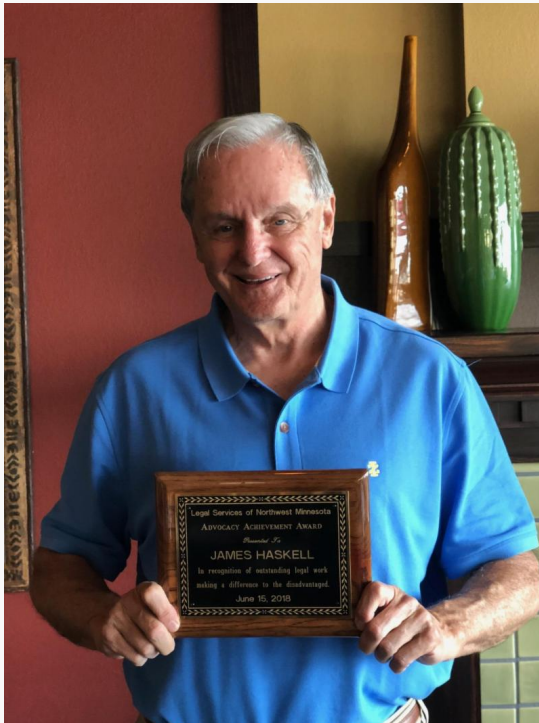




LSNM Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2018

## Northwest News

### CONGRATULATIONS, JAMES HASKELL!



James Haskell received LSNM's Advocacy Achievement Award at the 15th District Bar Association Meeting in June. He joined LSNM's Judicare panel in 1978, and has also served on the Board of Directors.

Anne Hoefgen, LSNM's Executive Director says, "Jim has been committed to serving the legal needs of the low-income community for four decades. He has provided service to hundreds of clients and represents the best in our profession at giving clients the highest level of service."

Jim enjoys canoeing, camping, fishing, hunting, golf and especially enjoys time at his lake cabin near Atikokan, Ontario in the summer months.

Thank you, Jim, for your excellent and long-term commitment to justice!

### WELCOME, HANNAH!

Hannah Estenson joined LSNM in April as a Legal Assistant. She earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Paralegal from Minnesota State University-Moorhead in 2017. Hannah finds it rewarding "to help someone or direct someone to get the help that they are seeking." She adds, "it is such a blessing to be able to go to work and be surrounded by such awesome people that enjoy their positions as much as I do. This can make all the difference in the world. It is great to be a part of an incredible team."

Hannah also enjoys spending time with her family and pets, going to concerts, and cheering on the Vikings and Timberwolves with her fiancé, Jason.



## LAW STUDENTS SPEND SUMMER WITH LSNM!



**Maren Magill- 2018 MJF Law Clerk**

Maren will be a 2L at the University of Minnesota Law School this fall. Her two years of experience working with low-income youth on college access issues motivated her to get a law degree. She wants to better advocate for low-income communities, particularly in family and housing law.

Maren finds inspiration from Mary Oliver's poetry, especially the line, "what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Maren says: "I'm excited to be working at LSNM this summer, because I believe that everyone, no matter their income or background, deserves excellent legal representation. I have really enjoyed shadowing the wonderful attorneys here, being able to have interactions with clients and the



**Daniel Ptacnik- 2018 Legal Extern**

Daniel will return to the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Law as a 2L this fall. He also received a psychology degree from UND.

Daniel finds inspiration from his favorite TV show and book series, Game of Thrones. "Never forget what you are, for surely the world will not. Make it your strength. Then it can never be your weakness. Armor yourself in it, and it will never be used to hurt you." - Tyrion Lannister, A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin.

Daniel says, "I wanted to work at LSNM because I knew it would be the best way for me to start helping people. I did not want to always write memos. I wanted to be interacting with clients face-to-face instead of on a computer screen in a word document."

opportunity to complete meaningful research."

When she's not hitting the books, Maren enjoys running around the lakes, spending time at her family's cabin, going to concerts, and being with friends.

Daniel enjoys golf, spending time at his parent's cabin with his family and dogs, and hanging out with friends. Daniel has a seven-year-old Lhasa-poo and two Great Pyrenees/Akbash 10-week old puppies.

## MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE

Twelve-year-old Emma\* texted her mom, Amy, that she was worried for her dad, Tom, and scared because her dad was yelling, throwing things, and drinking a lot. Since Tom abused Amy multiple times the prior year, they were no longer living together and the children shared time between them. Later Tom got out his guns, laid them on the floor, and said that he would hunt Amy down (after sending Amy many derogatory text messages). When Amy called LSNM, she was scared for her children and herself, and wanted help at an Order for Protection hearing. Tom had an attorney and Amy did not. With few staff attorneys, LSNM does not always have an attorney available to represent every client who asks for free civil legal aid. Thankfully, LSNM could help get a protective order for Amy, Emma, and Emma's siblings.

When Jill\* called LSNM, she felt devastated about being turned down from a job. More than five years prior, she chose to do something that led to a misdemeanor conviction. Afterwards, she successfully completed programs to address her one-time offense. Jill also attended and completed college. She showed appropriate remorse for her choice. Jill did not engage in that behavior again and had no further issues with the law. Yet, this misdemeanor prevented her from doing the very job for which she completed her education. This reflected the exact type of activity legislators had in mind when creating the most recent expungement laws. LSNM filed expungement papers on Jill's behalf and represented her at the court hearing. The Court granted the expungement. Jill is thrilled to be working in the field in which she dedicated her college studies and so grateful to LSNM for making that a reality. She is now in a great position to support herself and her child.

When Dave\* called LSNM, he was nervous. His wife was not able to work due to an injury, and they had \$15,000 in medical debt. Now the debt collector wanted to take his wages through garnishment. Between working his minimum wage job and caring for his wife, he felt overwhelmed and afraid of losing their housing. If his wages were garnished, he would not be able to pay the full rent. Dave and his wife had recently been approved for medical assistance, but that did not cover their past medical bills. Dave received a stack of legal papers about garnishment and garnishment exemption which he did not understand. The law allows people like Dave and his wife to not have wages garnished while receiving public assistance (and for six months after they stop receiving public assistance). LSNM helped Dave complete the legal papers and submit them to his employer and the debt collector. This stopped the garnishment. Dave and his wife were grateful to pay their rent and keep their housing.

\*Client names changed.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

Click to be a LSMN Partner in Justice

\$210 or \$17.50/month stops a wrongful garnishment.

Click to be a LSMN Partner in Justice

\$840 or \$70/month permanently wipes out the debts of a disabled veteran.

Click to be a LSMN Partner in Justice

\$1,050 or \$87.50/month maintains stable housing for a family.

Click to be a LSMN Partner in Justice

\$2,625 or \$218.75/month provides stability for a child exposed to violence, abuse, or neglect.

## EACH DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Whether you share \$50, \$500, \$5,000, or \$50,000, you are a *Partner in Justice!*

You may arrange for automatic bill pay through your bank, mail a check payable to "LSNM" to 1015 7th Avenue N., Moorhead, MN 56560 or donate via credit card through PayPal.

Your contribution will be expended in accordance with federal Legal Services Corporation Act, 42 U.S.C. 2996, et seq. and Public Law 104-134. See [www.lsc.gov](http://www.lsc.gov) for additional information.

## OCTOBER 26 CLE - SAVE THE DATE! Judicial Perspectives & Path to Well-Being



You are invited to attend a Lunch and CLE from noon to 4:15p.m. on October 26 in Alexandria, Minnesota.

A panel of District Court Judges will present Judicial Perspectives on Parenting Time

Issues from 1 to 2. You may submit a question below. Please do so on or before October 18 at 3p.m.

Joan Bibelhausen, Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, will then present "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change."

Three total credits, including one ethics and one elimination of bias CLE credit will be applied for (or you may apply all toward standard credits).

Lunch will be served at noon and the CLE will follow from 1-4:15. A webinar option will be available.

FREE for LSNM staff, *pro bono* & *judicare* attorneys, and board members. \$45 for any other interested person. Lunch included.

Please register on or before October 18, 2018 at 3p.m.

[Click to Register for CLE](#)

[Click to Submit a Question for the Judicial Panel](#)

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## PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

Jason Hastings, an attorney with Hastings Law Office in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, serves on LSNM's *Judicare* and *Pro Bono* Panels. Jason says, "LSNM is that opportunity for those in need to have fair representation. Fair and adequate legal representation should be offered by all attorneys throughout our careers. Legal Services provides attorneys, like myself, with an agency to provide services as we have an opportunity to help."



Thank you, Jason!

[Be a \*Judicare\*/Pro Bono Attorney \(Click for Brochure\)](#)

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## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Robert "Bob" Blatti has been involved with LSNM for nearly 25 years. He served as an active member of LSNM's *Judicare* Panel while in private practice in 1994. In 1996, he joined the LSNM's Alexandria office as a Staff Attorney and then Supervising Attorney. When he returned to



private practice in 2001, Bob wanted to stay involved with LSNM and accepted an appointment to the LSNM Board and has remained on the Board since. Bob says his history with LSNM has given him a strong appreciation for all the good work that LSNM does for the low-income, elderly, and otherwise disadvantaged population in its service area, from direct client representation to community education. As a Director on the LSNM Board, Bob ensures that good work continues.

He notes, "It is a universally accepted principal here in the United States that no one should be denied access to the criminal justice system because of an inability to pay for legal representation. Access to the civil justice system is no less critical. Like our criminal justice system, our civil justice system is a complicated web of rules and procedures. No one should lose custody of a child, be trapped in an abusive marriage, or lose access to public benefits or housing simply because they cannot afford legal representation to help them navigate that complicated web. The LSNM service area includes counties that have some of the highest percentages of low-income residents in Minnesota. These low-income residents are unable to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing, and housing, much less afford to pay anything toward legal representation to protect or assert their civil legal rights. Without the free civil legal aid through LSNM, they have no meaningful civil legal rights at all."

Thank you, Bob!

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## LSNM's free civil legal aid provides justice leading

to:

1. Children feeling safe and secure
2. Families maintaining shelter
3. Income Security

**[I Support Justice!\(Click to be a Partner in Justice\)](#)**

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Did you know that you may also support LSNM just through your regular shopping or engine searches?

Amazon, Goodsearch, and Goodshop will donate a percentage to LSNM if you designate Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota as the cause you support. Thank you!

**Shop Amazon via Amazon Smile and Support LSNM**

**Search Goodsearch and Support LSNM**

**Shop Goodshop and Support LSNM**

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LSNM Provides Equal Justice as Northwest Minnesota's Free Civil Legal Aid

