federal civil rights enforcement, international M&A and compliance, and high-stakes insurance coverage litigation, they each bring deep experience and unique perspectives to the firm.

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Against Eagan police officers, Dakota County correctional officers, and Dakota County.

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REWRITING THE ODDS

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With backgrounds spanning federal civil rights enforcement, international M&A and compliance, and high-stakes insurance coverage litigation, they each bring deep experience and unique perspectives to the firm. To help you get to know them better, we asked them each the same five questions. Here's what they had to say:

## 1 WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ROBINS KAPLAN, AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH HERE?

**SCOTT:** I was introduced to the firm by a longtime friend, retired Best Buy general counsel Keith Nelsen, who had great respect for the litigation team here. My clients require significant assistance with contentious matters in the US. The firm's reputation in this respect is stellar. I've worked extensively with clients from all over the world. I see an opportunity to use my relationships to bring these clients into the firm and expand our litigation work in the U.S.

**KOLB:** Robins Kaplan has a strong reputation for professionalism and exceptional work. I'm excited to contribute to the continued growth of the insurance practice and expand our client base.

**SAMIE:** I was drawn to Robins Kaplan because the firm handles both affirmative and defensive work, in a variety of practice areas. And the firm has a rich history of taking cases to trial. I hope to build relationships with our clients, listen to them, and work with them to navigate complex issues and find the best possible outcomes.

## 2 WHAT'S ONE STANDOUT MOMENT FROM YOUR CAREER SO FAR—AND WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM IT?

**SCOTT:** Over the years, I've had the privilege of advising multinational companies on some of their most strategic and sensitive matters. One standout experience was helping Allianz, a global insurance company, navigate a multi-year acquisition and regulatory approval process in China. It required careful coordination across multiple countries, regulatory systems, and teams to get the deal across the finish line.

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**KOLB:** One standout moment from my career was working on some of the first Hurricane Katrina coverage cases. I visited New Orleans shortly after the storm and helped litigate both state and federal matters. Those cases presented novel issues and set important precedents. It was a powerful reminder of how insurance law evolves alongside real-world events.

**SAMIE:** There are many to choose from, but winning a jury verdict after a six-week trial in a complex healthcare fraud matter was very meaningful for me. Above all, the team dynamic made it a very fulfilling experience. With the support of my office and colleagues, we assembled a talented group of individuals to try the case. In the face of a lot of pressure and working around the clock, everyone brought their best performance towards the common goal of meeting our burden of proof. It was very rewarding to connect with the jury and hear that they agreed with our case.

### **3 HOW DOES YOUR BACKGROUND INFLUENCE YOUR APPROACH TO CLIENT WORK TODAY?**

**SCOTT:** After 28 years of living and working in China, I have a deep understanding of cross-border deals and regulatory environments. My transactional background includes M&A, compliance, and Greenfield projects across Asia, the EU, and the U.S., which helps me guide clients through global business challenges with clarity and confidence.

**KOLB:** My background has always helped me with problem solving, especially when I'm faced with new or unique situations. It's also helped me stay ahead of emerging trends in the industry. A lot of the work I do involves technical issues or coverage questions we haven't seen before, and that experience gives me a solid foundation to navigate those first-of-their-kind cases.

**SAMIE:** I have been lucky to handle a large variety of cases throughout my career, as counsel for plaintiffs and for defendants. I think that balanced experience helps me fairly evaluate new matters, identify key issues, and develop litigation strategies that best position the client's interests.

### **4 WHAT'S A TREND OR CHALLENGE IN YOUR PRACTICE AREA THAT YOU THINK CLIENTS SHOULD BE PAYING ATTENTION TO?**

**SCOTT:** Artificial intelligence is already reshaping the legal industry, especially around efficiency and staffing. Clients increasingly expect more for less, and AI has the potential to meet those expectations. But it's not just about adopting the technology; it's about using it wisely to deliver better outcomes without sacrificing quality.



**KOLB:** Technological advancements are creating new risks across industries, leading to new claims and coverage disputes. I think clients should continue to be proactive in how they evaluate and underwrite these exposures.

**SAMIE:** Any time there is a change in a federal or state administration, you will see new enforcement initiatives. For instance, government inquiries may now broaden in scope to include hybrid civil rights and fraud investigations. It is important for clients to track such trends and get ahead of potential issues to the extent possible. I spent many years working on civil rights and civil fraud enforcement for the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota. It will be interesting to watch these trends develop.

## 5 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK?

**SCOTT:** My wife and I live in the Pacific Northwest, where we love sailing, golfing, and escaping to the islands. We're also avid travelers. Some all-time favorite spots include the Maldives, Thailand, and the south of France.

**KOLB:** Anything on the water—sailing, boating, or just spending time at the beach with family and friends.

**SAMIE:** I love to spend time with my wife and our three girls. Two years ago, we started a family goal of visiting all the U.S. national parks. We've gone to 10 so far!

# Robins Kaplan Files Complaint

## Against Eagan Police and Dakota County Correctional Officers After Man Dies From Stroke Due to Deliberate Indifference

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The civil rights attorneys at Minneapolis-based law firm Robins Kaplan LLP have filed a lawsuit against Eagan police officers, Dakota County correctional officers, and Dakota County, after 50-year-old Minnesota resident Kingsley Fifi Bimpong suffered a hemorrhagic stroke which resulted in his death. The complaint alleges that the authorities failed to take appropriate action for five hours and 40 minutes while Kingsley was in custody, exhibiting obvious physical and cognitive abnormalities that required urgent medical attention.



On the evening of November 16, 2024, Kingsley left work early due to a headache and was pulled over by an Eagan police officer due to a traffic violation. The complaint notes that from the beginning of their interaction, Kingsley was exhibiting signs of needing immediate medical care.

Body-worn camera (BWC) video footage shows that Kingsley could not understand simple directions and could not share his own name, where he was going, or where he lived. The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), called to the scene to conduct a 12-step evaluation designed to determine if a person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failed to complete the evaluation. He and the defendant-Sergeant decided it “would just be a whole bunch of time wasted.” Despite having no criminal history, no evidence at the scene of drug or alcohol use, and no DRE evaluation indicating intoxication, the officers took him to the Eagan Police department for a blood draw.

When Kingsley arrived at the police department to wait for a search warrant for his blood, his medical decline worsened. Drool seeped onto his beard which he did not wipe off, he nodded off to sleep, and his right hand and arm showed signs of weakness – which is a classic sign of a stroke. While at the police station, EMS personnel that arrived solely for the purpose of a blood draw asked if the officers planned on transferring Kingsley to the hospital. The officers discussed not taking him to the hospital because then an officer would have to wait with Kingsley there. The Dakota County Jail would be his final destination.

Kingsley had difficulty walking through the police station and struggled to get back into the squad car for his transport to Jail. One of the officers was caught on BWC saying, “before you got there, I was like, is this dude having a stro—.” The complaint alleges the word “stroke” is cut off because the officer muted his BWC.



According to the jail profile report, Kingsley arrived at the jail around 1:09 a.m. on November 17, 2024. Upon alerting staff to their arrival, the officer reported he was there with “[o]ne adult male, no issues.” Kingsley struggled to get out of the officer’s squad car and then staggered around the sallyport. His right foot appeared to be dysfunctional – at times dragging behind his body. By this time, Kingsley had many objective stroke indicators, including one-sided weakness, loss of coordination, sudden severe headache, vision issues, and confusion.

In the intake area, Kingsley was unable to hold himself upright, requiring assistance on both of his arms. Jail surveillance video shows that Kingsley urinated on himself multiple times, having lost complete control of his bladder, and rolled around in agony for the next hour and a half. The complaint notes that correctional officers continued their “well-being” checks at various times during Kingsley’s continued suffering and deterioration, without alerting medical personnel.

One of the defendants would later write that she noticed Kingsley was foaming at the mouth and having seizure-like activity. After three hours and 26 minutes in his cell, Kingsley was cold to the touch and unresponsive to painful stimuli. His eyes were non-reactive to light and his tongue and feet were grayish in color. At this point, Narcan was administered three times without any response. Administering Narcan without a response informed the correctional officers that Kingsley was not suffering from drug intoxication. Eventually EMS was called, and Kingsley was cuffed and shackled onto a gurney for transport to the hospital.

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KATIE BENNETT

At the hospital, it was determined that Kingsley required a higher level of care and he was transferred to another facility. Kingsley was determined to be brain dead. After a discussion with Kingsley's family, in which the doctors explained that he could not survive, Kingsley was disconnected from the ventilator and died on Nov. 19, 2024.

ROBERT BENNETT

Lead attorney Katie Bennett said,

“As our complaint alleges, the police and correctional officers acted on incorrect and unfounded assumptions about Kingsley as justification for treating a person suffering from classic stroke symptoms with callous indifference that resulted in his death. The shocking deliberate indifference from local authorities stripped Kingsley of his last safeguard: the right to basic medical care. **No one should lose their life in custody simply because those responsible choose silence and neglect over compassion and responsibility. A jail cell should never become a death sentence simply because cries for help were ignored.**”

ANDREW NOEL

MARC BETINSKY

The civil rights team representing Kingsley's family includes Katie Bennett, Robert Bennett, Andrew Noel, Marc Betinsky, and Greta Wiessner.

GRETA WIESSNER

# Robins Kaplan Celebrates 30 Years in Los Angeles

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Robins Kaplan LLP is proud to celebrate three decades of legal excellence in Los Angeles. Since opening its doors in 1995, the Los Angeles office has grown into a litigation powerhouse serving clients both locally and nationwide.

“Over the past 30 years, we have established ourselves as a formidable presence in the California legal landscape and beyond, achieving major results in complex, high-stakes disputes,” said Jason Fair, Managing Partner of the firm’s Los Angeles and Silicon Valley offices. “Our team is proud of what we’ve accomplished and energized by what lies ahead.”

“From high-stakes, mission-critical commercial litigation, to complex, high-exposure insurance recovery claim disputes, to public impact cases, the Los Angeles office has played a critical role in some of the firm’s most significant matters over the years,” said Anthony Froio, Chair of the Executive Board and Managing Partner at Robins Kaplan. “While the scope of its work has grown, the office’s guiding principles remain unchanged: a relentless focus on client outcomes, a collaborative approach to solving legal challenges, renowned trial expertise and a dedication to serving the broader community.”

That dedication extends beyond the courtroom. The Los Angeles office maintains a deep and sustained commitment to public service. Attorneys actively support and collaborate with organizations such as Public Counsel, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inner City Law Center, Angel City Sports, Bet Tzedek, Friends of Big Bear Valley, California Minority Counsel Program, Boys & Girls Clubs of Venice and Metro Los Angeles, the Civil Justice Research Initiative, and the National Judicial College, among others.

As Robins Kaplan celebrates this milestone, the Los Angeles office remains firmly rooted in its legacy of legal excellence—while continuing to deliver exceptional results in a dynamic and evolving legal landscape.



# FRONT AND CENTER



## Patrick Arenz Admitted to American College of Trial Lawyers

*From left: Robins Kaplan partners and ACTL Fellows  
Ronald Schutz, Patrick Arenz, and Jake Holdreith.*

Patrick M. Arenz has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America.

The induction ceremony at which Arenz became a Fellow took place before an audience of approximately 950 during the recent Annual Meeting of the College in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1950, the American College of Trial Lawyers is widely recognized as the preeminent organization of trial lawyers in North America, composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Fellowship is extended by invitation only, following a rigorous investigation process, to experienced trial lawyers who have demonstrated the highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, professionalism, civility, and collegiality. Candidates must have at least fifteen years of trial experience before consideration for Fellowship.

The American College of Trial Lawyers strives to preserve and enhance trial practice, civility, professionalism, and the administration of justice through support of an independent judiciary, the rule of law, trial by jury, and access to justice.

Arenz is a partner at Robins Kaplan and has been practicing for over 15 years. His practice focuses on high-stakes intellectual property and commercial litigation, representing clients ranging from individuals to large companies in courts across the country. Arenz is an alumnus of the William Mitchell College of Law.

## ROBINS KAPLAN RANKS #2 NATIONWIDE FOR *PRO BONO* IN LAW360'S 2025 RANKINGS

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that it has ranked second out of 55 midsize firms in *Law360 Pulse's* 2025 *Pro Bono* Rankings.



The annual ranking evaluates firms based on three key criteria: the percentage of attorneys who completed at least 50 hours of *pro bono* work, the overall participation rate in *pro bono* activity, and the average number of *pro bono* hours per attorney. Robins Kaplan stood out in the third category, averaging more than 100 *pro bono* hours per attorney in 2024.

"Year after year, our attorneys show up for clients who need us most," said Geoffrey Kozen, Chair of the firm's *Pro Bono* Committee. "Being ranked second nationally is a testament to that ongoing commitment."

In 2024, Robins Kaplan attorneys contributed over 19,500 hours of *pro bono* service, representing individuals who could not otherwise afford legal counsel, supporting nonprofit organizations, and handling civil rights and public interest matters. The firm partnered with over 60 nonprofit and legal services organizations to deliver this impactful work.

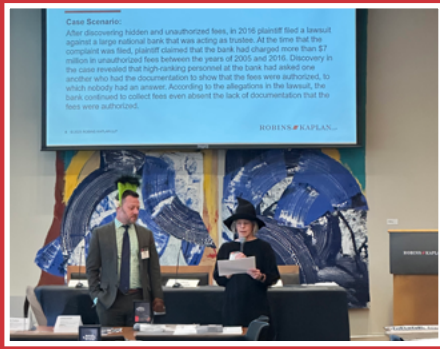
## PETER FOUNDAS APPOINTED DEPUTY MANAGING PARTNER OF ROBINS KAPLAN BOSTON OFFICE

Robins Kaplan LLP is pleased to announce that Peter Foundas has been named Deputy Managing Partner of the firm's Boston office. In this new leadership role, Peter will help oversee the strategic direction, operations, and continued growth of the Boston office while maintaining his dynamic legal practice.



Peter is a highly accomplished trial attorney and transactional advisor who brings a unique dual focus to his practice—litigating complex commercial disputes and guiding clients through intricate business transactions. With a background in accounting and a decade of high-level experience, Peter's legal insight and judgment have made him a trusted advisor to a wide range of clients, including private companies, venture investors, real estate developers, and business owners.

"We're proud to elevate Peter into this leadership position," said Anthony Froio, Chair of the Executive Board and Managing Partner at Robins Kaplan. "His deep understanding of our clients' legal and business needs, combined with his proven track record in and out of the courtroom, make him an invaluable asset to our firm and the Boston legal community."



# WHAT KEEPS FIDUCIARIES UP AT NIGHT?



# Event Highlights

## 2025 WEALTH DISPUTES SEMINAR: WHAT KEEPS FIDUCIARIES UP AT NIGHT?

Our Wealth Planning, Administration, and Fiduciary Disputes Group hosted its annual CLE seminar exploring the complex challenges facing today's fiduciaries. Keynote speaker John Taft (Baird) discussed stewardship in times of uncertainty, followed by panels featuring Katherine Johnson (Storj Labs), Jordan Vitek (Wealth Enhancement Group), Karin Ciano (Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility), and Nicole Frank (Bradford Andresen Norrie & Camarotto) on emerging risks, unusual assets, and ethical considerations.

## 2025 TRIAL ADVOCACY SEMINAR: PROTECTING THE PILLARS – FOUNDATION TO FUTURE

This year's Trial Advocacy Seminar examined the institutions and values that uphold our justice system. Highlights included Secretary of State Steve Simon on Minnesota election law, Jon Tynjala (Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers) on mental health in the legal profession, and a closing media-law panel featuring Jane Kirtley (University of Minnesota), Leita Walker (Ballard Spahr), and Carolyn Cole (Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist).



2025 TRIAL ADVOCACY SEMINAR

# Protecting the Pillars

FOUNDATION TO FUTURE

