

ST. LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



WHAT WE DO TO BRING FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE TO YOU

Duluth Court House
100 N. 5th Ave. W., #501
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 726-2323

Virginia Court House
300 S. 5th Ave., #222
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 749-7101

Hibbing Court House
1810 – 12th Ave. E., #107
Hibbing, MN 55746
(218) 262-0158

Govt. Services Center
320 W. 2nd Street, #403
Duluth, MN 55802
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Veterans Support

Increasing the support of area veterans was part of an outreach effort pursued by the County Attorney’s Office this past year. Jeff Hall, a veteran and Team Leader at Duluth’s Vet Center spoke to the County Attorney and others during a community leaders’ Conversation Circle. Hall reminded participants that veterans appreciate it when others take the time to understand roadblocks that keep veterans from full involvement in the community.

Assistant County Attorney Tim Tysdal and Legal Secretary Carla Mercier actively serve in Minnesota’s National Guard. Other attorneys volunteer at area non-profits that support veterans.

Mark Rubin attended veteran’s gatherings, including the 60th anniversary and re-dedication of the Gary New Duluth Veterans Memorial and the dedication of the Iron Range Veterans Memorial in Virginia, MN. To honor those who’ve served-- and continue to serve -- Mark Rubin played his guitar and sang for attendees. nulla adipiscing neque.



Letter from St. Louis County Attorney Mark S. Rubin

Justice through innovation, partnership and leadership.

Heading into year three as your County Attorney, I can truly say that it has been a privilege and an honor to serve you, the citizens of St. Louis County. The momentum—of seeing justice served and hope restored for individuals and communities within our 7,000 square miles of responsibility—keeps growing every day. To be sure, I do not do this alone. It is a combined, cooperative effort of 71 talented individuals who make up the core of our offices in Duluth, Hibbing and Virginia.

Every day, the attorneys, investigators, and victim/witness and support staffs keep your best interests at heart. These individuals go beyond the statutory responsibilities by using innovation and partnership with others and are extremely effective in achieving positive outcomes. Whether they are giving timely legal advice to the County Board and various County departments, or prosecuting serious crimes, or advocating for the most vulnerable of our county's citizens, those who work in the St. Louis County Attorney's office make certain that your tax dollars are used wisely and effectively.

The results of their hard work can be seen within these pages. Especially noticeable is the pursuit of excellence through leadership, courage and collaboration. It is qualities like these that help to "restore the confidence of citizens in government," as American advocate and activist Marian Wright Edelman says.

It is also with a sense of gratitude that we will continue to serve our County with the diligence and perseverance you have come to expect. In the end, we can demonstrate that fairness leads to justice and justice leads to safe and strong communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Rubin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Rubin
St. Louis County Attorney

"The overarching task of leadership today in every segment of American society is to give our youths, and all Americans, a sense that we can be engaged in enterprises that lend meaning to life, that we can regain control over our families and our national destiny, and that we can make a positive difference individually and collectively in building a decent, safe nation and world."

Marian Wright Edelman,
The Measure of our Success



Kim Maki

Civil Division Head

Duluth Office:

- Leslie Beiers
- Nick Companerio
- Jim Nephew
- Tom Stanley
- Timothy Tysdal

Civil Division

Kim Maki, a seasoned professional with more than 10 years of experience—two of which have been in the Civil Division—is now that Division’s Head.

St. Louis County government relies heavily on the Civil Division and its timely legal counsel for daily, operational interactions. Its support and advice is foundational to decisions made by the County Board, the County Administrator, County department heads and their employees. Arrowhead Regional Corrections also relies on the Civil Division’s legal advice.

Other areas of service by the Division in 2012 included:

- Development of knowledge in the proposed expansion of the mining industry, enabling the County to beneficially position itself for years to come.
- Unanticipated work load following the June flood, involving 125 different projects, contracts and grant agreements covering millions of dollars of road reconstruction, including Jean Duluth and Haines Roads.



* Picture: Civil Division provided legal counsel for multiple reconstruction road projects throughout the County, such as Jean Duluth Road shown in the picture to the right.



At the same time, attorneys worked dozens of hours on the legalities of bringing together the Duluth City Assessor’s office with the County Assessor’s office. Combining the two offices eliminates duplication of services, creates work process efficiencies and ensures a uniform set of standards and expectations as property assessments are conducted. This means County taxpayers will receive improved service through uniform property tax evaluations for all citizens throughout the County.

With customer service as its primary focus, the Civil Division ensures timely, well-reasoned and reliable advice to Administration and various departments as well.



Gary Bjorklund

Criminal Division Head

Duluth Office:

Jon Holets
 Christopher Pinkert
 Jessica Smith
 Nate Stumme
 Rebekka Stumme
 Kristen Swanson
 Vicky Wanta
 Virginia Office:
 Michelle Anderson
 Gordon Coldagelli
 Leah Stauber
 Hibbing Office:
 Brian Simonson
 Karl Sundquist
 Jeff Vlatkovich

Criminal Division

Gary Bjorklund leads the 13 criminal prosecutors who work in Duluth, Virginia and Hibbing. This highly effective team is responsible for charging and prosecuting all levels of adult criminal offenses within St. Louis County including felonies, gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors and county ordinance violations. Additionally, the prosecutors are involved in problem solving in the specialty courts, including DWI and Drug Court, and Mental Health Court.

Criminal Division attorneys are responsible for setting up and conducting law enforcement training to support police in the latest changes in laws and regulations. These training sessions are designed to improve investigation procedures, search and seizure methods, and other aspects of criminal investigation.

Particularly high profile and difficult cases that the Division was involved in this past year included:

- Brian Bridges was convicted of two counts of First Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct, First Degree Burglary, and Assault in the Third Degree. He was sentenced to 26 years in prison. The case involved a home invasion and the brutal beating and rape of a Hibbing woman.
- Randy Boettcher was found guilty of 11 counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct and Possessing Child Pornography. The Court sentenced Boettcher to a total of 252 months in prison.
- Andrew Clarke was convicted of four counts of Possessing and Selling Drugs. The jury also found Clarke to be a career offender. He received a 258 month prison sentence, which was double the amount under the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines.
- Dale Porter was found guilty of Assault in the Second Degree, Terroristic Threats, and Illegal Possession of a Pistol. The convictions were secured even though the victim refused to cooperate with the prosecution and ultimately testified on the behalf of Porter at trial. The extensive investigation by law enforcement and the compiling of additional evidence made this a textbook case of "evidence-based prosecution."
- Paul Welle was convicted of Murder in the Second Degree and was sentenced to 216 months in prison. Welle was convicted of killing Paul Anderson outside a bar in Proctor.



Public Health & Human Services Division

The Public Health and Human Services Division works to protect adults and children most in danger of being victimized. It accomplishes this through involvement in child protection, civil commitment, guardianship and vulnerable adult maltreatment cases. Timely adjudication of paternity, establishment of child support cases and other enforcement action also ensure timely economic assistance to families and children. The Division of 12 attorneys and three investigators is led by Patricia Shaffer.

The Division filed 285 child protection petitions in 2012, up from 246 the previous year. These included 52 termination of parental rights petitions filed asking the court to free these children for adoption or placement in safe and permanent homes. One notable case involved a mother dangling her infant off a bridge.

There were 136 referrals for civil commitment in 2012. A particularly egregious case involved a young man who, while under the influence of synthetic drugs engaged in significant, self harm resulting in permanent loss of his eyesight.

The Division also prosecutes crimes by offenders who are under the age of 18 at the time the crime was committed. Juvenile crime includes everything from minor offenses such as curfew violation and smoking, to violent crimes against persons. For instance, the Division prosecuted a juvenile accused of participating in an assault that left a 17-year-old girl fighting for her life after being stabbed in the chest and repeatedly struck by a baseball bat. In another case, a 17-year-old male acting with two adults robbed—at knifepoint—an adult who was at home with his young son.

Continued on Page 7

Patricia Shaffer

PHHS Division Head

Duluth Office:

- Jennifer Barry
- Joseph Fischer
- Heather Korpela
- Clarissa McDonald
- Jennifer Barry
- Charles Schumacher
- Angie Shambour
- Benjamin Stromberg
- Joanne Vavrosky

Virginia Office:

- Sharon Chadwick
- Rena Darland

Hibbing Office:

- Gayle Goff
- Stacey Sundquist

Investigators:

- William Klein
- Shawn Laine
- Katherine Finc

The Division also provides legal representation to the County's Public Health and Human Services Department. Division attorneys are involved in contracts, licensing matters involving day care and child foster care providers, public assistance eligibility, benefit recovery, and investigation and prosecution of public assistance fraud.

The Division actively participates in many multidisciplinary teams. Examples include the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) to address truancy; Adult Protection Teams for North and South St. Louis County, made up of social service staff, law enforcement, Bois Fort and Fond Du Lac tribal representatives, and public health staff to address prevention of maltreatment of vulnerable adults; a Quarterly Collaborative that includes representatives from Bois Forte, probation, social services and public health to address child protection and service to children; and a First Witness Multidisciplinary Team that addresses child abuse issues.

Looking to the future, PHHS attorneys will strive to continue its close partnership with the County's Public Health and Human Services Department through timely provision of sound legal advice and effective advocacy both in and out of court. Opportunities for further enhancing juvenile justice in St. Louis County will also be reviewed..



Photo: County Attorney attendees at the NE MN / NW WI Summit included (Front Row, L-R): Gary Bjorklund, St. Louis; Molly Hicken, Assistant Attorney, Cook; Laura Auron, Lake; Patricia Shaffer and Kim Maki, St. Louis. (Back Row, L – R) Dan Blank, Douglas; Thom Pertler, Carlton; Mark Rubin, St. Louis; and Jeffrey Naglosky, Koochiching.

Summit Makes History

The first ever, Northeast Minnesota / Northwest Wisconsin County Attorneys’ Summit convened on November 16, 2012, by St. Louis County Attorney Mark S. Rubin.

Many of the region’s County Attorneys often find themselves working together across county—and even state—lines while addressing complex issues and prosecuting difficult cases. Confirmation of the importance of the Summit to their work was evidenced by the presence of five area County Attorneys, and three Division Heads from St. Louis County, as well as Cook County’s Assistant County Attorney, Molly Hicken.

Leadership was shared through peer-to-peer presentations of “Hot Topics” that were of interest to all. “This was a gathering for us, led by us,” said Rubin.

Those presenting were:

- Thom Pertler, Carlton County Attorney – Drug Investigations
- Laura Auron, Lake County Attorney – Evidence-based, Domestic Assault Prosecutions in Absence of Victim Cooperation
- Molly Hicken, Cook County ACA – Courthouse Security & Safety

Jane Haubrich Caspersen, Special Projects Investigator, facilitated a group conversation focusing on actions that help create supported and balanced life styles for professionals who must often shoulder heavy responsibilities in chaotic environments.

Citon Computer Corporation underwrote the Summit’s funding, allowing the group to convene without taxpayer expense. Citon’s corporate citizenship and commitment to community safety mirrored an emerging, national trend of business’ stepping up to help government serve the public in an era of ever tightening budgets.

As one Summit participant noted, “We convened because our mutual goals are excellence in the service we provide...and no less important, we convened because we care...not only for our constituents, but we care for each other.”

Homecroft School, Hands on Civics

Each year, the Victim / Witness Division invites school children to visit the Courthouse. Teacher Brenda Sederberg of Homecroft Elementary School, Duluth, brought her third grade class to visit. Below, are their comments and their drawings reflecting what they learned.



“I see that I am a little piece of a big, big universe, and that makes it right.”

***- Hushpuppy
Beasts of the Southern Wild, 2012***

Patty Wheeler

Director

Duluth Staff:

Ann Fisk

Lori Ulvi

Virginia Staff:

Jaime Varichek

Hibbing Staff:

Elaine Lee

Victim / Witness Division

Patty Wheeler, Director of the Victim/Witness Division and her staff work diligently every day to assure victim rights are upheld and needed support is given. Each County Attorney’s office has a Victim/Witness staff member assigned to it so that no matter what area of the county a person comes from, they have someone who knows their community and the services available in it.

During the course of a year staff handles thousands of phone calls, texts and emails from victims or witnesses, ensuring the Minnesota Crime Victim Rights laws are upheld. Often, victims are feeling afraid or confused, and witnesses might be frustrated or even angry with a system they do not understand. However, information about court advocacy, notification of hearing dates, trial preparation and a myriad of other issues are competently and compassionately dealt with by the advocates.

Even when nothing can be done through legal channels to assist these individuals, community resources are offered that can help a victim feel they have a voice in the process. Collaborative efforts between First Witness, Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA), Men as Peacemakers and others assist in carrying out the goal of the office, which is to be the voice for the people who have been victimized.



The St. Louis County Attorney’s Youth Accountability Program is an alternative to Juvenile Court and is operative in all offices, countywide. Lori Ulvi, Jamie Varichek, and Elaine Lee (Victim Witness Services staff) offer juveniles charged with theft, underage consumption, curfew violations and other low-level offenses an opportunity to participate in accountability and community service programming. In the Duluth area, restorative justice circles are offered as an alternative to appearing in Juvenile Court for some offenses.

Juveniles must meet eligibility requirements, but Youth Accountability teaches them how their crimes affect not only their families but also others in the community. If alcohol is a problem, they learn how their usage may lead to other dangerous behaviors. Successful completion of the program keeps the crime off the juveniles’ record.

From a parental or guardian side, they not only are involved with their kids but are engaged in the decision making process regarding consequences. Many parents are grateful that the youth are still held accountable for their actions while being given a chance to correct their mistakes.

Wade Backstrom

Office Administrator

**Jane Haubrich
Casperson**Special Projects
Investigator**Duluth Staff:**

Yvonne Kalin, Supervisor

Betty Christenson

Shirley Garden

Teresa Harries

Rachel Lambert

Diane Lundberg

Carla Mercier

Jody Messner

Sue Peterson

Teresa White

Cynthia Zuk

PHHS Staff:

Mary Fruehauf,

Supervisor

Jackie Calvert

Diane Eck

Laura Tromblay

Virginia Staff:

Veronica Ratliff,

Supervisor

Patti Everson

Tracy McDonald

Candy Nelson

Tammy Sundahl

Hibbing Staff:

Veronica Ratliff,

Supervisor

Alaina Denny

Char Meinzer

Rachael Turk

Support Staff

The County Attorney's skilled support staff of 24 clerical employees continues to handle substantially larger amounts of information each year with a high level of expertise. Office Administrator, Wade Backstrom, supervises the staff. Additionally, Wade stewards the \$7 million annual office budget, human resources matters, and technology management within the office.

Three clerical supervisors manage the clerical team and maintain "DAMION," the electronic case management system. During 2012, there was continuous improvement of the electronic filing (e-filing) of criminal complaints which, in turn, provides more efficient management of documents and court filings.

The electronic notification project also launched last year. This allows electronic notification between our office and the Court, with the Court's electronic case management system transferring data in "real time" into our DAMION system. These improvements speed up the process and greatly reduce the margin for human error.

Our office is a member of the North East Minnesota Enforcement Safety Information System (NEMESIS) and has taken a leadership role in its development. NEMESIS provides a central resource for 27 regional law enforcement agencies. It aids in dispatching resources and in tracking information regarding people, incidents and cases throughout the criminal justice system.

NEMESIS connects local and state-wide criminal and juvenile justice information systems. This shared data process strengthens public safety between St. Louis, Carlton, Cook, Lake and Koochiching Counties.

Honors, Awards, Outstanding Work



Gary Bjorklund, head of the Criminal Division, was awarded Customer Service Recognition Award by the County Board. Third District Commissioner Dahlberg nominated Bjorklund for the award, praising him for his quiet strength and willingness to take on horrific cases. Said Dahlberg, "Not only would St. Louis County be at a great loss without such an individual working on our behalf, but so would the many vulnerable and abused of our society to whom Mr. Bjorklund gives a strong voice."



Mark Rubin was honored by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA) with the 2012 M.A. Johnson Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes an individual who demonstrates significant leadership and commitment to improve the quality of justice while increasing and enhancing public awareness of the office of County Attorney. MCAA President Don Ryan commended Rubin for his response to the Cook County Courthouse shooting. Rubin drove to the courthouse in Grand Marais the morning following the shooting to assist the Cook County Sheriff's Office in preparing the complaint against the shooter. Rubin volunteered the assistance of his staff until the Cook County Attorney's Office staff could return to more normal operations.

Honors, Awards, Outstanding Work



Rebekka Stumme, St. Louis County Assistant Attorney, received a Certificate of Appreciation Award from Proctor Mayor David Brenna. The honor was given in gratitude for the dedication and service Stumme provided to the City of Proctor, during the trial of a vicious homicide that occurred there. As a result of Stumme's skill and professionalism, the jury delivered a guilty verdict and obtained justice for the decedent and the family he left behind.



*Picture: A Drumming Circle was held following the Trafficking Awareness Press Conference. It was led by Native women and men and honored the survivors of sex trafficking.

Trafficking Awareness and Prevention --In conjunction with PAVSA (Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault, AICHO (American Indian Community Housing Organization), the City of Duluth, and the Minnesota Women's Foundation the County Attorney's Office continues to participate in its efforts to protect the safety of young girls and women by increased public awareness and support for the regional and statewide anti-sex trafficking efforts. Working in collaboration with the City of Duluth The St. Louis County Attorney's Office is very proud to continue to be a partner in this effort to protect children and enhance the community's response. In 2012, opportunities to educate the public occurred through press conferences, community forums, and outreach efforts.



*Picture: Henry Banks, Host, People of Color Radio Program, Community Conversation Circle Participant

Community Conversation Circles – Thirty-five community leaders and representatives from non-profits and advocacy groups were invited to participate in small group conversations with their County Attorney. All participants reported a strengthening of relationships with the Office, a sincere effort of being listened to, and an outlook of pro-active accessibility with the Office especially in times of potential adversity by the various constituents they serve.

Honors, Awards, Outstanding Work

PHHS Division Attorneys have regularly appeared in Minnesota Appellate courts. The Minnesota Court of Appeals filed four opinions in 2012 on cases handled by the Division Attorneys. They successfully defended the District Court decision in each of these cases. Also, through the Division's work, St. Louis County again exceeded the federal benchmark for paternity establishment cases.

U.S. Attorney and St. Louis County – When addressing the crimes of firearms violence, narcotics trafficking and synthetic drugs, St. Louis County citizens continue to benefit from the strong relationship between our office and the office of B. Todd Jones, the U.S. Attorney for Minnesota. This has been especially significant with the public safety and health issues involved in the sale and use of synthetic controlled substances.

Racial Justice Improvement Project (RJIP) Taskforce – Leadership continues between our office, the District Court judges, the Public Defender's office, Arrowhead Regional Corrections and area law enforcement. Following a year and a half of planning and analysis, our task force conducted training last summer for all of the judges in the district as well as all probation officers involved in the pretrial process for adult felony cases.

Media and the Courts #101 – Five, first ever training events for area media outlets were held last year, focusing on the basics of criminal procedure, from arrest to sentencing. More than 40 journalists from three local television stations and two regional daily newspapers learned about the inner workings of the Criminal Justice System. They also received reinforcement for their role in the collaborative relationship needed between the "fourth estate" and the Criminal Justice System in a democratic society.

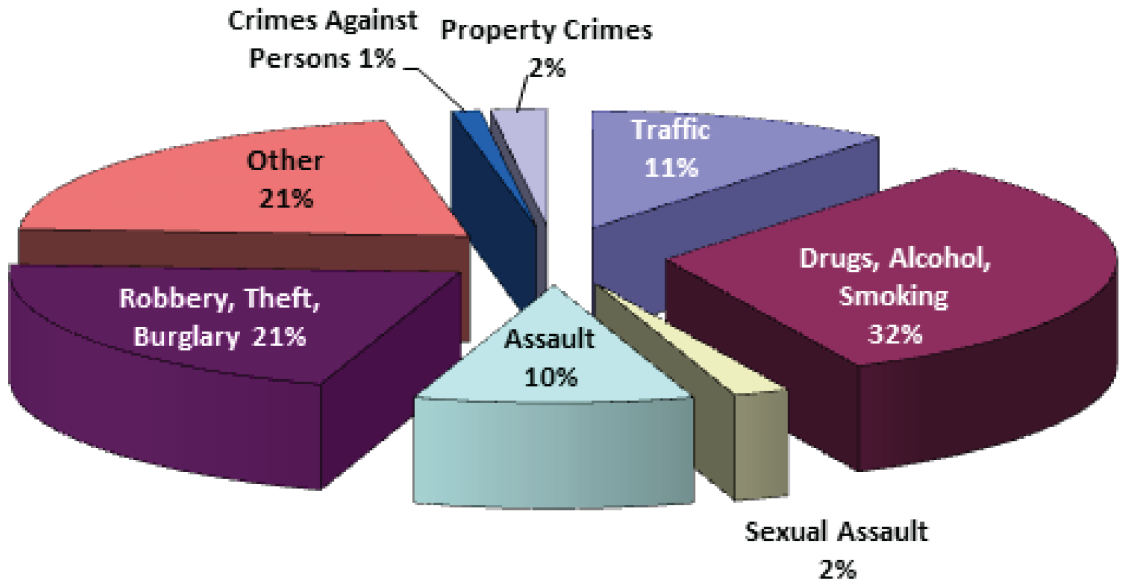
Crimes By the Numbers

MY WORD CRASHED SO I WILL
PLACE THIS GRAPH IN TONIGHT

Adult felony referrals are up 17 percent overall. A direct cause is the increased heroin and synthetic drug usage within the county. More cases are being successfully prosecuted due to the excellent investigative efforts of area law enforcement and the tireless work of an outstanding team of prosecutors.

Crimes By the Numbers

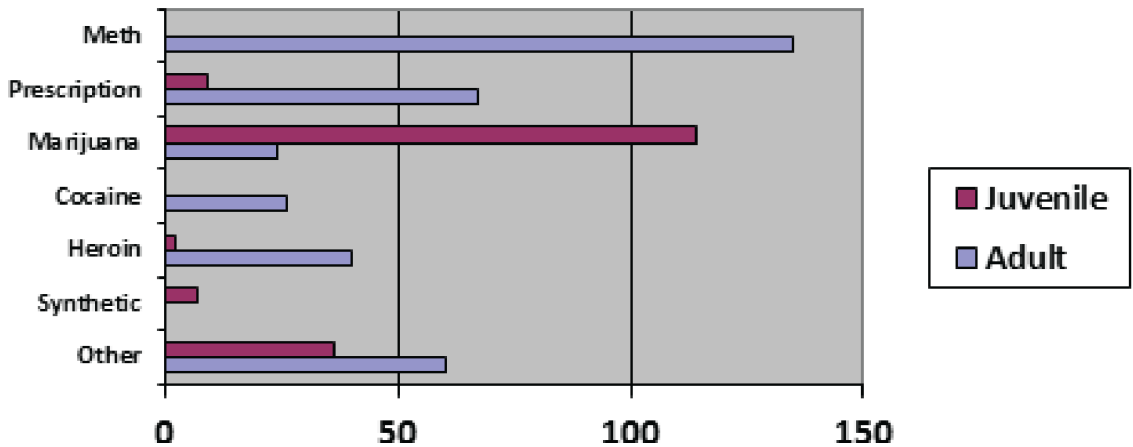
Juvenile Cases By Crime Type 2012



Juvenile delinquency referrals decreased last year by nearly 3.5 percent overall. However, the violent level of some crimes committed by youth is increasing. This is an area of ongoing concern. One positive development is the Youth Accountability Program as an alternative to Juvenile Court. This pre-petition diversion program holds lower level juvenile offenders accountable and teaches them how their crimes affect their families and their community. It is being used successfully with juveniles who have no or limited prior contact with the Court.

Crimes By the Numbers

Drug Referrals by Drug Type 2012



Methamphetamine persists as the illegal drug of choice for adults in St. Louis County. The ongoing abuse of prescription medication is a disturbing trend among both adults and juveniles. Heroin cases increased dramatically last year, with law enforcement reporting a startling rise in heroin overdoses and deaths.

Synthetic drugs are a major problem, especially among the young. Our office interacts collaboratively with law enforcement, federal authorities and area non-profits in an effort to eliminate the sale of these life altering chemical compounds.

Good Deeds Done

“One of my quotes is from the last episode of Boy Meets World. I used this quote in my law school application essays, and I urged two of my friends to use it in their grad school application essays ... and it's gotten us all into law school. So I'm 3 for 3 so far.” Hats off to Vicky Wanta, SLC Assistant County Attorney, for her quotable submission.

Mr. Feeny: Believe in yourselves. Dream. Try. Do good.

Topanga: Don't you mean do well?

Mr. Fenny: No, I mean do good.

It is a given that our attorneys are leaders in their professional roles. Each year they give hundreds of hours to their communities through personal dedication and involvement outside the office. Some of their activities are listed, below. See if you agree... our County Attorneys exemplify Mr. Feeny's advice.

<i>Child Mortality Review Team</i>	<i>Legislation Advocate For On-Duty Weapons</i>	<i>Assertive Community Treatment Team, Mental Health Collaborative Trainer</i>
<i>School Mock Trial Mentor</i>		
<i>Child Protection Team</i>	<i>South St. Louis County Domestic Violence Sentencing Circle</i>	<i>Lake Superior Pointing Dog Assn Trainer</i>
<i>Congregations Caring For The Earth Event Coordinator</i>	<i>Domestic Violence Community Response Team Coordinator</i>	<i>First Witness Tech Volunteer</i>
<i>Family Law Forum Panelist</i>	<i>Local 3761 President</i>	<i>Church Committees And Membership</i>
<i>Attorney's Union Trustee</i>		<i>Annual Junior Bonspiel Organizer</i>
<i>Montessori School Of Duluth Volunteer</i>	<i>MN Judicial Branch Committee for Equality and Justice, Subcommittee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</i>	<i>Touched By Breast Cancer Golf Classic Vice President</i>
<i>11th District Bar Association secretary</i>	<i>11th District Bar Association Family Law Speaker On Child Support</i>	<i>Co-Director, Side Lake, Angling Horizons, Fishing For People With Disabilities</i>
<i>UM-D Adjunct Lecturer, Eminent Domain Law</i>	<i>NERCC Fathers' Speaker On Importance Of Child Support To Families.</i>	<i>Women's Shelter Volunteer Trainer</i>
<i>MN Court Committee on Equality and Justice</i>		<i>Hibbing High School Sar Committee Member</i>
<i>Home-Bound Seniors' Grocery Shopper</i>	<i>Supreme Court Subcommittee Member</i>	<i>Latin American Culture Camp Volunteer</i>
<i>Elder Abuse/ Vulnerable Adult Speaker Expert</i>	<i>Virginia Community Foundation Board Member</i>	<i>Jdai Committee Member</i>
<i>Children's Justice Initiative</i>	<i>Duluth Police Department & Fond Du Lac Tribal College Trainer</i>	<i>MS Annual Walk Participant / Fund Raiser</i>
<i>6th Dist Representative, Governor's Commission On Judicial Selection</i>	<i>Northland Foundation Mentorship Volunteer</i>	<i>Ordean Foundation Board of Directors</i>
<i>Elementary And High School And Classroom Parent Volunteers</i>	<i>Blue Devil Youth Hockey Team Manager</i>	<i>Men As Peacemakers</i>
<i>Duluth Charter Commission President</i>	<i>Girl Scout Speaker S And Volunteers</i>	<i>Trainer For Child Care Providers</i>
<i>Foster Parent</i>		<i>PTSA Members</i>
<i>Interagency Committee On Ending Domestic Violence</i>	<i>First Witness Trainer, Forensic Interviews</i>	<i>Civil Air Patrol And Ski Patrol Volunteer</i>
<i>Human Trafficking Taskforce</i>	<i>Lake Superior Chapter of Muskies, Inc., member/volunteer - youth and Veterans</i>	<i>Duluth Community Garden Volunteer</i>
<i>First Witness and PAVSA volunteer</i>		<i>Trans-Racial Adoptive Families For Multi-Cultural Awareness</i>
<i>Range Domestic Violence Team Member</i>	<i>Children's Hospital Volunteer</i>	<i>National Guard Members</i>
	<i>Northwest Gun Club-Youth Club Scorekeeper</i>	<i>Boy Scout Volunteer</i>
		<i>Chemical Advisory Committee</i>

"Prayer In My Boot"

By Naomi Shibab Nye

For the wind no one expected

For the boy who does not know the answer

For the graceful handle I found in a field
attached to nothing
pray it is universally applicable

For our tracks which disappear
the moment we leave them

For the face peering through the cafe window
as we sip our soup

For cheerful American classrooms sparkling
with crisp colored alphabets
happy cat posters
the cage of the guinea pig
the dog with division flying out of his tail
and the classrooms of our cousins
on the other side of the earth
how solemn they are
how gray or green or plain
how there is nothing dangling
nothing striped or polka-dotted or cheery
no self-portraits or visions of cupids
and in these rooms the students raise their hands
and learn the stories of the world

For library books in alphabetical order
and family businesses that failed
and the house with the boarded windows
and the gap in the middle of a sentence
and the envelope we keep mailing ourselves

For every hopeful morning given and given
and every future rough edge
and every afternoon
turning over in its sleep

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