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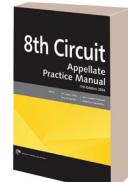
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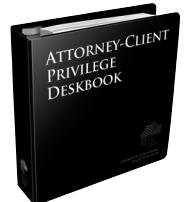
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Attendees of the 2026 Appellate Practice Institute can **save 47%** on these terrific resources! Purchases must be made online February 27 during the Institute. Orders will be shipped after the Institute.

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Special Judicial Guest

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Minnesota Supreme Court
Saint Paul

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Minnesota Court of Appeals
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The 20th Annual

APPELLATE PRACTICE INSTITUTE

Friday, February 27, 2026 –
Attend In Person

For more information
Scan code for more information or
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Co-sponsored by
Minnesota Continuing Legal Education
and the MSBA Appellate Practice Section

The 20th Annual

APPELLATE PRACTICE INSTITUTE

Join us for a day full of key updates, review of necessary
appellate advocacy skills and strategies, and 6 breakouts topics
to keep you apprised of all things appellate!

SPECIAL JUDICIAL APPEARANCES:

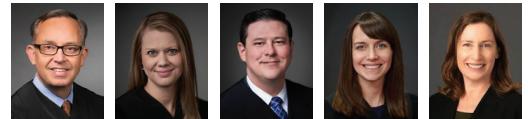
Minnesota Supreme Court

- Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson
- Justice Theodora Gaitas



Minnesota Court of Appeals

- Judge Matthew E. Johnson
- Judge Elise L. Larson
- Judge Jon Schmidt
- Judge Elizabeth G. Bentley
- Judge Rachel F. Bond



Friday, February 27, 2026 – Attend In Person

Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370, Minneapolis

Can't Attend In Person? View the Online Replay on
Friday, March 20, 2026

**THE PREMIER
APPELLATE
CONFERENCE OF
THE YEAR!**

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
CHECK-IN & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.
Welcome and Introduction
– Devin T. Driscoll, Institute Chair
– Kyle R. Kroll, Section Chair

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.
A Message from the Chiefs of the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Minnesota Court of Appeals

– Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson
– Judge Rachel F. Bond



9:45 – 9:50 a.m.
BREAK

9:50 – 10:50 a.m.
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
Reflections on Two Decades of Supreme Court and Appellate Advocacy

Drawing on more than two decades of experience arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court and appellate courts across the country, Nicole Saharsky will share a reflective look at the evolution of high-stakes appellate advocacy. Nicole will share insights from landmark cases, discuss how appellate strategy, briefing, and oral advocacy have changed over time, and highlight lessons learned from working with courts at the highest levels. Attendees will gain practical perspective on what effective appellate advocacy looks like today and what it takes to succeed over the course of a long and impactful appellate career.

– Nicole A. Saharsky

10:50 – 11:00 a.m.
BREAK

FREE FOR ALL ATTENDEES!

The UPDATED 12th Edition of the Summary Guide™ to Minnesota Appellate Procedure

All attendees will receive a complimentary electronic copy of this terrific resource prepared by Erica A. Holzer & Katie Barrett Wilk. Additional hard copies may be purchased online for the special price of only \$16 each (regularly \$35), plus tax and handling. Orders will be shipped after the Institute.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **MORNING BREAKOUTS**

101 **BASICS**

The Nuts and Bolts of an Appeal – Tips for a Successful Appeal

This session will provide an overview of how to do an appeal, and will cover everything from important dates and deadlines, to the technical rules, to how to present and craft effective appellate arguments. Learn tips and strategies on best practices for drafting your appellate briefs and what common pitfalls to avoid to ensure your appeal succeeds.

- Judge Jon Schmidt
- Lauren E. Pockl

102 **INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED**

Amici Advocacy: Best Practice Tips

Learn from an experienced judicial and practitioner panel on how to participate as an amicus party, how to recruit amici, what the rules require, and how to be effective and helpful to the courts in that role.

- Justice Theodora Gaitas
- Louise A. Behrendt
- Timothy J. Droske
- Kelsey R. Kelley, moderator

103 **OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

Enhance Your Appellate Family Law Practice: Effective Brief Writing Through Storytelling

Presenters will share practical brief-writing strategies with a focus on clarity, persuasion, and making your arguments stand out to the court. The discussion will be tailored to family law appeals, such as marital dissolutions, Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) cases, but the brief-writing tips may be broadly applicable in other areas of law as well.

- Brooke M. Beskau Warg
- m boulette
- Michelle K. Kuhl

12:00 – 12:50 p.m.
LUNCH BREAK (provided by Minnesota CLE)
JOIN US FOR A FUN ACTIVITY!

12:50 – 1:50 p.m. **Achieving Stellar Performance on Appeal**

What is the difference between good appellate advocacy and great appellate advocacy? Join our distinguished panel from the Minnesota Court of Appeals to find out. The panel will focus on strategies used by highly effective advocates and showcase excellence in issue selection, persuasive brief writing, confident and focused oral advocacy, and the strategic use of appellate rules. Attendees will gain insight into how top practitioners earn credibility with appellate courts through clarity, preparation, and sound strategic judgment—and how these strengths can be applied to elevate their own appellate practice.

- Judge Elizabeth G. Bentley
- Leah C. Graf
- Gregory C. Sisk
- Matt Rubenstein, moderator

1:50 – 2:00 p.m. BREAK

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Minnesota Appeals by the Numbers**

This session will review and highlight statistics from Minnesota appellate courts regarding appeals, practitioners, and cases.

- Rachel L. Dougherty
- Megan M. Helstrom

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. **Emerging from the Shadows – Shedding Light on the Shadow Docket**

There has been an increasing use of shadow dockets by the appellate courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. This session will explore how shadow docket decisions arise, the legal standards that govern them, and their growing influence on substantive law and judicial transparency. Attendees will gain insight into the procedural, constitutional, and practical implications of shadow docket rulings along with what they mean for litigants, practitioners, and the future of appellate decision-making.

- Liz Kramer
- Nicole A. Saharsky
- Amy J. Wildermuth

3:30 – 3:40 p.m.
BREAK

4:40 – 4:45 p.m. BREAK

4:45 – 5:15 p.m. **Fireside Chat with Justice Theodora Gaitas**

- Justice Theodora Gaitas
- Devin T. Driscoll, moderator

COURSE INFORMATION

LIVE IN PERSON

Friday, February 27, 2026
Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370
Third Floor City Center, Minneapolis

ONLINE REPLAY

Friday, March 20, 2026
View online at www.minnCLE.org

The online replay will include all plenary and breakout sessions. A moderator will be available to answer questions by e-mail. You will receive all the in-person content with the convenience and accessibility of participating online. All materials will be provided electronically.

HOW TO REGISTER

Register online at www.minnCLE.org. Email customerservice@minnCLE.org or call 800-759-8840 for assistance.

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TUITION:

\$345 MSBA member
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