

STEVEN P. AGGERGAARD, JD, MSJ

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Legal Writing, Mitchell Hamline School of Law (2017 to present)

I teach, create curriculum for, manage, and have co-directed **Lawyering: Advice and Persuasion**, a first-year course on legal writing, research, analysis, and representation skills.

I teach **Professional Responsibility**, which focuses on legal ethics and professionalism. I created the curriculum and tailored it to students in both the bricks-and-mortar and Executive JD programs.

I am a member of the Advising Committee, Clerkship Committee, and Lawyering Subcommittee.

Member, Legal Writing Institute and Association of Legal Writing Directors and Adjunct Subcommittee.

Member, Association of American Law Schools sections on legal writing and professional responsibility.

Legal consultant and freelance lawyer (2019 to present) — www.aggergaardlaw.com

I provide legal consulting, writing, expert, and editing services as an independent contractor.

I am licensed to practice law in Minnesota. (My license to practice in Wisconsin is current but inactive.)

I am admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota and Wisconsin districts.

I have been admitted to the Seventh and Eighth Circuits and the United States Court of Claims.

PAST LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

Attorney, Bassford Remele, PA, Minneapolis (2008 to 2017)

I joined the litigation law firm as an associate and was elected a shareholder effective January 2014.

My practice focused on complex civil litigation, federal practice, professional liability, and appellate law.

I offered representation in all stages of civil litigation including hearings, jury-trial work, and appeals.

I worked *pro bono* for clients ranging from conciliation-court litigants to criminal appellants.

Law Clerk, U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, Hon. Paul A. Magnuson (2007-08)

I drafted legal orders and memoranda, prepared background memoranda, and wrote speeches.

Attorney, Rider Bennett, LLP, Minneapolis (2005-07)

I joined the firm as an associate after working as a summer associate in 2003.

I practiced commercial litigation, real estate litigation, and appellate law until the firm dissolved in 2007.

Law Clerk, Minnesota Supreme Court, Hon. Sam Hanson (2004-05)

I drafted and proofread legal opinions, prepared background memoranda, and performed legal research.

PAST ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Adjunct Instructor, Augsburg College English Department (2010 to 2016)

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Journalism, University of Wisconsin-River Falls (1999)

EDUCATION AND HONORS

Juris Doctor, William Mitchell College of Law, 2004 (*cum laude*; class rank: top 9%)

Received “Best Case Note” award for article on *State v. Glowacki*, 630 N.W.2d 392 (Minn. 2001).

Received CALI award for highest course grades in Media Law, Poverty Law, and Sentencing Seminar.

Master of Science in Journalism, Northwestern University, 1992 (“high honors,” 4.0/4.0)

My concentration was in reporting and writing with an emphasis in legal, political, and urban reporting.

I spent an academic term reporting from Washington for the Michigan City, Indiana *News-Dispatch*.

I freelanced stories for the Fort Dodge, Iowa *Messenger* while studying in Chicago and Washington.

Bachelor of Arts, Augsburg College, 1989 (*summa cum laude*, 3.8/4.0)

I majored in communication and minored in English, music, and political science.

I was co-editor-in-chief of the Augsburg *Echo* and a tenor and section leader in the Augsburg Choir.

JOURNALISM/PUBLISHING EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENTS

Member, Minnesota State Bar Association Publications Committee (2005 to present)

I participate in the committee that oversees production of *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*.

I regularly contribute articles, suggest story ideas, help recruit writers, and review drafts as requested.

I served a two-year term (the maximum) as the committee’s chair.

Editor-in-Chief, William Mitchell Law Review (2003 to 2004)

I oversaw selection and editing of articles and supervised a staff of 28 editors and 49 staff members.

I managed the journal’s writing competition and mentored less-experienced legal writers and editors.

News editor, Saint Paul Pioneer Press (1998 to 2003)

I managed the copy editing and design of the front page and Local section.

I worked as a part-time copy editor while finishing law school.

I was the front-page editor during several momentous news events, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

I wrote classical compact disc reviews that were distributed nationwide via Knight-Ridder News Service.

Various editing positions, Duluth News Tribune (1992 to 1998)

As a city editor, I supervised reporters who covered education, public safety, and health care.

As a front page editor, I designed and copy edited stories for the newspaper’s front page.

As a wire editor, I selected and edited news-service stories from the world, nation, and states.

As a copy editor, I edited news stories and wrote headlines and photograph captions.

I wrote reviews of the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra and Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra.

I helped the newspaper move from 100% “paste-up” production to 100% “paginated” production.

Intern reporter, Chicago Tribune (1992)

As a general-assignment reporter, I wrote news stories and features throughout Chicago.

I was assigned to matters including presidential visits, violent crime, and feature stories.

City editor and area reporter, Fort Dodge Messenger (1989 to 1991)

As a city editor, I supervised the newsroom and editorial production three nights a week.

As an area reporter, I wrote news and feature stories from four rural counties northwest of Fort Dodge. I reported from the scene of a jumbo-jet crash in Sioux City, among the nation's noted air disasters.

Freelance editor and intern, Augsburg Fortress Publishing (1988 to 1991)

As an intern, I assisted with production of synod inserts to *The Lutheran* magazine.

As a freelance editor and while still in college, I edited book manuscripts and proofread book pages.

BOOK

The Law of Running: A Runner's Guide to Legal Rights

My book is the first to focus on the legal principles that apply to the sport of running.

The work is forthcoming in early 2020 via Amazon. www.lawofrunning.com.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: ACADEMIC JOURNALS

([Hyperlinks](#) where available)

[The Question of Speech on Private Campuses and the Answer Nobody Wants to Hear](#), 44 Mitchell Hamline L. Rev. 629 (2018).

[Religion, Speech, and the Minnesota Constitution](#), 32 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 719 (2006).

[Prior Restraint Is Nearer Than Readers Realize](#), 30 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 789 (2003) (book review of *Minnesota Rag*, which tells the story of the Supreme Court's landmark opinion in *Near v. Minnesota*).

Case Note, [Retreat From Reason: How Minnesota's New No-Retreat Rule Confuses the Law and Cries for Alteration](#), 29 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 657 (2002) (winner of Best Case Note award).

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Law-Office Conferences: Taking an Important First Step Toward Effective Oral Communication (co-author, with Lisa Needham).

Email in Law Practice: Professional and Practical Considerations for New Lawyers and Law Students (co-author, with Lisa Needham).

The Form and Function of a Legal Professional's Email (co-author, with Lisa Needham).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: PRACTICE-ORIENTED MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

[Fair Trials in the Age of Facebook](#), *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, January 2019.

[Law as a Second Career, and the Value of Life Experience](#), *Mitchell Hamline Law*, spring 2017.

["Like"-ly Litigation: Social-media Use Sends Minnesota Students, Employers to Court](#), *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, January 2017.

[Making a Federal Case Out of It – Section 1983 Claims Against Nursing Homes](#), *MedLaw Update*, Defense Research Institute, Dec. 19, 2016 (co-author).

[Highlighting Near v. Minnesota](#), *Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society newsletter*, July 2016.

[Profiling Grace Kaercher Davis](#), *Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society newsletter*, July 2016.

[A Blind Spot in the Law](#), *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, October 2015.

[When Public Space Isn't Public](#), *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, June 2015.

[Crisis Communications & Social Media: The Game Just Got Tougher](#), *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, February 2015 (reprinted with permission in *Computer & Internet Lawyer*, August 2015).

[Three State-Based Defenses to Consider](#), *For the Defense*, April 2012.

Effect of Appeal, Stays and Supersedeas, *Eighth Circuit Appellate Practice Manual*, Chapter 7, 4th ed. 2007 (co-author).

Confidential News Sources: What Minnesota Lawyers and Clients Should Know, *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*, February 2006.

[It's Been 25 Years Since Penn Central: Anything New?](#), *Business Law Today*, March/April 2004 (co-author).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: GENERAL MEDIA, LEGAL-ORIENTED

[Sue over Fake News? You'd Face Some Tough Realities](#), *Star Tribune*, Dec. 7, 2016.

[Black Lives Matter and the Evolution of the First Amendment](#), *Star Tribune*, Dec. 23, 2015.

[A Century Ago, Paper Was Prosecuted for Reporting Too Much About Execution](#), *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, Opinion Page, Jan. 8, 2007.

SOURCE FOR PRINT MEDIA: LEGAL-RELATED

[U.S. Police: Liu Qiangdong Case Is Still Being Investigated](#), People's Daily (China), Sept. 8, 2018.

[The "Roseanne" Reaction: What Protections Does the First Amendment Actually Afford?](#), quoted by www.mprnews.org, May 30, 2018.

[Legacy of a "Miscreant" Minnesota Newsmen](#), quoted in *Star Tribune*, Jan. 2, 2016.

[The First 48 and the First Amendment](#), quoted in *City Pages*, March 30, 2016.

[Vascular Solutions, CEO Get Ready to Take On FDA Conspiracy Charges](#), quoted in *Star Tribune*, March 28, 2015.

[Minnesota Teen Sues School District, Police Chief After Suspension Over Tweet](#), quoted by *FoxNews*, June 18, 2014.

[A Big Day for Minnesota's Constitution](#), quoted by *MinnPost*, July 13, 2009.

SOURCE FOR BROADCAST MEDIA: LEGAL-RELATED

[The Lasting Impact of Fake News](#), MPR News with Kerri Miller, Dec. 14, 2016 (live in-studio guest).

[St. Paul Teacher's Suspension Raises Questions About Free Speech](#), FOX9, March 10, 2016 (on-camera source).

[Black Lives Matter Vows MOA Protest; Judge Weighs Restraining Order](#), All Things Considered, Minnesota Public Radio, Dec. 21, 2015 (on-air guest).

[Mall of America Protest Decision Is a Win for the Mall Too](#), FOX9, Nov. 11, 2015 (on-camera source).

[Where Is Protest Allowed in Minnesota](#), Daily Circuit, Minnesota Public Radio, Dec. 19, 2014 (live in-studio guest).

Jesse Ventura's lawsuit and related legal topics, John Williams Show, WCCO-AM, July 8, 2014 (live on-air guest).

[What Jesse Ventura Must Prove to Win Defamation Lawsuit](#), FOX9, July 7, 2014 (on-camera source).

Lawyer Discusses Twitter Tussle, FOX9, Feb. 18, 2014 (live in-studio guest during news broadcast).

Recent Developments in Privacy Law, The Morning Blend, KFAI-FM, June 13, 2013 (live on-air guest).

Phone Surveillance: Privacy vs. National Security, FOX9, June 6, 2013 (on-camera source).

Fired Over Facebook "Like"? Attorney Warns You Can Be, FOX9, Aug. 14, 2012 (on-camera source).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: GENERAL MEDIA, GENERAL TOPICS

[How a Lost Wallet at the State Fair Renewed My Faith in Minnesotans](#), *Star Tribune*, Sept. 1, 2018.

[Boston Marathon Bombing Won't Deter This Runner](#), *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, April 16, 2013 (first-person account and commentary after participating in marathon where terrorist attack occurred).

We Can't Live By Blogs Alone, *Star Tribune*, Sunday Opinion Exchange, Dec. 31, 2006.

[Is It Time for a Higher Gas Tax?](#), *New York Times*, Oct. 30, 2005 (Sunday letter to the editor).

SEMINARS

[Unraveling the Mystery of the Legal Dress Code](#), Mitchell Hamline School of Law, June 24, 2019.

Keynote Presenter, Fair Trials in the Facebook Era, Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, May 18, 2018.

Presenter, How Media Impacts Courts and Access to Justice, Washington County Law Library, February 15, 2018.

Co-Presenter, Writing with Scalpel & Sutures: Surgical Editing for Precision & Clarity, Minnesota Court of Appeals, February 2, 2018.

Presenter, Media's Impact on the Courts and the Access to Justice, Dakota County Law Library, December 20, 2017.

Co-Presenter, Implicit Bias in the Courts and the Media's Impact, Ramsey County Bar Association, November 15, 2017.

Co-Presenter, Employer Defamation and Speech Restrictions, Minnesota chapter of National Employment Lawyers Association, Oct. 11, 2016.

Presenter, First Amendment Issues in Light of Recent Events, Ramsey County Bar Association, March 23, 2015.

Presenter, Property vs. Speech, Hennepin County Bar Association, Civil Litigation Section, March 9, 2015.

Presenter, Defendants Strike Back: An Overview of Early Dismissal Procedures Under Minnesota's Anti-SLAPP Statute, Hennepin County Bar Association, Civil Litigation Section, Sept. 9, 2013.

Speaker, *Ten Steps Bloggers Should Take to Limit Liability*, Minnesota Bloggers Conference, Sept. 22, 2012.

Moderator, Blogs: What Lawyers and Businesses Need to Know, American Bar Association, June 14, 2006 (national teleconference).

AWARDS AND HONORS

Named a Minnesota "Super Lawyer" in 2015-17 and a "Rising Star" in 2014.

Recipient of the 2015 Elmer Wiblishauser Award for the year's best article in *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*.

COMMUNITY AND BOARD SERVICE

Mentor, University of St. Thomas School of Law (2008-17).

Volunteer judge, University of St. Thomas School of Law Lawyering Skills III (most recently fall 2017).

Chorus member, VocalEssence (2004 to present). Tenor section leader (2019 to present).

Past member, VocalEssence Board of Directors (2016-18), serving as the chorus representative.

Member, Rose Ensemble Board of Directors. (At present, assisting with the nonprofit corporation's dissolution.)

Appointed Special Assistant Minnesota Public Defender to represent a defendant in an appeal.

Provided pro bono legal services numerous times including at Hennepin County Conciliation Court, through the Volunteer Lawyers Network, on behalf of battered women who seek services at Chrysalis Center for Women, and through the Student Press Law Center.

PERSONAL

I am a native of Le Sueur, Minnesota where I did field work and drove a forklift during summers before college.

My wife and I own a 111-year-old house in St. Paul's culturally diverse Summit-University neighborhood.

In 2018, I became a certified running coach by the Road Runners Club of America.

I have completed 19 marathons since 2012, including the Boston Marathon four times (fifth time in 2020).

I also have run two other "World Major" marathons: the New York Marathon (twice) and Chicago Marathon.