



Minnesota
State Bar
Association

600 Nicollet Mall
Suite 380
Minneapolis, MN 55402

March 8, 2021

Established in 1883, the Minnesota State Bar Association represents 13,000 attorneys who practice throughout the state. The MSBA urges you to prioritize investments in Civil Legal Services during Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. Civil Legal Services helps poverty-stricken Minnesotans access the justice system and protect their most basic human needs—health, safety, shelter, and economic security.

It is critically important to adequately fund Civil Legal Services to meet statewide demand, overcome barriers to justice, and address a recruitment and retention crisis. At current funding levels, Civil Legal Services is able to assist less than half of eligible clients. At the same time, Civil Legal Services faces significant attorney recruitment and retention challenges due to a substantial compensation deficit with other public service lawyers. Continued funding shortfalls will deprive even more Minnesotans of an opportunity for justice.

We appreciate you considering our request to help protect the most vulnerable members of our state and increase access to justice by adequately funding Civil Legal Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dyan Ebert", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dyan Ebert
President, 2020-21
Minnesota State Bar Association