



MINNESOTA

500

THE MOST POWERFUL
BUSINESS LEADERS IN MINNESOTA

EDITOR'S *note*



WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HANDS is a snapshot of Minnesota's most powerful and influential leaders in 2019. Five hundred people (and nearly as many companies) serve as a testament to Minnesota's influence in the Midwest, the U.S. and the world. We cover 46 industries that span health care, agriculture, law, investments, entertainment, cybersecurity, construction and more. Even more impressive than the quantity is the quality of leaders in our state. The individuals highlighted were chosen because of how their leadership has made ripple effects on their company, their industry and the larger community.

I hope you find this publication to be a useful resource as well as a point of pride. Across Minnesota are people who have high expectations of others and higher ones for themselves. Really, it's not surprising that so many of the inspirational quotes and bits of advice the professionals mentioned are about daring to dream, caring about those you serve and not being afraid to fail.

Perhaps as you read through these profiles, you'll glean some of the secrets to their success, but more likely, you will find that these professionals have something far simpler and far more demanding in common: They have a never-ending drive.

Thinking ahead to next year, I wonder about how this publication might continue to reflect Minnesota's changing landscape of people, products and services. Just like the 500 people in this publication, we can't rest on our laurels. To be true to the purpose of this publication's mission, we must continue to shine a light on those who deserve recognition but who are often too humble to seek it out—those who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to make extraordinary contributions to advance corporate and community goals.

I almost made it through without mentioning another inspirational quote, and while it's from Vince Lombardi (sorry, Minnesota Vikings), I think it aptly describes the work of these 500 leaders. "We will chase perfection, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence."

LIANNA MATT MCLERNON
Content Director, Minnesota 500

As we set the final list of leaders in March 2019, our publication may not reflect the most recent leadership or title changes. This is not because of something as trite as "change is the only constant in the world," but rather because of the unceasing passion, ambition and sacrifice that these professionals give on a daily basis.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW WE ARRIVED AT THIS LIST OF EXECUTIVES FOR MINNESOTA 500, VISIT OUR FAQ AT MINNESOTA500.COM.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL US AT M500@GREENSPRING.COM.

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EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE IS A LEADER.

Congratulations, Russ Becker, on being named a Minnesota 500 honoree for excellence in leadership.



Russ Becker
President and CEO
APi Group, Inc.

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 Moss & Barnett

Moss & Barnett Congratulates

Brian T. Grogan, Moss & Barnett's President and Chief Executive Officer, on his selection to the **Minnesota 500**
The 500 Most Influential Business Leaders in Minnesota



Brian's *innovative, visionary, and compassionate* leadership has been instrumental to the ongoing success of Moss & Barnett.

We are honored to know Brian as our colleague and friend. **Congratulations!**

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BRIAN GROGAN
 President and CEO
 MOSS & BARNETT

Brian Grogan's promotion to president and CEO has been a long time coming and well-deserved after a 30-plus year career at Moss & Barnett as a law clerk, shareholder and member of the board of directors. Grogan's leadership has allowed the firm to open an additional office in St. Cloud, and he has successfully expanded the legal services available. As an attorney, Grogan works with municipal and government entities, business and trade associations, providing expertise in contract negotiations; technology purchases, sales and licensing; cyber security issues; regulatory proceedings; and more.

EDUCATION: Creighton University (BS-mathematics)

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

FUN FACT: "I was a DJ in college and paid my rent playing music at fraternity and sorority gatherings."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. I've used this title for countless presentations."

STANDOUT TRAVEL: "30th wedding anniversary trip to Switzerland."



SARA GULLICKSON MCGRANE
 President and Managing Partner
 FELHABER LARSON

Sara Gullickson McGrane was drawn to law in order to help people solve problems. At Felhaber Larson, she focuses on appellate law (all the way through the federal appellate courts), business and civil litigation, employment litigation, energy law, and health laws. Because of her expertise and status as a certified labor and employment law specialist by the Minnesota State Bar Association, she often gives lectures and trainings on employment and litigation. Felhaber Larson has had two consecutive "best years" under her leadership and has increased its community service.

EDUCATION: Moorhead State University (BA), University of Minnesota Law School (JD)

HIDDEN TALENT: "Reluctantly, I learned to rhinestone my daughter's dance costumes, and now I really like it!"

ADVICE FOR RECENT GRADUATES: "Be flexible and be ready to adopt or adjust your plan."

FAVORITE CHARITY: "Minnesota Legal Aid. Legal Aid has to turn down 60 percent of eligible clients, yet they return \$3.94 for every \$1 invested."



BRAD KEIL
 Minneapolis Office Managing Partner
 FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

Brad Keil's legal practice focuses on employee benefits and compensation as well as taxation and wealth planning, but as part of Fox Rothschild LLP's management team, he also supervises operations and takes part in Fox's executive committee. Keil received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Minnesota Law Review in 2014 and has been on the Best Lawyers in America list by Employee Benefits Law for more than 20 years. Two community organizations Keil holds dear are the Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare and Greater Twin Cities United Way, and he has served on both boards of directors as a member and chairman.

EDUCATION: University of Minnesota (BS), University of Minnesota Law School (JD)

WHY LAW: "I wasn't good at math like my brothers, an engineer and vet/microbiologist."

HIDDEN TALENT: "I've written lyrics for three really bad songs."

DOWNTIME LEISURE: "At the cabin."

FAVORITE MINNESOTA ATTRACTION: "Afton State Park."



JOHN LANG
 President
 MESSERLI KRAMER

John Lang is an attorney who focuses his practice on real estate, corporate law, mergers, acquisitions, estate planning and other matters related to trusts and estates at Messerli Kramer. Between his varied career in the industry—including a certification as a real property law specialist, extensive training as a CPA and 35 years of experience practicing law—he is able to quickly size up the complex issues found in real estate, tax and business transactions. Lang provides trusted counseling that is both sound and cost effective. His clients include mid-sized businesses and their owners, many of who are entrepreneurs or former entrepreneurs whose businesses have experienced growth. Lang is currently serving his second stint as president of the firm and was appointed chair of the Minneapolis division, having previously served numerous times on the board of directors. He received both his undergraduate degree in accounting and his law degree from the University of Minnesota.



CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
 Chairman, CEO, Managing Director
 MERCHANT & GOULD

When your livelihood depends upon it, it's more than just an idea—it's the lifeblood of your business. Christopher "Chris" Leonard, chairman, CEO and managing director of Minneapolis-based national intellectual property law firm, Merchant & Gould, has devoted his career to guarding those ideas. He assumed the top management position in 2018 after founding and managing the firm's Atlanta and Knoxville offices, serving on the executive committee and gaining valuable litigation experience. While his specialties are in software, e-commerce, health care data management, telecommunications, and electrical and mechanical technologies, after 25-plus years as an attorney, he has experience in all areas of intellectual property law. Prior to becoming an attorney, he served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, where he helped lead Soviet weapons inspectors through detailed inspections of U.S. nuclear weapons systems. Leonard received an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering from the University of Tennessee, a certificate in software engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a doctor of law from the University of Tennessee College of Law, and he is a graduate of the Harvard Business School General Management Program and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.



STEVEN LUNDBERG
 Founding Partner and Principal
 SCHWEGMAN LUNDBERG & WOESSNER

The founders of Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner, Mike Schwegman, Steven "Steve" Lundberg and Warren Woessner, got the idea of starting their own law firm in 1993 while playing Ms. Pac-Man. Today, their intellectual property law firm consists of more than 100 attorneys and patent agents with advanced technical and life science degrees. Clients include multinational corporations, middle-market businesses, universities, startups and individuals. As one of the founding partners, Lundberg, a registered patent attorney, serves an international roster of clients, focusing his practice on patent protection for software, medical and telecommunications technology, and related opinion and licensing matters. He received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota and his law degree from the William Mitchell College of Law. An expert in the field, he regularly speaks on software and electronic patent protection, co-edited "Electronic and Software Patents: Law and Practice" and is active in the Software Publishers Association and the Computer and Electronics Committee of the American Intellectual Property Law Association.