

AUGUST 2026 | VOL. 20 NO.2

JUSTICE REPORT

**Some legal
experience can
only be earned in
the courtroom.**

ROBINS  KAPLAN^{LLP}

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2026 TRIAL ADVOCACY SEMINAR



JUSTICE
Takes a Village
ADVOCACY THROUGH COMMUNITY

ROBINS KAPLAN LLP

Save the Date!
Tuesday, October 6
The Depot – Minneapolis

Past results are reported to provide the reader with an indication of the type of litigation in which we practice and does not and should not be construed to create an expectation of result in any other case as all cases are dependent upon their own unique fact situation and applicable law. This publication is not intended as, and should not be used by you as, legal advice, but rather as a touchstone for reflection and discussion with others about these important issues. Pursuant to requirements related to practice before the U. S. Internal Revenue Service, any tax advice contained in this communication is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, for purposes of (i) avoiding penalties imposed under the U. S. Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another person any tax-related matter.



Four Former DOJ Attorneys. One Shared Commitment to Trial Advocacy.

New additions strengthen Robins Kaplan's ability to investigate complex matters, try challenging cases, and pursue accountability.

Some legal experience can only be earned in the courtroom.

Robins Kaplan recently welcomed four former Department of Justice attorneys whose careers were shaped by years of trying cases, leading investigations, and handling some of the most consequential matters the federal government prosecutes.

Allen Slaughter, Bahram Samie, Lauren Roso, and Carla Baumel collectively bring decades of experience from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota and other government roles. Their work has spanned civil rights, healthcare fraud, public corruption, antitrust, organized crime, False Claims Act enforcement, national security, and emerging technologies.

They now bring those skills to Robins Kaplan, helping clients navigate high-stakes disputes, conduct investigations, pursue affirmative claims, and prepare cases for trial. Together, they further strengthen the firm's deep bench of trial lawyers while adding valuable insight into how government investigations are built and how complex cases are won.

A PROSECUTOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

For Lauren Roso, the transition from federal prosecutor to civil rights litigator wasn't a departure from her career—it was a continuation of the work that has always motivated her.

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney and Senior Litigation Counsel, Lauren prosecuted narcotics trafficking, money laundering, violent crime, and national security matters. She also supervised trial teams, mentored younger prosecutors, and handled cases from investigation through trial.

Lauren now focuses her practice on representing individuals in matters involving police misconduct, excessive force, and jail and prison abuse.

Her current work reflects the breadth of today's civil rights practice. She represents the family of Kingsley Bimpong in a wrongful death action against local law enforcement and county officials; is helping defend the firm's favorable Eighth Circuit victory in *Marks*—an excessive force case arising from the 2020 George Floyd protests—before the Supreme Court; is investigating a fatal officer-involved shooting; and is handling several matters involving jail officials' deliberate indifference to inmates' serious medical needs.

Having spent years working alongside law enforcement while also building and trying complex federal cases, Lauren brings a perspective few civil rights attorneys possess. She understands how investigations are conducted, how evidence is developed, and how government agencies approach litigation. That experience informs her work advocating for individuals whose constitutional rights have been violated.

As Lauren explains:

“

“During my time at the Department, I fought for justice. At Robins, I continue that fight against the very systems of power that are supposed to uphold it. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is important to hold state actors accountable for their wrongdoings and show that no one is above the law.”

—LAUREN ROSO



Q&A with Lauren Roso



What are you most looking forward to in this next chapter of your career?

Throughout my career, I've been motivated by a commitment to justice and accountability. As a federal prosecutor, that meant pursuing accountability in individual cases, with the hope that enforcing the law would also deter future misconduct. What excites me most about this next chapter is the opportunity to advance those same values on a broader scale. Civil rights litigation allows me to advocate for individual clients who have suffered profound constitutional wrongs while also working toward lasting systemic change. Holding institutions accountable can improve policies, practices, and training in ways that extend far beyond a single case. I'm excited to be part of that effort, especially alongside such esteemed colleagues who have dedicated their careers to this work.

How has your experience working alongside law enforcement shaped the way you approach police misconduct and excessive force cases today?

At the DOJ, I had the opportunity to work alongside some of the finest federal and local law enforcement officers—professionals who were deeply committed not only to protecting the public, but also to safeguarding the constitutional rights of those they investigated. That experience gave me a clear understanding of what good police work looks like, which means I also recognize when officers fall short of their constitutional obligations. That perspective informs every stage of my civil rights practice. It shapes how I evaluate potential cases, assess whether an officer's actions were objectively reasonable, and develop the evidence needed to prove an officer departed from accepted standards. Ultimately, my experience has reinforced that accountability and effective policing are complementary—not competing—principles.

Many of your clients are taking on institutions with significant power and resources. How do you help prepare them for that process?

Many of our clients feel like the cards are stacked against them—and, in many respects, they are. Law enforcement and other government actors wield tremendous power and resources, which can make the prospect of pursuing a civil rights case feel overwhelming. Our team leads by example. We bring confidence, preparation, and credibility to every case because we know the system inside and out. We shoulder the legal burden so our clients don't have to, allowing them to focus on healing while knowing they have experienced advocates fighting for them every step of the way.



You've litigated dozens of cases in federal court. What lessons from that experience continue to shape the way you advocate for your clients?

Building a case is ultimately about telling a compelling, credible story. Years of litigating in federal court have given me a strong sense of what judges and juries find persuasive, and that experience continues to shape how I present a case. I've also learned that credibility is one of a lawyer's most valuable assets. Clients benefit from having an advocate who has earned a reputation for being consistently well prepared, trustworthy, and guided by sound judgment.

Finally, federal litigation has taught me that even the best preparation must be paired with the ability to think on your feet. Effective advocacy requires adapting in the moment while staying grounded in the facts, the law, and the client's story.

Outside of legal victories, what makes you feel you've made a difference for a client?

This isn't unique to civil rights litigation, but one of the most important things you can do as a lawyer is listen. In many cases, our clients feel that no one has listened to them, believed them, or treated them with dignity—especially if they have been on the wrong side of the criminal justice system, struggle with substance use, or face other stigma or discrimination. While we of course fight to achieve the best legal outcome, I also consider it a meaningful success when a client leaves the representation feeling heard, validated, and cared for throughout the process.



Congratulations to **Tara Sutton**
and **Teresa Fariss McClain** on being named to
Minnesota Super Lawyers Top Lists!



TARA SUTTON

MINNESOTA TOP 10
MINNESOTA TOP 50 WOMEN



TERESA FARISS MCCLAIN

MINNESOTA TOP 50 WOMEN

We also proudly recognize our attorneys in our Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Mass Tort, and Civil Rights practices who have been selected as **2026 Minnesota Super Lawyers** and **Rising Stars**.

2026 MINNESOTA SUPER LAWYERS

KATHRYN BENNETT, ROBERT BENNETT, MARK HALLBERG, TERESA FARISS MCCLAIN, ANDREW NOEL, MICHAEL REIF, PETER SCHMIT, PHILIP SIEFF, TARA SUTTON, BRANDON VAUGHN

2026 MINNESOTA RISING STARS | RASHANDA BRUCE

We're proud to be recognized for work that is grounded in advocacy, collaboration, and meaningful impact—for our clients and the communities we serve.

ROBINS KAPLAN LLP

800 553 9910
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MASS TORT INVESTIGATIONS

NITROUS OXIDE *New Investigation!*

Robins Kaplan LLP is investigating claims on behalf of individuals who have suffered life-altering injuries resulting from nitrous oxide abuse. Nitrous oxide is a highly addictive and dangerous substance that is widely available for purchase at smoke shops, gas stations, and through major online retailers. Abuse of nitrous oxide can lead to severe and permanent injuries, including neuropathy, paralysis, seizures, cardiac events, and serious accidents resulting in hospitalization.

DUPIXENT

Dupixent (dupilumab) is an injectable medication used to treat atopic dermatitis, asthma and nasal polyps. Robins Kaplan LLP is investigating claims of patients using this drug who were diagnosed with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL), which is a type of skin cancer. Symptoms include intense itching, red patches or plaques. Recent studies indicate that patients with atopic dermatitis who were treated with Dupixent had a significantly higher risk compared to those not taking the prescription.

SEEKING JUSTICE AGAINST ORGANIZATIONS FOR SEXUAL ABUSE

Robins Kaplan LLP is investigating instances of reported child sexual abuse by individuals associated in some capacity with the American Kennel Club (AKC), an organization that hosts thousands of dog show events a year and throughout the country. News publication Business Insider recently published an article which alleges some adults, including a former AKC employee and a dog breeder, were convicted of sexually abusing minors. After they were convicted, the perpetrators were not suspended by the organization or local clubs, giving them the ability to return to the sport.

BAUSCH & LOMB AREDS 2 PRESERVISION EYE VITAMINS

Robins Kaplan LLP is investigating a potential link between the use of this nonprescription product and serious injury. Bausch & Lomb AREDS 2 Preservision Eye Vitamins are typically used for eye health – specifically macular degeneration. However, the high levels of zinc in the product can result in copper deficiency. We are investigating a potential connection between copper deficiency and serious injury, including myelopathy and neuropathy.



CASE RESULTS

Global Settlement Reached in Depo-Provera MDL

In June, Pfizer reached a global settlement agreement that provides plaintiffs with pending cases in the multidistrict litigation (MDL) who meet certain eligibility criteria an opportunity to resolve their claims. The terms of the settlement, including specific eligibility criteria, are currently confidential. The litigation, which includes more than 6,000 lawsuits, allege women who received the birth control medication Depo-Provera later developed tumors, known as meningiomas, around the brain. In March 2024, a study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) found that women who consistently received Depo-Provera had a 555% increased risk of developing intracranial meningiomas. While most meningiomas are benign and grow slowly, it often requires surgical removal due to the pressure they can put on the brain.

The settlement follows the Robins Kaplan team's extensive work in the litigation. Partner **Tara Sutton** served on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee, helping oversee strategy and guide litigation efforts on behalf of plaintiffs nationwide. Sutton, along with attorneys **Rashanda Bruce**, **Allegra LaBat**, and **Hayden Marshall**, also played a leading role in the science and expert work addressing causation, including through the Plaintiffs' Science and Expert Committee. Paralegals **Robin Dusterhoft** and **Christine Friendt**, along with legal administrative assistant **Mandy Guttormson**, also contributed to the litigation.

\$5.15 Million Settlement

Teresa Fariss McClain and **Raoul Shah** obtained a \$5,150,000.00 settlement on behalf of a 68-year-old woman who became totally and permanently blind as a result of a failure to diagnose giant cell arteritis.

Dog Attack Injury Results in \$1 Million Settlement

Tony Schrank represented a 62-year-old man attacked by a dog resulting in fractured hip. Claim resulted in \$1,000,000 settlement.

Court Grants Final Approval of Sartell Mobile Home Park Class Action Settlement

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and Robins Kaplan LLP announced that the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota has granted final approval of a settlement in a class action lawsuit on behalf of residents of the Sartell Mobile Home Park. On May 27, the Honorable Judge Laura M. Provinzino granted final approval of the settlement with the park's current owners, Gemstone Communities and Sartell MHC, LLC, requiring them to address long-standing habitability and billing issues affecting dozens of families. Under the settlement, the current owners have agreed to make repairs, fix billing issues, and honor residents' original lease agreements.

AWARDS, NEWS, & RECOGNITION

Andrew Noel, Brandon Vaughn, Katie Bennett, Philip Sieff, Robert Bennett, Tara Sutton, and **Teresa Fariss McClain** have been recognized in the Personal Injury category of *Minnesota Lawyer's* inaugural Legal 250, celebrating leaders whose influence and impact help shape Minnesota's legal community.

Brandon Vaughn has been named to the *Twin Cities Business* 2026 Notable Litigators & Trial Attorneys list.

Tara Sutton has been recognized by *Chambers USA* 2026 as a leading lawyer in the Product Liability: Plaintiffs (Nationwide) category.

Rayna Kessler has been selected to receive the Compassionate Counsel Award from The Milestone Foundation.

Raoul Shah has been appointed Chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee.

Rashanda Bruce has been named to the 2026 Lawdragon 500 X – The Next Generation for the third consecutive year.



Robins Kaplan was proud to sponsor Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc.' (SMRLS) annual Social Justice: On Tap fundraising event. Partner **Peter Schmit** joined SMRLS CEO Micaela Schuneman for an evening dedicated to advancing access to justice for low-income individuals and families across Minnesota.



Robins Kaplan partner **Rayna Kessler** (center) hosted another Plaintiff Power Happy Hour (P2PH) in New York City this May, bringing together plaintiff attorneys to connect, learn about one another's practices, strengthen relationships, and cultivate a robust referral network—all with a few four-legged friends joining the fun.

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