

Michael K. Steenson

**Margaret H. and James E. Kelley Professor of Tort Law
William Mitchell College of Law**

EDUCATION

B.S., University of Wisconsin, 1967 (Political Science and History)

J.D., *with distinction*, University of Iowa College of Law, 1971

Contemporary Projects Editor, Iowa Law Review

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Law Clerk, Miles W. Lord, United States District Court, District of Minnesota, 1971 - 1972.

Margaret H. and James E. Kelley Professor of Tort Law, William Mitchell College of Law, 1972 to 2015. Larry and Christine Bell Distinguished Professorship, 2015.

Member, Minnesota State Bar Association Task Force on Tort Reform, 1988

Reporter, Minnesota Civil Jury Instruction Guides.

Reporter, 1990 Legislative Study Commission on Tort Reform.

Chair, Governor's Commission on Fluoridation, 1980

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, William Mitchell College of Law, 1999-2001

Founding Adviser, William Mitchell College of Law

COURSES TAUGHT

Constitutional Law - Liberties; Constitutional Law - Powers; Comparative Constitutional Law; Torts; First Amendment Seminar; Federal Jurisdiction; Insurance Law; No-Fault Automobile Insurance; Products Liability Seminar; Advanced Torts Seminar; Legal History; Insurance Law; Comparative Tort Law

AWARDS and ORGANIZATIONS

Order of the Coif

Advocates Award, Minnesota State Bar Association Civil Litigation Section

Wallace-Lerner Award for Excellence (Mitchell Hamline Law Review)

Elected member, American Law Institute

Fellow, American Bar Foundation

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Reports

Michael Steenson, J. David Prince, and Sarah Brew, Minnesota Products Liability Law (2006) (Thomson-West); annual supplements

M. Steenson, Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance (3d ed. 2002); annual supplements

M. Steenson, Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance (2d ed. 1989)

M. Steenson, Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance (1982)

M. Steenson, Tort Law, in IV Legal Systems of the World (2002)

Reporter, Minnesota Civil Jury Instruction Guides (3d ed. 1986) and 1988, 1992, 1996, and 1997 Supplements; (4th ed. 1999) and 2000 - 2005 Supplements, (5th ed. 2006) and 2006 – 2014 supplements, and (6th ed. 2014), and 2014 – 2025 Supplements

Reporter, Minnesota Jury Instruction Companion Handbook (2008 - 2021 eds.)

Reporter, Legislative Study Commission on the Civil Justice System (1990)

Contributing Author, Changing Dynamics of Tort Recovery, in *For the Record: 150 Years of Law & Lawyers in Minnesota* 275 (1999)

Contributing author, Minnesota Cause of Action Manual, Products Liability (MTLA 1990 and 1993 Supp.)

Contributing author, Automobile Liability Law (Matthew Bender 1988)

Contributing author, No-Fault and Uninsured Motorist Insurance (Matthew Bender 1985)

Articles

Mike Steenson, *Balancing Speech and Reputation: The Impact of the First Amendment on Minnesota Defamation Law*, 51 Mitchell Hamline L. Rev. 200 (2025)

Mike Steenson, *Kaplan v. Virginia Independent School District: The Max Kaplan Story*, 50 MITCHELL HAMLINE L. REV. 238 (2024)

Mike Steenson, *Civil Remedies for Sexual Misconduct*, 49 MITCHELL HAMLINE L. REV. 343 (2023)

Mike Steenson, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind: Duty and the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Liability for Physical and Emotional Harm*, 91 Miss. L.J. ____ (2022)

Mike Steenson, *Public Official, Figures, and Controversies in Minnesota Defamation Law* (2020) (web page currently down)

Mike Steenson, *An Essay on Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* (2019)

Mike Steenson, *Ventura v. Kyle and American Sniper: The Anatomy of a Public Figure's Lawsuit*, 22 U. Denver Sports and Enter. L.J. 84 (2019)

Mike Steenson, *Fenrich v. The Blake School and Minnesota Tort Law: A Road Map Through Special Relationships, Misfeasance/Nonfeasance and Duty*, 45 Mitchell Hamline L. Rev. Sua Sponte 195 (2019)

Mike Steenson, *Duty, Foreseeability, and Montemayor v. Sebright Products, Inc.*, 39 Mitchell Hamline L.J. of Pub. Pol'y and Prac. 31 (2018)

Mike Steenson, *The Staab Saga: The Nonparty, Joint and Several Liability, and Loss Reallocation in the Minnesota Comparative Fault Act*, 42 Mitchell Hamline L. Rev. 1156 (2016)

Roots of Constitutional Government, 62 Bench & Bar 18 (Jan. 2015)

Presumed Damages in Defamation Law, 40 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1492 (2014)

The Domagala Dilemma--*Domagala v. Rolland*, 9 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 633 (2013)

Justice John E. Simonett and the Law of Torts, 39 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 796 (2013)

Minnesota Negligence Law and the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Liability for Physical and Emotional Harms, 37 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1055 (2011)

Proximate Cause in Civil Damages Act Cases, William Mitchell Journal of Law and Practice (March 1, 2009)

Mass-Tort Catastrophes and Disaster Compensation Funds, 35 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 524 (2009) (with Joe Sayler)

Peterson v. Balach, Obvious Dangers, and the Duty of Possessors of Land in Minnesota, 34 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1281 (2008)

The Character of the Minnesota Tort System, 33 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 239 (2006)

***Engler v. Illinois Farmers Insurance Co.* And Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress, 32 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1335 (2006)**

Joint and Several Liability in Minnesota: The 2003 Model, 30 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 845 (2004)

The Role of Primary Assumption of Risk in Civil Litigation in Minnesota, 30 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 115 (2003)

***Essay: Pledging Allegiance*, 29 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 747 (2003)**

Defamation Per Se: Defamation by Mistake?, 27 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 779 (2000)

The Impact of Exceptional Statutes on Civil Litigation in Minnesota, 26 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 865 (2000)

Disability and Income Loss Benefits under the Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance Act, 24 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1055 (1998)

A Comparative Analysis of Minnesota Products Liability Law and the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability, 24 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1 (1998)

With the Legislature's Permission and the Supreme Court's Consent, Common Law Social Host Liability Returns to Minnesota, 21 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 45 (1995)

Negligent and Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress in Minnesota, Now You See It, Now You Don't, 20 Minnesota Trial Lawyer 10 (Winter 1995).

Negligent and Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress in Minnesota, Now You See It, Now You Don't, 20 Minnesota Trial Lawyer (Winter, 1994)

Fundamental Rights in the "Gray" Area: The Right of Privacy Under the Minnesota Constitution, 20 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 383 (1994)

The Anatomy of Emotional Distress Claims in Minnesota, 19 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1 (1993)

Hate Speech: In Search of Constitutional Limits, 48 Bench & Bar 14 (December 1991)

Joint and Several Liability Minnesota Style, 15 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 969 (1989)

Products Liability in Minnesota--Design Defect and Failure to Warn Claims, 14 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 443 (1988)

Recent Legislative Responses to the Rule of Joint and Several Liability, 23 Tort & Ins. L.J. 482 (1988)

The Fault Concept in Personal Injury Cases in Minnesota: Implications for Tort Reform, 13 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 373 (1986)

The Fault with Comparative Fault: The Problem of Individual Comparisons in a Modified Comparative Fault Jurisdiction, 12 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1 (1986)

Comparative Fault and Loss Reallocation, 6 Minn. Trial Lawyer 8 (July-August 1981)

A Primer on Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance, 7 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 313 (1981)

The Anatomy of Products Liability in Minnesota: Principles of Loss Allocation, 6 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 243 (1980)

The Anatomy of Products Liability in Minnesota: The Theories of Recovery, 6 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1 (1980)

No-Fault in a Fault Context: Tort Actions and Section 65B.51 of the Minnesota No-Fault Automobile Insurance Act, 2 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 109 (1976)

Book Review

M. Steenson, Book Review of Jerry L. Mashaw and David L. Harfst, The Struggle for Auto Safety (1990), 3 Products Liability Journal 134 (1992).

Student Publications

Note, Limitations on Sales Agreements under the Uniform Consumer Credit Code and the National Consumer Act, 56 Iowa L. Rev. 171 (1970).

Comment, Public Schools, Long Hair, and the Constitution, 55 Iowa L. Rev. 707 (1970).

AWARDS AND HONORS

Order of the Coif

Advocate Award, Civil Litigation Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, for significant contributions to the civil justice system in Minnesota, 1996

Honorary Juris Doctor Degree, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 2023

Member, American Law Institute (elected member)

Fellow, American Bar Foundation

Minnesota District Judges Association Community Service Award for the Minnesota Civil Jury Instruction Guide Handbook (first non-judicial member to receive the award, along with my co-reporter and the executive director of the District Judges Association).

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION and PUBLIC SERVICE

I served for thirty-four years on the University of Minnesota=s Institutional Review Board (Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research)

I have done well over one hundred continuing legal education programs for judges, lawyers, and the legislature in the areas of torts, no-fault automobile insurance, products liability, and constitutional law, including, more recently:

“Law School for Legislators,@ co-sponsored by William Mitchell College of Law and the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, in 2004 and 2006.

Annual United States Supreme Court Review, for the Minnesota Attorney General, the past twelve years.

FOREIGN LECTURES AND TEACHING

Ghana School of Law, Accra, Ghana, December, 1997 (ABA and USAID sponsored) and March 1998 (USAID International Speakers Grant).

China, 1989, Summer. Lectures on American tort and constitutional law, Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China.

El Salvador, December 1992. Lecture on free speech under the American Constitution, for the Corta Supreme de Justicia, San Salvador.

El Salvador, January, 1994. Lecture on comparative constitutional law at Las Americas University, San Salvador.

El Salvador, Universidad Las Americas de El Salvador, San Salvador. July, 1994. Lectures at the University on constitutional law.

El Salvador, Universidad Las Americas de El Salvador, San Salvador. July, 1995. Lectures at the University on constitutional law.

El Salvador, Universidad Las Americas de El Salvador, San Salvador, March 1997. Lectures on constitutional law at the National Civil Police Training Academy and the University, and at a joint symposium on legal education and curriculum.

OTHER INTERESTS

Taekwondo (fourth dan black belt) and Filipino and Thai martial arts; master instructor, Minnesota Taekwondo Center; skiing; biking, kayaking, scuba diving; sporting clays; reading American History