



# **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### *Mission Statement*

*To serve the citizens of Crow Wing County through fair, effective and efficient prosecution of crime, protection of children, families, and the vulnerable, as well as the legal representation of county operations.*

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## 20 YEARS AS CROW WING COUNTY ATTORNEY



In 2014, I was re-elected to a sixth term as Crow Wing County Attorney. It is a great honor and privilege to serve as County Attorney and I thank the citizens of Crow Wing County for the opportunity to continue to serve them. We will do our very best to be fair, efficient and effective community servants.

During 2014 we switched office management software. As with all such changes, this offered challenges that created opportunities for us to learn and grow. This switch occurred at a time when we were short staffed due to several different reasons beyond our control. Everyone stepped up, buckled down and got the job done. I am so proud of our staff for their efforts and achievements during the past year. We look forward to 2015 and all of the opportunities it will provide.

Donald F. Ryan  
Crow Wing County Attorney

## THE CROW WING COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The Crow Wing County Attorney's Office is comprised of 9 attorneys and 9 non-attorney staff. This configuration has remained the same since our previous report. The attorney staff consists of the County Attorney, the Chief Deputy County Attorney and 7 Assistant County Attorneys. The non-attorney staff consist of an Administrative Manager and 8 Legal Assistants. The County Attorney's Office has enjoyed and benefited from a very stable work force. We have been able to couple this with the infusion of new staff and their fresh perspectives keeping us vibrant and energized. The years of service for our attorneys range from 24 to 3, with an average of 15.12 years of experience in our office. For non-attorney staff the range is 21 years to 2 year with an average of 13.12 years of experience in our office. Though our office is not large enough to require segregated divisions of operations, we do attempt to create areas of topical specialization. By doing so we can more efficiently and effectively process our heavy work load. Through cross-training and use of procedural manuals, every member of our staff is able to assist and/or back up in all areas of operation.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS IN 2014**

### **Motor Vehicle Fuel Theft Report**

The County Attorney's Office worked with local law enforcement agencies and the CWC Sheriff's Office on a project to address the mounting number of gas drive offs that have been taken place. Two forms were created to assist in the process. The first is a Motor Vehicle Fuel Theft Report which provides for a pre-law enforcement call checklist. The second form is the Motor Vehicle Fuel Theft Signed Employee Report. The information provided in these forms will expedite the processing of these types of cases.

### **New Drug Testing Pilot for CHIPS Cases**

The rising cost of drug testing along with number of cases that are processed is having a negative budgetary impact. The County Attorney's Office has been working with Crow Wing County Community Services closely to try to come up with a solution. The result of that collaboration is a new pilot project. The objective of this pilot project is to put in place a program that would streamline the drug testing process. The goal is to streamline the drug testing process so that the type of testing and the frequency of the drug testing would be in place from the start of a case. This would aid the social workers and in doing so save time and money. This pilot program has commenced and the results will be monitored closely.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse**

This is a project that the county attorney's office has actively participating in for the past 20 years. Our participation this year included involvement on many different levels. A member of our staff contacted several local businesses to get donations towards the Auction Line; the same staff person also delivered brats as part of Brats not Bruises (lunchtime delivery) and also helped answer telephone on the Auction Line. One other member of our office also assisted with answering phones for the Auction Line. We feel this is an excellent way to promote community awareness of the matter of child abuse and for getting community involvement is finding solutions.

### **New Adult Traffic Diversion Program**

During this last year we collaborated with Scott Adkisson of Diversion Solutions to roll out a new traffic diversion program county-wide. This gives persons who have been given a traffic ticket for Driving After Revocation or Driving After Suspension the ability to pay their fines and get their driver's license back quickly. It is a highly structured program which has been in operation for some time. The Crow Wing County Attorney's Office began its process by writing a letter to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety requesting permission to participate. The office received a reply to that request on August 8, 2014 and we were approved. It was at that time that Scott Adkisson came to the CWC Attorney's Office and did a training for the entire staff. He also was training law enforcement. This program will cost the taxpayers no money.

## **New Measurement tracked in 2014**

### **Number of In-custodies Processed**

The Crow Wing County Attorney's Office operations include many broad and complex issues. However one of the functions that is a driving force for personnel every day is the jail arraignment list which shows the staff who was recently put in jail. When staff come to work, the first order of events is to check and see who is on the jail list. That list dictates the course or changes the course on any given day. There are very strict timelines involved that need to be followed. It is our first order of business to take care of every morning. We have no control over when and the number of in-custodies. We are often rearranging, rescheduling and restructuring other daily duties/responsibilities in order to process in-custodies.

The County Attorney staff pull the arraignment list that has been sent to our office from the jail. It is then determined which cases are the responsibility of the County Attorney's Office. After identifying the cases which belong to the County Attorney's Office the next step is to pull existing files. It is very possible that someone has been picked up on a probation violation and we need to identify the court file number that relates to their violation. If it is a brand new case, we wait for the police reports to come in to our office from any of 11 different jurisdictions. We have created a single point of entry in which we receive our reports electronically. The reports then come into our office and continue to be processed through the workflow that exists from the legal assistant to the attorney and back to the legal assistant. The complaint has to be processed immediately. This process includes many steps that involve the county attorney's office, law enforcement, the court administration office, judges, etc. We have endeavored to continually improve on this process to make it as efficient as possible. We are also always looking for new technologies and ideas which could improve on the process.

In 2014 the County Attorney's Office processed a total of 1,260 in-custody cases which averages out to be 105 cases per month.

January	89
February	80
March	111
April	107
May	95
June	103
July	127
August	112
September	128
October	107
November	84
December	117
TOTAL	1260

## **AWARDED in 2014**

### **Money from the Court Technology Fund**

In 2014, we started using a new software vendor with software designed specifically for county attorney's office. One of the compelling reasons we went to LENS software was because of its ability to be expanded for use with other county departments but also with the BCA (Bureau of Criminal Affairs) and MNCIS (Minnesota Court Integration Services). However, knowing these services were available was encouraging but we knew that funding the expansion would be a future goal because of the cost involved. Then the Crow Wing County Attorney's Office was made aware in July of 2014 that the Minnesota Court System was taking applications for counties to receive money from a specific fund to help develop technology to streamline the processes between county attorney offices and the court system. The applications were due in August. With the assistance of our new vendor, we completed the application process.

In November we were notified that our office was awarded exactly the amount that we requested in our application which was \$53,616. This money will enhance systems, interfaces or shared information between the Crow Wing County Attorney's Office, the Crow Wing County Court Administrator's Office, Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office and other police agencies throughout Crow Wing County. This is a very exciting event that will make a tremendous difference in our ability to collaborate with the courts and provide additional customer service to the people of Crow Wing County. We look forward to getting everything implemented in 2015.

Enhanced Features will be accomplished in Modules:

#### Module 1: Implementation of Court Decision Notification

- Will be the implementation Lens software receiving Hearing Trial Setting Notifications from MNCIS, the County Attorney's Office automatically receive integrated electronic up-to-date court hearings into LENS;

#### Module 2: Implementation of Court Decision Notification

- Will be the implementation Lens software will receive court decision notification from MNCIS and update cases in Lens. The County Attorney's Office will experience up-to-date court sentence information inside of Lens.

#### Module 3: Web Site for Constituents

- Will provide a web site where constituents will be able to search and find criminal case information, part of this information will be court hearings and sentence information that are sent from MNCIS;

#### Module 4: Web Portal for Law Enforcement

- Will provide law enforcement personnel with limited access to view criminal and delinquency case information. Law enforcement personnel will get access through the existing Lens web interface. They will be set up with a user name and a password for the Lens web site;
- Will be a link to search criminal cases and another link to search delinquency cases. They will be able to search by defendant name, icr number, case number and law enforcement agency.

#### Module 5: Consumption of Additional Court Integration Services

- Will expand Len's ability to receive more data from Court Integration Services and update attorney case file information.

## **ADULT PROSECUTION**

The County Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of all serious felonies, felonies, and non-designated gross misdemeanors which occur in Crow Wing County. We also prosecute designated gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors except for those occurring in a municipality which has exercised its statutory ability to prosecute these crimes occurring within its boundaries. We currently provide prosecutorial services for such crimes to the unorganized territories, Breezy Point, Crosby, Cross Lake, Cuyuna, Deerwood, Emily, Fifty Lakes, Garrison, Manhattan Beach, Riverton and Trommald. There are 4.75 FTE attorneys and 4.5 FTE legal assistants working in this area. We also have .20 FTE legal assistants monitoring and managing the Crow Wing County Criminal History Suspense Prevention and Resolution Program.

In the middle of 2014, the office switched the software program that is used for reporting purposes and has therefore disrupted our normal course of reporting our actual numbers. Because of that disruption for 2014 we are only able to report the number of cases that have been referred to our office from law enforcement agencies. That number is approximately 2,452 adult criminal referrals made to our office from 11 different law enforcement agencies. In 2015 we will be utilizing a new reporting software in which we will be able to give a better picture of what crime types those referrals reflect and add back into the report the year to year comparisons. This number does not include/recognize probation violations proceedings, arraignment, guilty pleas or other criminal case management for which no additional files are opened or closed. This number also do not reflect case consultations, training provided or other services/functions not tracked in our existing software.

## **JUVENILE PROSECUTION**

The County Attorney Office prosecutes all juvenile delinquency and status offense matters occurring in Crow Wing County. Generally speaking a juvenile delinquency occurs when a juvenile commits what would have been a serious felony, felony or gross misdemeanor adult offense. A status offense occurs when a juvenile commits what would have been a misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor adult offense. There is 1 FTE attorney and .80 FTE legal assistant working in this area. In 2014 our office handled approximately 844 referrals of various crime types. This year we are not doing the five year comparison as we have done previous and this is also because of the switch in software reporting system. It is anticipated that we will return to that method of reporting numbers in 2015.

The above numbers do not include/recognize probation violations proceedings, arraignment guilty pleas or other criminal case management for which no additional files are opened or closed. These numbers also do not reflect case consultations, training provided or other services/functions not tracked in our current software.

## **JUVENILE DIVERSION**

In addition to courtroom prosecution, our office is very involved with juvenile diversion efforts. We currently assist with the coordination of the 4 juvenile diversion programs in Crow Wing County. In 2014 we met with a group of people from the various departments which deal with juvenile diversion. This meeting was intended to keep our office focused so that we stay very active in pursuing the best possible solutions for our juvenile diversion programs. This group will meet again in 2015. We are currently monitoring this protocol and hope it will become a model for other types of diversion. In 2014, 107 juveniles participated in the Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco Diversion Program and 71 juveniles participated in the Theft Diversion Program for a total of 178 matters that were referred/processed through diversion.



Crow Wing County diversion efforts include:

- Crossroads – covers alcohol and drugs
- Nicotine Naked – tobacco
- Theft Resource Intervention Program (T.R.I.P.)
- Lakes Area Restorative Justice Program (L.A.R.J.P.)

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

The paramount consideration in all juvenile protection proceedings is the health, safety, welfare and best interests of the child. The County Attorney's Office represents Crow Wing County in initiating and pursuing child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) and termination of parental rights (TPR) matters. These cases are very involved with issues ranging from dependency and neglect, child abuse, concurrent planning, permanency and loss of one's child(ren). We have 1 FTE attorney and 1 FTE legal assistant working in this area. (Note: This area of practice experiences continual legislative enactments which result in substantive changes in case classification/types being added/deleted annually.) In 2014, we did 47 Child in Need of Protection petitions, 18 Termination of Parental Rights petitions, 2 Long Term Foster Care petitions, 18 Transfer of Legal Custody petitions, 7 Truancy petitions, 15 Adoption petitions and reviewed 58 72 hour police hold reports. These numbers do not include other services provided (i.e.: case consultation, providing training, Crow Wing County Child Protection Team, Crow Wing County Juvenile Justice Initiative, Crow Wing County Family Services Collaborative, etc.).

## **APPELLATE PRACTICE**

A party to a court proceeding has the ability/right to seek review by an appellate court when they do not like the outcome at the trial court level. These appeals can be in criminal, juvenile, child protection or civil matters. Prior to 2012 many of our appeals were sent to the Minnesota Attorney General's Appellate division, who handled appeals for county attorney offices. We would also handle some appeals ourselves such as murder cases. We did not break appeals out as new matters as we considered them an extension of the original case file. As the Attorney General's Office began to reduce the number of appeals they would accept from us, consequently we began handling more and more of our own appeals. In 2012 we formalized this and began handling all of the appeals arising out of the cases we handle at the district court level. The attorney who handles the underlying matter at the district court is also responsible for the appeal. This includes the petition/response for appellate review, briefs and oral argument. In 2014 we opened 16 appellate files (up from 9 in 2013 and 2014). We closed out 13 appellate files. Our attorneys participated in 7 oral arguments.

In addition to direct appeals, a defendant can collaterally attack a criminal conviction by commencing a post-conviction relief proceeding at the district court level. If this proves unsuccessful, the defendant can appeal to the appellate court for review. Though we have handled all post-conviction proceedings in the past, we have not separately broken them out for tracking purposes. As with appeals, we considered these cases to be extensions of the original file. Beginning in 2014 we began treating each of these files as new files. There were 2 new post-conviction relief petitions filed in 2014

During 2014 we continued our pilot project whereby we assigned all appeals to one legal assistant. The focus of the pilot was to determine if we would create adequate efficiencies by creating an appellate practice specialty. The pilot program was successful and has been adopted as part of our working processes. We did 15 Appellant Briefs in 2014 along with another 9 additional pleadings and other filings.

## **CIVIL AREA**

Our office represents and does the legal work for all aspects of Crow Wing County's governmental operation. These services range from macro/policy making level (advising county board, county administrator, department heads) to the micro day to day operational level (tax appeals, child support enforcement, civil commitments, contracts, ordinance drafting, land use issues, eminent domain, etc.) There are 1.75 FTE attorneys and 1.25 FTE legal assistants assigned to this area. We also have .25 FTE legal assistant administrating our Crow Wing County civil forfeiture program/efforts. In 2014 we handled:

- 8 Guardianship/Conservatorship cases
- 17 Probate actions
- 31 Tax Appeals
- 2 Title Opinions
- 36 Legal Opinions
- 7 Deed Certificates completed
- 44 Contracts reviewed, updated, and/or written for multiple departments

### **Commitment Report**

The Crow Wing County Attorney's Office works very closely with Crow Wing County Community Services in the area of civil commitment. Civil commitments are governed by Minnesota Statutes 253B. The areas of mental health that are addressed are allegations of mental illness, developmentally disabled, chemical dependency, psychopathic personality and referrals from criminal court. In 2014, the County Attorney's Office did the following number of cases in those areas:

- A total of 50 Petitions for Civil Commitment as Mentally Ill, Chemically Dependent and/or both were filed in 2014 ( 4 were Rule 20's)
- 1 Mentally Ill/Dangerous
- Re-review was requested on 6 cases, in which we went forward with a Petition
- 13 cases did not meet the criteria
- 3 were direct discharged by the facility
- Our office attended 3 SDP/SPP SRB Hearings
- Our office attended 2 MI/D Review Hearings
- 1 SDP/SPP commitment was received

### **Child Support**

The County Attorney's Office assists Community Services in the processing of and court appearances for Child Support Cases. In 2014, the County Attorney's Office spent over 228 hours of attorney's time and 11+ hours of legal assistant time.

### **Below is a sample of the types of matters/issues addressed and services rendered:**

- Opinion requested on destruction of closed meeting recordings
- Opinion requested on whether or not commissions can collect per diem for Board of Appeal and Equalization
- Assisted with question regarding social security numbers on mortgage of public record
- Assisted with questions regarding 2015 Printing and Publishing Bid
- Assisted the County Auditor/Treasurer with two separate issues surrounding marriage license applications.

- County Attorney’s Office aided in the election by reviewing ballots, having staff available the entire time the polls were open and pooling a variety of questions.
- Opinion regarding a question regarding city’s right to create a cartway
- Reviewed for Community Services an agreement with DHS which will provide Community Services access to DHS’s data base
- Reviewed Master Grant Contract with MDH
- Reviewed for RSVP insurance coverage and facilitated getting MCIT coverage saving RSVP money
- Consulted with IT on the Microsoft Technology Conference Report as to whether or not the information contained in a report was public data
- Advised and gave opinion(s) on leases involving the purchase of tax forfeited property
- Advised and gave opinion(s) on repurchases of tax forfeited land
- Consulted with Sheriff’s Office regarding OFP service and Respondent’s possession of firearms
- Conducted training for law enforcement on two topical areas, each topic involved two different times totaling 4 separate session
- Review use of criminal histories in Rule 20 proceedings
- Advised on the wording in an agreement between CWC/Brainerd Airport and a lessor of a hangar

**Forfeitures**

Minnesota law allows for forfeiture of assets/property in designated circumstances associated with criminal activity.

The Crow Wing County Attorney’s Office has utilized forfeiture funds to supplement the business operational expenses of our office. This use of forfeiture proceeds has amounted to a huge savings for the county and taxpayers.

<b>2002 – 2008</b>	<b>\$113,904.66</b>
<b>2009 – 2012</b>	<b>\$134,384.05</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>\$20,905.93</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>\$22,621.56</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$291,816.20</b>

## GENERAL OFFICE/OPERATIONS

As with all offices, there are many administrative and operational duties and responsibilities. We have .50 FTE attorneys and 1 FTE non-attorney staff assigned to this area. In 2008, we eliminated our full time receptionist position for budgetary reasons. As a result we rotate legal assistants through the front desk to perform the duties. This has resulted in the loss of approximately .80 FTE legal assistant time to cover receptionist duties. This then leaves us with the functional equivalent of 7.2 FTE legal assistant positions.

In 2014 we tracked certain functionalities of our general operations. The results of such tracking are as follows:

### **Notarization**

Frequently individuals coming to court, county personnel, or other agencies, require documents to be notarized. Our office provides notary service to the public at the front counter to accommodate such situations. In 2014, we notarized 605 documents. This breaks down as provided below:

Crow Wing County	Public	Central Minnesota Community Correction	Total
123	130	352	605

### **Front Desk First Contacts**

In 2014, we had Two Thousand and Thirty-five (2,035) individuals come to our front desk for service. These individuals were either helped at the front desk or referred to the appropriate person for service. Our front desk also processed Ten Thousand Five Hundred and Three (10,503) unduplicated phone calls that came in to our main line. The front desk then either serviced the call or forwarded it to the appropriate staff person. This calls received data does not include calls to individual staff phone lines as we did not want to double up on calls transferred from the main line. Hence many more individual calls were received by our office than reflected in the 10,503.

### **Contract Signing**

During 2014, we tracked the time it took for us to sign contracts sent to us for execution. We tracked the exact number of contracts that our office signed which was 149 contracts. Of those 149 contracts, 95 of them were signed and placed in the outgoing mail the same day. The remaining 54 contracts came in late in the day and were signed and processed the next day. We emphasize the quick turnaround of contracts in order not to be holding up the process.

The Crow Wing County Attorney's Office also signed 58 tobacco licenses when came into our office electronically and are signed electronically. Of those 58 electronic signatures, the average time for turnaround was less than 4 hours.

### **Criminal Histories UPDATE**

In 2014, the County Attorney's Office had 3 experienced legal assistants apply for and receive the training required for access to run criminal histories. This increase in the number of staff to perform this function enables us to continue to be extremely efficient. It guarantees that we will always have the ability to run criminal histories whether or not we have staff shortages or not. This ability also helps ease the burden from law enforcement. In 2014, our office ran 417 criminal histories. This number is down by 248 from 2013. The reason for this drop is that we also have a legal assistant that has a special access into the BCA's website wherein she can also get the information in an even quicker method. We are continually looking for ways to do things faster and better.

## **CROW WING COUNTY COMMITTEES/GROUPS**

We provide legal services for all Crow Wing County Committees/groups upon request. In 2014, we served on the following:

- 1) Benefits Committee
- 2) Wellness Committee
- 3) Emergency Management Committee
- 4) Safety Committee
- 5) Website Committee
- 6) CWC Family Services Collaborative-Chairperson for 2014
- 7) Child Protection Team-Vice Chair
- 8) Crow Wing County Radio thon to End Child Abuse
- 9) Adult Protection Team
- 10) Leadership Team
- 11) Senior Management Team
- 12) DUI Court
- 13) Drug Court
- 14) LEAD Program (leadership education and development)
- 15) CWC Screening Team
- 16) OHP(Out-of-Home) Special Project Team
- 17) Crow Wing County Coordinating Counsel Against Domestic Abuse

## **STATE-WIDE**

We believe that it is important to be engaged at a regional and state level. Our community benefits from these efforts as our voice is heard in the drafting of state law, policies and procedures that affect us locally. 2014 efforts include:

- May of 2014 one of our Legal Assistants was placed on the CCH (Criminal History) Focus Group with the BCA to find a new vendor for the way criminal histories print out to make the reading and interpretation of the information user friendly. She made a total of 5 trips to St. Paul and was a very active participant in the process. The final decisions made by this committee will have state-wide impact as to the direction that the BCA moves.
- An Assistant County Attorney was invited and accepted a position on the Tribal State Agreement Work Group. She did participate in several meetings around the state and visit various tribes such as Mille Lacs, White Bear, Red Lake, etc.
- The County Attorney was contacted in July by a reporter from the Star Tribune and was asked, and did, provide research on questions regarding ATV Safety in Crow Wing County.
- One of our Assistant County Attorneys presented at the Minnesota County Attorney's Association conference regarding Advanced CHIPS on September 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Her evaluation results were received on September 18, 2014. The overall score taken from the evaluation put her presentation and content at 4+ with 4 being very good.

- County Attorney chaired the search committee for the Minnesota County Attorney’s Association to find a new director. Participated in all aspects including the interview process.
- One of our Assistant County Attorneys is on the Violent Crimes Coordinating Council. Statewide task force that deals with violent crimes, drugs and gangs.
- One of our Assistant County Attorneys is on this panel: SCAP (Supreme Court Appeal Panel) hearings are part of SPP/SDP commitments. Every six months, patients in MSOP (Minnesota Sex Offender Program) can petition for a transfer to CPS (Community Preparation Services), provisional discharge, and/or discharge. The Special Review Board (SRB) reviews these petitions via ITV. I and the caseworker (usually Nathan Bertram) participate here as the county of financial responsibility. The patient and their court-appointed attorney participate from Moose Lake along with a number of MSOP staff members. The three members of the SRB are in St. Paul. If the SRB recommends that the petition be denied, the patient can request a SCAP hearing. Once it goes to SCAP, the AG’s office gets involved on behalf of DHS. We’re still involved as the county of financial responsibility. The SCAP appoints an examiner and schedules a hearing. The burden is on the patient to produce credible evidence at that hearing that supports the requested relief. If the patient meets their burden, the case is scheduled for a second hearing where the burden is on us to show that the requested relief is not appropriate.

In addition:

- DUI Task Force
- Impaired Driving Education Alliance Committee
- Minnesota Violent Crimes Coordinating Council
- Minnesota County Attorney’s Association
  - a. Board of Directors; Committees
    - i. Juvenile Law Committee
    - ii. ICWA Subcommittee
    - iii. Appellate Services Task Force
    - iv. Impaired Driving Education Alliance
  - b. Speaker and Program Developer for 3 Day MCAA sponsored training on child protection;

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We believe that being involved in our community is an essential and integral part of our duties and responsibilities. We serve on or provide general/legal assistance to several community committees/organizations.

- 1) CWC Passenger Safety Coalition
- 2) CWC Coordinating Council against Domestic Violence
- 3) CWC Fair Association
- 4) CWC Soil and Water
- 5) CWC Victim Services Board
- 6) CWC/Brainerd Regional Airport
- 7) CWC Chief's Association
- 8) County-wide Truancy Protocols
- 9) County-wide Juvenile Diversion Protocols
- 10) Guest Speaking in Schools
- 11) Campus Tours
- 12) Speaking at Non-Profit Organizations
- 13) Crow Wing County Airport Commission
- 14) START
- 15) Attend CTC Annual Meetings
- 16) North Long Lake Sewer District
- 17) Sponsor School Bus Stop Arm Safety Radio Blitz
- 18) Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project

## VOLUNTEERISM

We believe that volunteering as individuals in our community is an appropriate and important way to give something back and/or pay it forward. Members of our office volunteer in many ways, most of which is not recorded or recognized. Below are just some of the ways we serve:

- 1) Brainerd Public Schools Foundation
- 2) Speaking in schools/classroom presentations
- 3) Boy Scouts (Assistant Scoutmaster)(Chair of the Pine Tree Eagle Board)
- 4) Lawyers for Marriage
- 5) Coach Brainerd High School Mock Trial Team
- 6) Competition Judge for Mock Trial Competitions
  - a) 2 of our assistant attorneys coached the Brainerd High School Mock Trial team and the team made it to the state competition; they continue to volunteer to be on this for the 2015 competition.
  - b) County Attorney's Office hosted a send-off party for the Mock Trial Team prior to them leaving for the competition;
- 7) Gave blood in local blood drive
- 8) Girl Scouts
- 9) Lakes Area Multi-sport
- 10) Rotary
- 11) Elk's
- 12) Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
- 13) PORT Group Homes Board of Directors
- 14) Churches
- 15) Celebrity Reader School District #181
- 16) BPFWS Warrior River Run
- 17) Brainerd High School Recognition Night
  - a) Three of our attorneys all participated in the Brainerd High School Senior Recognition Night on 5-19-14. Representing the Brainerd Foundation Committee; the Brainerd Credit Union and the Mock Trial Team Committee.
- 18) YMCA
- 19) Polar Plunge to raise funds for Special Olympics (Team Juris Plungers)
- 20) Youth in Government was a community event that gives boys and girls the chance to see and experience the inside working of government. This particular event involved elementary students to actually experience the process of being booked in the jail and appearing in court before a judge
- 21) Legacy Chorale



## Success Stories from Our Internship Program

In 2014 we received feedback from two of our previous interns, one was a paralegal intern and the other a law student intern.

From the paralegal intern we heard:

“I cannot thank you and everyone at the Attorney's Office enough for allowing me to complete my internship there. It was such a great experience with amazing people!

I do not think I would have gotten the same experience anywhere else. Thank you so much for an all-around amazing learning experience.”

We did receive confirmation that this intern did fill a job position with a local attorney.

From the law student intern:

“I am writing to thank you for the role you played in my development as an attorney. I had a preeminent experience working for you, and I learned so much in a relative short amount of time. . . . Recently, I graduated and took the Minnesota Bar exam and I will hopefully be license to practice come October when the results are released. Although I worked in your office for only a short time, the practical experience I gained while navigating law school was essential. Thank you for your guidance, advice and encouragement.”

