

ROBINS  KAPLAN LLP

JUSTICE REPORT

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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.



Robins Kaplan Secures \$5 Million Jury Verdict in New Jersey's First-Ever Clergy Sexual Abuse Trial Against Catholic Church Entity

In a historic legal outcome, the national trial firm Robins Kaplan LLP announced it has secured a \$5 million compensatory jury verdict on behalf of a survivor of child sexual abuse, T.M., against the Order of St. Benedict of New Jersey, Inc., which operates the prestigious Delbarton School in Morristown. This verdict is the first known in the State of New Jersey against an entity of the Catholic Church for sexual abuse of a minor.

The plaintiff, T.M., was a 15-year-old student at the Delbarton School in the 1970s when he was sexually abused by Father Richard Lott, an ordained priest and monk of the Order. T.M. testified that Lott took him to a New Year's Eve party, supplied him with alcohol, and later sexually assaulted him in a building on campus. After a seven-week trial in Morris County Superior Court, the jury found that the Defendants—Father Richard Lott and the Order of St. Benedict of New Jersey Inc.—were liable for the sexual abuse of T.M. while he was a minor. Specifically, the jury unanimously found that T.M. was sexually abused by Father Richard Lott, and that the Order/Delbarton School had negligently retained and supervised the ordained priest and monk.

Trial evidence highlighted the institution's systemic failure to act. T.M. had written a letter to then-Abbot Brian Clarke shortly after graduating, reporting his abuse. Abbot Clarke admitted in his testimony that he received the letter and later destroyed it. In 2018, the Order and the Delbarton

School acknowledged that more than 30 individuals had come forward with abuse allegations involving over a dozen clergy members. Several other victims testified during T.M.'s trial that they had also been sexually abused by members of the Order and Delbarton School, including a young monk and the son of Delbarton's groundskeeper who grew up on the Delbarton campus, who both allege that they were also abused by Father Richard Lott.

"This victory is a landmark for justice and a historic turning point in New Jersey," said Rayna Kessler, lead trial counsel for T.M. and partner at Robins Kaplan. "The evidence presented at trial confirmed that the Order and the Delbarton School enabled decades of child sexual abuse and systematically concealed it to guard their reputation. By holding a powerful institution responsible through this jury trial, this result empowers survivors of sexual abuse to demand their day in court. T.M.'s courage and perseverance have paved a path to justice for all survivors seeking accountability."

Michael Geibelson, lead trial counsel and partner at Robins Kaplan, added: "This \$5 million verdict for a single, heinous incident of sexual assault sends a powerful, necessary message: the trauma inflicted by institutional betrayal has real consequences. This result, achieved through T.M.'s immense courage, doesn't just provide justice for him—it helps ensure that other survivors are empowered to seek and achieve the accountability that is long overdue."

The case is the first of more than three dozen civil suits filed against Delbarton to go to trial. The verdict comes after New Jersey's expanded statute of limitations, passed in 2019, which reopened the legal system to abuse survivors across the state. Survivors of child sexual abuse still have until the age of 55 to bring claims against those who caused and enabled their abuse.

Robins Kaplan LLP is a national law firm, known for delivering exceptional results in complex, high-stakes litigation.



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RAYNA KESSLER | PARTNER
LEAD TRIAL COUNSEL





Protecting the Pillars

Key Takeaways from the 2025 Trial Advocacy Seminar

*On October 30, 2025, Robins Kaplan hosted its annual CLE, “The Trial Advocacy Seminar.” This year, attorney **Raoul Shah** reflected on his main takeaways.*

This year’s Trial Advocacy Seminar, titled “Protecting the Pillars: Foundation to the Future,” felt especially important and weighty, as we live in a time when the institutions that are so central to our justice system face unique, ongoing challenges. But I left this seminar feeling a new sense of hope, inspired both by the impressive presenters who shared the work they are doing to uphold these institutional pillars and by the attentive and engaged audience, who joined together with a shared commitment to supporting these pillars to build a better future.

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon reminded us that it is important to bring long-term optimism even when your work brings short-term challenges. He discussed the importance of creating and maintaining both good law and good culture related to elections and voting. These rights have been recognized as a part of the “critical infrastructure” of our country, right alongside the water supply and power grids. As members of the legal profession, we must ensure that these crucial rights remain intact by encouraging others; instilling the importance of voting and democracy in our families, communities, and businesses; and making sure that when people or institutions try to bend these systems to their own interests, we stand up and take them to task. Secretary Simon has done great work to protect these rights for Minnesotans, and we should all commit to sharing his long-term optimism despite the short-term challenges.

Leita Walker, a partner at Ballard Spahr; Jane Kirtley, the Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law at the University of Minnesota’s Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication; and Carolyn Cole, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist and former Robins Kaplan civil rights client, also discussed the importance of defending and protecting the freedom of the press. There have been many recent defamation and other lawsuits designed to chill free speech and other improper purposes, but it was encouraging to hear about all of the work that the media and media lawyers are doing to enforce the First Amendment. As we know, the First Amendment is not self-executing, and thanks to the journalists and other members of media teams who are on the front line, that wrongdoing continues to be examined, explained, and exposed, simply because the story needs to be told. We hear the term

“fake news” thrown about, and while we find ourselves more polarized than ever and trying to divine what is real and what is not, we must all do our part to support this institutional pillar in its goal of reporting the facts and serving as an important check.

Finally, Jon Tynjala, the Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, emphasized the importance of protecting another critical pillar: the people. Two concepts really resonated with me. First, well-being is an individual responsibility that we all owe to ourselves, but it is also an organizational responsibility that we owe to our friends and colleagues. There is no doubt that everyone in the legal field is busy, but we can – and must – take time for each other and foster connection and support. We all do better when we’re all doing better. Second, to quote Jon, “culture eats strategy for lunch.” We can say we prioritize well-being, but unless and until we create cultures that not only support but actively promote and advance well-being, we fall short. We all have a role to play in creating these cultures around us, to protect a crucial pillar: the individual people whose collective efforts contribute to everything else.

These are just a few of my main “lessons learned” – and I’d love to hear from each of you about what resonated with you, too. Feel free to reach out to me at RShah@RobinsKaplan.com. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2026 Seminar!

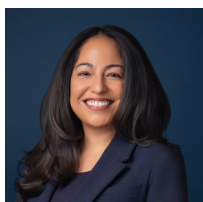


If you are interested in submitting a topic for our 2026 Trial Advocacy Seminar, scan this QR code.

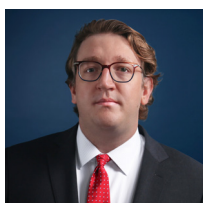
WELCOMING OUR 2025 NEW MINNEAPOLIS ATTORNEYS AND MASS TORTS FELLOWS

This fall, we welcomed four talented attorneys to Robins Kaplan who will strengthen our advocacy for individuals and communities impacted by harmful products, corporate misconduct, personal injury, and civil rights violations.

NEW MINNEAPOLIS ATTORNEYS

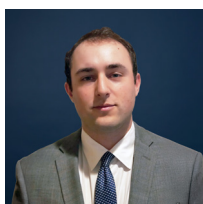


Jackie Perez (Counsel) focuses her practice on medical malpractice, personal injury, and civil rights. A proud Latina and first-generation college student, she brings deep public service experience and a passion for advocating for underserved communities. Jackie earned her J.D. from Mitchell Hamline School of Law and began her career as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Diamond in Ramsey County District Court. She then joined the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, where she handled child protection cases and later prosecuted felony crimes, including cases involving child abuse, domestic violence, and homicide.

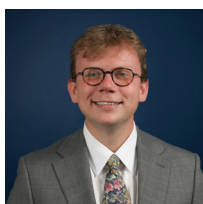


Ethan Adams (Associate) specializes in personal injury and medical malpractice. He brings extensive experience representing clients in a variety of cases. His work ranges from large-scale litigation involving hundreds of injured individuals to individual matters, including motor vehicle collisions, medical malpractice, sexual assault, premises liability, and strict products liability. Ethan earned his J.D. from Mitchell Hamline School of Law and previously clerked for a Minnesota District Court judge before practicing as a personal injury attorney.

MASS TORTS FELLOWS



Matthew Corwin joined our New York office after receiving his J.D. from the University of Southern California. At USC, he served as an Articles Editor for the *Southern California Law Review* and as President of the school's chapter of the International Refugee Assistance Project. He also gained litigation experience through summer and academic-year legal internships. Before law school, Matthew spent three years as an investigator for the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board and taught English in Seoul, South Korea. He earned his B.A. in history from the University of Wisconsin.



Hayden Marshall joined our Minneapolis office after earning his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School. During law school, Hayden served as a judicial intern for Judge Tracy Smith on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and completed a public-interest fellowship with the Arkansas Attorney General's Office. He also brings legislative and administrative experience from roles with the City of Indianapolis and the U.S. Census Bureau. Hayden holds a B.A. in political science and history from Butler University.

MASS TORT INVESTIGATIONS

DEPO-PROVERA

Robins Kaplan LLP is investigating claims of women who received the birth control medication Depo-Provera and later developed tumors, known as meningiomas, around the brain. In March 2024, a study published in the British Medical Journal found that women who consistently received Depo-Provera had a **555% increased risk** of developing tumors (meningiomas). While the tumors are usually benign and grow slowly, they can grow and exert pressure on the brain, leading to symptoms such as headaches, vision changes, hearing loss or tinnitus, memory loss or confusion, seizures and balance issues, and weakness in limbs or trouble speaking. Attorneys Tara Sutton and Rashanda Bruce are working with experts through the Plaintiffs' Science and Expert Committee in the multidistrict litigation against Pfizer.

Learn More:

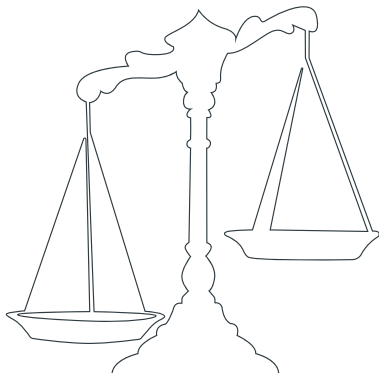


SEEKING JUSTICE AGAINST ORGANIZATIONS FOR SEXUAL ABUSE

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 UPDATES

\$5.25 MILLION HYPOXIC ISCHEMIC INJURY SETTLEMENT

Teresa Fariss McClain obtained a settlement of \$5.25 million involving claimed negligence by a Twin Cities Health Provider in providing prenatal care resulting in the subsequent birth of an infant with hypoxic ischemic injury.

\$3.175 MILLION POLICE SHOOTING SETTLEMENT

Led by Katie Bennett, the Robins Kaplan civil rights team secured a \$3,175,000 settlement after a police officer shot a 29-year-old man nine times as he was experiencing a mental health crisis. The man suffered serious injuries and required medical treatment and surgeries.

\$1.17 MILLION FORKLIFT INJURY SETTLEMENT

Tony Schrank obtained a \$1,170,000 settlement for a 57-year-old truck driver after a forklift operator tipped the to-be-delivered load onto the truck driver, which resulted in multiple fractures.

\$442,000 WRONGFUL DEATH SETTLEMENT AGAINST MINNESOTA SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

Brandon Vaughn resolved a wrongful death claim against a Minnesota senior living community for \$442,500 following allegations that a resident choked to death after being served a meal.

ROBINS KAPLAN FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST EAGAN POLICE AND DAKOTA COUNTY CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AFTER MAN DIES FROM STROKE DUE TO DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE

Led by Katie Bennett, the Robins Kaplan civil rights team 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.

PETER SCHMIT has been honored with the 2025 Minnesota ICON award by *Finance & Commerce* and *Minnesota Lawyer* for exhibiting distinctive excellence that puts him at the top of Minnesota's legal and business communities. He has also been selected as the "Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs: Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers in America*.

TARA SUTTON has received the 2025 Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Iowa College of Law, honoring her outstanding contributions to trial litigation and decades-long commitment to justice, public health, and advocacy.



Tara Sutton is pictured with her daughter and the University of Iowa College of Law Dean Todd Pettys.

RASHANDA BRUCE has been honored with Mitchell Hamline's Recent Alumni Award, which recognizes alumni who have made significant contributions to their community, the legal profession, or the law school within the first ten years following graduation.

ROBERT BENNETT, KATIE BENNETT, MARC BETINSKY, and **ANDREW NOEL** have once again been named to the Lawdragon 500 Leading Civil Rights & Plaintiff Employment Lawyers guide. This annual list honors exceptional lawyers making a meaningful impact in civil rights and employment law nationwide.

BRANDON VAUGHN and **RASHANDA BRUCE** have been honored with the 2025 Excellence Awards from the Hennepin County Bar Association. These annual awards recognize members of the legal community who demonstrate outstanding service to the local bar, the legal profession, and the broader community. Brandon received the “Mentoring in the Profession Award,” while Rashanda received the “Advancing Diversity & Inclusion Award.”

RAYNA KESSLER has been named a “New York Super Lawyer” for attaining high peer recognition and demonstrating notable achievement in her field. No more than five percent of attorneys can be recognized as “Super Lawyers” in any given year.

Our team had an amazing evening at this year’s Firefighters For Healing Red Tie Gala! It’s an honor to sponsor an event that raises crucial funds to support burn survivors, firefighters, and first responders. We’re grateful to everyone who came together to champion this important cause.



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