

Moss & Barnett is Pleased to Recognize the Following Team Members:



Aaron Dean

Aaron A. Dean and **Curtis D. Smith**, attorneys with our litigation team, whose legal careers span all facets of the construction industry, successfully lobbied on behalf of the Minnesota Subcontractors Association (MSA) for “retainage” reform in the 2016 Minnesota Legislative Session. The 2016 retainage law was passed and signed into law by Governor Dayton and will go into effect on August 1, 2016.

The new law will apply to construction contracts entered into on and after that date.

Aaron and Curt helped draft the new legislation and negotiated the new law with other trade associations over a several year period. Aaron testified at the State Capitol in support of the new law. Although the new law is set to take effect August 1, 2016, the MSA and other construction industry participants have agreed to discuss additional changes to the new law, so the retainage law may change again in 2017.

The new law limits retainage to 5% of the contract value, rather than the commonly used prior practice of retaining 10%. The new

law invalidates inconsistent contract provisions. Additionally, the new law allows contractors to stop work if they have not been paid the undisputed amount for more than ten days after payment is due and to recover legal fees, costs, and 18% interest.

Aaron just completed his two-year term as President of the MSA, and Curt serves as the MSA’s Chapter Attorney. Founded in 1991, the MSA is a non-profit trade association representing construction industry specialty contractors and suppliers. Members include both union and non-union firms from every specialty construction trade. MSA provides representation in government affairs, education services, scholarships, and cooperative action to improve the construction industry.

To learn more about the MSA and the new retainage law, visit www.msamn.com or contact Aaron (Aaron.Dean@lawmoss.com / 612.877.5255) or Curt (Curt.Smith@lawmoss.com / 612.877.5285).



Curt Smith



Taylor Sztainer

Taylor D. Sztainer, an attorney with our accountant law, employment law, and litigation teams, was selected to serve as the Lead Co-Chair of the 2016 Associates’ One Hour of Sharing Campaign benefitting Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid beginning July 1, 2016. As Lead Co-Chair, Taylor will also become a voting trustee of The Fund for Legal Aid for a one-year term.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid provides free legal services in civil matters to seniors and low income people in its 20-county service area and to people with disabilities statewide. Because the need for legal services has always exceeded the funds available to provide them, in 1981, supporters of Legal Aid established “The Fund,” which is dedicated to raising money for Legal Aid from members of the legal community. The Fund’s One Hour of Sharing Campaign encourages all lawyers in Hennepin County to contribute the value of one billable

hour, or more, to The Fund. In 2003, a group of associate attorneys established the Associates’ Campaign and reached out to associates throughout Hennepin County in conjunction with the One Hour of Sharing Campaign. The Associates’ Campaign has grown, with funds raised increasing from \$18,500 in 2003-2004 to over \$105,000 in recent years.

As Lead Co-Chair, Taylor works with the other Co-Chairs to organize the Campaign, recruit firm captains from over 60 local law firms (who advocate for Legal Aid internally within their own firms), and disseminate information about Legal Aid and the important role the Campaign plays in providing quality legal representation to Minnesotans who could not otherwise afford it. In addition to serving as Lead Co-Chair of the Campaign for 2016, this year marks the fifth year that Taylor has served as Moss & Barnett’s firm captain. To learn more about Legal Aid and The Fund, visit mylegalaid.org.



Phil Rush

Philip T. Rush, our Finance Director, has successfully completed the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) certification process and has earned the professional designation of Certified Legal Manager (CLM)SM. The CLM certification program allows a qualified legal administrator to demonstrate, through an examination process, a mastery of the core areas of knowledge identified as essential to the effective performance of a principal administrator.

Phil joined ALAMN in 1999 and served as chair of the Finance SIG in 2006, on the Region 3 Conference Committee in 2012, on the Communications Committee from 2013-2014, and as Communications Director from 2015-2016. Phil now serves as Finance Director of the ALAMN Board.

ALAMN provides continuing support, educational opportunities, and information designed to assist members in the legal profession. Each member of ALAMN and ALA has made a personal commitment to increasing the professionalism of law office administration. To learn more about ALAMN, visit ala-mn.org.