



BASSFORD REMELE

# The Year in Review

Bassford Remele's People, Service, and Awards

## JANUARY 2025

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# Letter From Our COO

Dear Valued Clients and Friends,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Bassford Remele, we are thrilled to share with you our Year in Review newsletter. This past year has been one of significant growth, achievement, and community engagement for our firm, and we are excited to highlight the milestones that have shaped our journey.

In this edition, you'll find a comprehensive overview of our firm's developments, including:

**New Talent:** We've welcomed several exceptional lawyers to our team, further strengthening our ability to serve you.

**Shareholder Promotions:** Celebrating the elevation of our dedicated attorneys to shareholder status.

**Expanded Services:** Our commitment to meeting your evolving legal needs has led to the introduction of new practice areas and offerings.

**Firm Leadership:** Updates on our recent firm elections and the visionary individuals guiding our future.

**Community Impact:** Highlighting our attorneys' significant contributions to the bar and local communities.

**Recognition:** Sharing some of the awards and accolades that underscore our commitment to excellence.

As we continue to grow and evolve, our core mission remains unchanged: to provide you with the highest quality legal services when you are facing your most critical challenges. We are grateful for your trust and look forward to another year of partnership and achievement.

We are proud to carry on the legacy of excellence that began when Bassford Remele was founded in 1882, continuing to serve our clients with the same commitment and vision that has defined our firm for more than 140 years.

Best regards,



Jessica L. Klander, Chief Operating Officer



BASSFORD REMELE

# Lawyers Who Joined Bassford Remele



## **John R. Schulz, Shareholder**

John has extensive trial practice experience in family law, civil litigation, professional negligence matters, and service to businesses and professionals. He is certified as a Family Trial Law Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA), currently one of fourteen in Minnesota. He is also a Minnesota

State Bar Association (MSBA) Civil Trial Senior Specialist, a certification awarded to less than 3% of trial attorneys in Minnesota, under an ABA Accredited Lawyer Certification Program. John is one of two lawyers in Minnesota with both NBTA certification as a Family Trial Law Advocate and MSBA certification as a Civil Trial Specialist. By attaining these certifications, John underscores his dedication to uphold high standards of professional proficiency.

Licensed in MN and WI; NBTA Certified Family Trial Law Advocate; MSBA Certified Civil Trial Senior Specialist *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®



## **John C. Holper, Shareholder**

John is an experienced construction and real estate trial attorney with more than 30 years of experience representing commercial and residential owners, commercial landlords and tenants, lenders, business entities, developers, contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, architects, and engineers. John works with his clients not

only when a dispute arises, but also on the front end by applying his litigation experience to help draft and negotiate construction-related contracts to manage risk and avoid litigation whenever possible.

Licensed in MN

*The Best Lawyers in America*®, Construction Law & Litigation; *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®



## **Jennifer S. Bovitz, Shareholder**

Jennifer defends professionals in litigation, regulatory, and disciplinary matters. She is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer who has served as a Managing Attorney at the Minnesota Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility and has also served the public as a prosecutor. Jennifer litigates and serves as trial counsel in medical and legal

malpractice cases in addition to representing professionals in regulatory matters before the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, Board on Judicial Standards, and all health licensing Boards.

Licensed in MN



## **Wynne C.S. Reece, Shareholder**

Wynne represents businesses of varying sizes, corporations, creative entrepreneurs, professional entities (such as law firms, mental health practices, or dental practices), and individuals, in a variety of commercial matters, including general structure, client relations and disputes, investor growth strategy, buy-sell agreements,

mergers, acquisitions, intellectual property (e.g. trademark, trade dress and copyright), real estate, and team structure compliance mediation. She is the founder of [The Creative's Counsel](#)®, which focuses on making legal work accessible, with relatable counsel; to date Wynne has worked with over 1,800 clients in an outside counsel capacity. Wynne is chair of the firm's corporate practice group and co-chair of its intellectual property practice group

Licensed in MN, ND and WI; NITA Certified Trial Advocacy Teacher

Rising Young Professional, *Finance & Commerce*; Top Women Lawyer, *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*; Minnesota Rising Star, *Super Lawyers*; MSBA North Star Lawyer



## **James S. Reece, Senior Counsel**

Jim practiced at a large firm for more than 30 years, handling cases throughout the United States and abroad, before forming a firm with his daughter, Wynne Reece, upon her graduation from law school. During his career, Jim has represented clients in cases involving business disputes, personal injury, product liability,

mass torts, industrial accidents, arson, antitrust, financial products, insurance coverage, professional liability, and real estate. Jim has represented several Fortune 500 companies on some of their most important and complex cases. Jim has also represented insurers. Jim understands litigation strategies and dynamics from both the plaintiff and defense sides.

Licensed in MN

*Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; MSBA North Star Lawyer; Volunteer Attorney Award, Children's Law Center of MN; Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®



## **Michael K. Chapman, Counsel**

Michael Chapman is an experienced litigation attorney who focuses his practice on the defense of corporate clients, attorneys, and law firms in the consumer finance arena. He also provides compliance and auditing services to collection agencies. When not focused on consumer finance issues, Michael practices in the

areas of commercial collections, insurance defense, and products liability. He also manages litigation nationwide for corporate clients.

Licensed in GA

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# Lawyers Who Joined Bassford Remele



## **Nicholas J. Prola, Counsel**

Nicholas is an experienced litigator who focuses his practice on consumer finance defense. He is dedicated to defending financial entities, law firms, healthcare providers, and other organizations against consumer financial protection claims. Nicholas advises organizations on privacy and data security issues and defends related regulatory and class action claims. Nicholas also acts as outside general counsel to entities in the ARM space, providing guidance on compliance with state and federal regulations, policies and procedures, contracting, vendor management, employment issues, and litigation. Licensed in IL



## **Andrew T. James, Counsel**

Andrew is an accomplished trial lawyer who has won employment and education cases big and small from coast to coast. He harnesses substantial courtroom and litigation experience to resolve his clients' most difficult issues. Drew is a courtroom lawyer with a lengthy track record of success. Drew passionately represents his clients in all varieties of employment, education, civil rights, and business litigation in federal and state courts nationwide. He has tried and won cases to juries and judges, and his knack for identifying winning issues has resulted in many conclusive victories via motion practice without need for trial.

Licensed in MN, WI, and UT

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, Labor and Employment Litigation; Minnesota Rising Stars list, *Super Lawyers*; Up & Coming Attorney, *Minnesota Lawyer*; MSBA North Star Lawyer



## **Benjamin H. Formell, Attorney**

Benjamin is a litigation attorney, focusing his practice on business and commercial litigation, trust and estate litigation, construction, employment, and insurance coverage. Benjamin graduated from the Duke University School of Law, where he gained practical experience through his participation in Duke's Wrongful Convictions Clinic and the Duke DC Externship Program, spent as a law clerk for the United States Senate Judicial Committee. Immediately following law school, he served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Louis A. Bledsoe, III of the North Carolina Business Court.

Licensed in MN



## **Marshall T. Hall, Attorney**

Marshall is a litigation attorney whose practice includes data breach and cybersecurity, business and commercial litigation, construction and real estate, employment, and professional liability. Marshall has undergone extensive training in digital forensics and digital evidence at the National Computer Forensics Institute. He holds both the Certified Information Privacy Professional/United States (CIPP/US) and Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) certifications. These credentials allow him to provide comprehensive legal solutions in information security, data privacy compliance, incident response, and cyber risk management.

Licensed in MN



## **Jacob P. Petersen, Attorney**

Jacob is a litigation attorney focusing on trust and estate litigation. He enjoys helping his clients move on from the deaths of their loved ones by resolving probate disputes. Jake brings his experience as a broad-spectrum litigator to the trust and estate practice group. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Before joining Bassford Remele, he was a law clerk for the Honorable Phillip Carruthers at the Hennepin County Probate and Mental Health Court.

Licensed in MN, IA, and ND



## **Megan L. Tilton, Attorney**

Megan is an attorney who focuses on business and commercial litigation, consumer finance defense, construction, and corporate matters. Prior to joining Bassford Remele, Megan was involved in litigating complex insurance coverage disputes in state and federal courts nationwide.

Licensed in TX



## **Natalie M. Thomas, Attorney**

Natalie Thomas is a litigator, focusing her practice on construction and real estate law. Natalie graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law, where she serves as an adjunct professor for the Moot Court Program. She is also the vice chair and chair-elect for the UST Intellectual Property and Data Privacy Advisory Board which helps promote a connection between practicing attorneys and law students in the areas of civil litigation, intellectual property, and data privacy.

Licensed in MN

# Lawyers Elevated to Shareholder



## **Bryce D. Riddle, Shareholder**

Bryce practices complex commercial litigation, data privacy and cybersecurity, and employment litigation. He also has class action experience in data breach and consumer privacy litigation. Bryce is co-chair of the firm's data privacy and cybersecurity practice group.

Licensed in MN and CA

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch: Commercial Litigation; Minnesota Rising Stars list, *Super Lawyers*



## **Tal A. Bakke, Shareholder**

Tal is a trial attorney who focuses his practice in the areas of professional liability and commercial litigation. Tal takes pride in being an advocate for his clients and helping navigate the stress of litigation.

Licensed in MN and IA

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation; Minnesota Rising Stars list, *Super Lawyers*



## **James A. Kovacs, Shareholder**

Jim is a persuasive litigator focusing his practice in the areas of appellate law, construction, general liability, and insurance coverage. Prior to joining Bassford Remele, James served as a law clerk to the Honorable Krista K. Martin at Minnesota's Tenth Judicial District.

Licensed in MN, IA, and WI

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, Insurance Law and Personal Injury Litigation



## Expanded Offerings

Bassford Remele's new services include:

### **CORPORATE AND TRANSACTIONS**

**Franchise Transactions**

**General Corporate**

**Growth Strategy**

**Regulatory Compliance**

**Sale and Purchase Transactions**

### **FAMILY LAW**

**Marriage Dissolution**

**Child Custody**

**Child Support**

**Parenting Time**

**Spousal Maintenance**

**Property Division**

**Post-Dissolution**

**Antenuptial and Postnuptial**

From the conference room to the courtroom, Bassford Remele provides comprehensive counsel and representation in litigation and dispute resolution, family law, corporate matters, intellectual property, and buy-sell agreements, ensuring prompt and effective service for its clients.



# We elected a new Board of Directors



**Mark R. Whitmore**  
Chief Executive Officer

*Mark brings considerable experience to his role as CEO, having been involved with firm management and operations for nearly 25 years, including seven years as the firm's Chief Operating Officer/Managing Partner.*

Mark is a trial lawyer who represents and counsels health systems and other businesses and professionals in litigation, risk management, licensing, governmental investigations, and compliance matters. He represents a majority of the health systems in the Twin Cities, including their outstate locations, and takes pride in seeing each matter through conclusion.

Licensed in MN, IA, ND, and WI

*The Best Lawyers in America*®, Minneapolis Medical Malpractice Law-Defendants Lawyer of the Year (2024 and 2020), Health Care Law; Top Lawyer, *Minnesota Monthly*; *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; Amicus Award, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association; Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®



**Jessica L. Klander**  
Chief Operating Officer

*Jessica brings a fresh perspective on firm operations that will benefit Bassford Remele and its clients.*

Jessica's practice focuses on defending lawyers, financial entities, healthcare providers, and other organizations against consumer financial protection claims, malpractice, and professional liability claims. In particular, she counsels organizations on privacy, data security, and governmental and regulatory affairs. She advises and represents health care organizations, collection agencies, and law firms against state and federal regulatory inquiries, civil investigative demands, and consumer lawsuits.

Licensed in MN, IA, ND, and MO

*The Best Lawyers in America*®, Top Lawyer, *Minnesota Monthly*; *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; Attorney of the Year, *Minnesota Lawyer*; Up & Coming Attorney, *Minnesota Lawyer*



**Jeffrey R. Mulder**  
Chief Financial Officer

*Jeff's management style comes from his career as an attorney representing professionals and businesses in high stakes litigation.*

Jeff is a litigator whose practice focuses in commercial, insurance coverage, and professional liability matters, with significant high stakes claims and class action experience. He represents corporations and professionals before trial and appellate courts, licensing boards, arbitration, and mediation venues. He has defended insurers in multiple actions seeking tens of millions of dollars in insurance claims. Jeff also represents real estate brokerages in antitrust cases and represents lawyers on numerous issues.

Licensed in MN

Top Lawyer, *Minnesota Monthly*; *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; Up & Coming Attorney, *Minnesota Lawyer*



**Daniel R. Olson**  
Board of Directors

*Dan brings a practical management background from his experience advising clients on employment and labor issues as co-chair of Bassford's employment law group.*

Dan is a commercial and employment litigator with a record of successfully trying, arbitrating, and mediating a variety of disputes. He represents clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to non-profit organizations to individuals. He teaches employment law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

Dan has been named as a *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list and *Best Lawyers*: Ones to Watch for his proficient work across the full spectrum litigation.

Licensed in MN and WI

*The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, Labor and Employment Litigation, and Personal Injury Litigation; *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; Distinguished Alumnus Award, University of St. Thomas School of Law



**Casey D. Marshall**  
Board of Directors

*Casey brings his knowledge and experience to supporting Bassford's long-standing tradition of excellence and continued success into the future.*

Casey is a litigator who represents companies and individuals in business and commercial disputes, and navigates families, businesses, and individuals through trust and estate conflicts. He has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict and routinely represents clients in state, federal, and appellate courts, as well as in arbitration proceedings. Casey is chair of the firm's business and commercial litigation practice group and co-chair of its trust and estate litigation practice group.

Licensed in MN, ND, SD, and WI

*The Best Lawyers in America*®, Top Lawyer, *Minnesota Monthly*; *Minnesota Super Lawyers* list; Attorney of the Year, *Minnesota Lawyer*



**Kyle S. Willems**  
Board of Directors

*Kyle brings a wealth of experience working with entrepreneurs and cutting-edge businesses to enhance the firm and pass on to our clients.*

Kyle is a business litigation attorney who primarily guides businesses and business owners through disputes in the real estate and construction sectors. Kyle is co-chair of the firm's construction and real estate practice group and recruiting committee.

Licensed in MN and WI

*The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation and Real Estate Litigation; *Minnesota Rising Stars* list, *Super Lawyers*; Top Lawyer, *Minnesota Monthly*, Up & Coming Attorney, *Minnesota Lawyer*

# Service to the Bar and the Community

## **Commission on Judicial Selection for the Tenth Judicial District, appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court**

Beth L. LaCanne

## **Minnesota No-Fault Standing Committee, appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court**

Anu Chudasama

## **Hennepin County Bar Association**

Jessica L. Klander, President-Elect  
*Jessica will be the third Bassford Remele attorney to serve as HCBA President in 2025*

Michael J. Pfau, Board of Directors

## **Hennepin County Bar Foundation**

Beth L. LaCanne, Secretary

Jessica L. Klander, Board of Directors

## **Minnesota State Bar Association**

Aram V. Desteian, Professionalism & Ethics Section, Chair

Kyle S. Willems, Construction Section, Council Member

## **Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers**

Marshall T. Hall, Legislation Committee

## **Defense Research Institute**

Steve O. Plunkett, Board of Directors

## **Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association**

Anu Chudasama, Board of Directors

Sarah M. Hoffman, Medical Liability and Health Care Law Committee, Co-Chair

## **University of St. Thomas Law School**

Daniel R. Olson, Employment Law Adjunct Professor

Natalie M. Thomas, Moot Court Program, Adjunct Professor and Intellectual Property Advisory Board, Vice Chair and Chair-Elect

Kyle S. Willems, Jennifer S. Bovitz, and Michael J. Pfau, Mentors

## **Mitchell Hamline School of Law**

Jennifer S. Bovitz, General Practice: Skills Practicum Adjunct Professor

## **Inns of Court**

### **Douglas K. Amdahl Inn of Court**

Jeffrey D. Klobucar, new Master

Sarah M. Hoffman, Master

Kyle S. Willems, Master

Aram V. Desteian, Master

Anu Chudasama, Master and new Membership Chair

### **The Honorable Jimmie V. Reyna Intellectual Property American Inn of Court**

Wynne C.S. Reece, new Barrister

## **Walker|West**

Daniel R. Olson, Chair of the Governance Committee and Board of Directors

## **Temple Israel Foundation**

Alan I. Silver, Vice President, Board of Directors, and Immigration Justice Task Force

## **Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas**

Alan I. Silver, Board of Directors

## **Minneapolis Club**

Aram V. Desteian, President of Board of Governors

## **Minneapolis Sailing Center**

Marshall T. Hall, Board Member

## **North Loop Neighborhood Association**

Marshall T. Hall, Planning and Zoning Committee

## **insideArm (Consumer Finance)**

Jessica L. Klander, Legal Advisory Board

## **ACA International, Inc. (Consumer Finance)**

Jessica L. Klander, Collection Notice Review (CNR) Committee and Minnesota and North Dakota MAP State Compliance Chair

Patrick D. Newman, Collection Notice Review (CNR) Panel and Wisconsin MAP State Compliance Chair

## **Association of Women Contractors**

Janine M. Loetscher, Legal Advisor

## **Associated General Contractors of Minnesota**

Kyle S. Willems, Contracts Committee

## **Professional Liability Defense Federation**

Aram V. Desteian, Lawyers Professional Liability Claims, Vice Chair

## **Twin Cities Estate Planning Council**

Casey D. Marshall, Board of Directors



# Awards



**Andrew L. Marshall**  
**Attorney of the Year**  
**Minnesota Lawyer**

Andrew's successful work on the "CAFO" (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) dispute on behalf of the residents of the Town of Trade Lake, Wisconsin, impressed the selection committee and earned him this great honor! Andrew's work was so impactful

that Bassford Remele received seven letters from community members in and around the Town of Trade Lake in support of Andrew's nomination, including letters from a county and town board member, county supervisor, and town chairman on behalf of the Town of Eureka.



**Jessica L. Klander**  
**Attorney of the Year, Outstanding Service to the Profession**  
**Minnesota Lawyer**

Jessica and two colleagues were recognized for their work on a petition to adopt parental leave rules. The rules allow a 90-day presumptive leave continuance of trial, evidentiary hearings, pretrial, and other scheduling

order deadlines if an attorney substantially involved in the representation experiences a (1) health condition; (2) birth/adoption of child; (3) need to care for a sick family and/or household member; or (4) death of a family and/or household member.



**Janine M. Loetscher**  
**Top Women in Law**  
**Minnesota Lawyer**

Top Women in Law celebrates the outstanding achievements of exceptional women in the legal community.

**Top Woman in Construction, Professional Services**  
**Finance & Commerce**

Top Women in Construction celebrates the impact women are having in the construction industry. By achieving success, they have also paved the way to success for other women in construction.

## About Us

Bassford Remele proudly serves as local and national counsel for many major corporations and Fortune 500 Companies and is a go-to litigation firm representing local, national, and international clients in state and federal courts across the region. The firm provides comprehensive counsel and representation in litigation and dispute resolution, family law, and corporate matters, ensuring prompt and effective service for its clients.

***Established in 1882, Bassford Remele is proud to be the oldest top-25 law firm based in Minnesota.***



**Bassford Remele** has been recognized in the 2025 edition of Best Law Firms®, a testament to our unwavering commitment to legal excellence. Firms included in the 2025 Best Law Firms list are recognized for professional excellence with impressive ratings from clients and peers. Achieving a ranking in Best Law Firms signifies high-quality legal practice and a depth of legal proficiency.

Bassford Remele has received rankings in:

- Arbitration and Mediation
- Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- Bet-the-Company Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- ERISA
- Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law
- Health Care Law
- Insurance Law
- Intellectual Property
- Labor and Employment
- Legal Malpractice Law
- Medical Malpractice Law
- Personal Injury Litigation
- Product Liability Litigation
- Professional Malpractice Law
- Trusts and Estates

**"Bassford attorneys are able to navigate complex cases, whether factually or legally complex."**

**BASSFORD REMELE, A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
LITIGATION: GENERAL COMMERCIAL  
MINNESOTA