

Meagher's Brad Jones Makes Time for CLM Presidency

The Claims and Litigation Management Alliance is a growing national organization of 45,000 claims professionals, attorneys, and litigation and risk managers with the purpose of promoting the highest standards of litigation management in pursuit of client defense.

It is a lofty as well as important mission says Brad Jones, president of the Minnesota CLM chapter that has about 300 members. The state chapter's main activity is providing quality continuing education classes, explained Jones, a partner at the Meagher & Geer law firm in downtown Minneapolis. More than 70 people signed up for its most recent presentation on Emerging Issues in Employment Litigation at the Golden Valley Country Club. New classes are being arranged.

Jones, who is observing his 40th year at the law firm, took on the presidency of the local chapter several years ago, even though he remains highly active in the firm where he focuses on insurance defense mainly for insurers, self-insureds and TPAs.

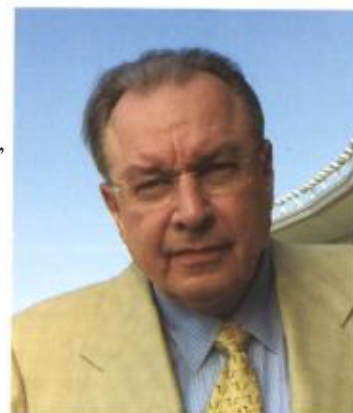
Growing up in Mankato, Jones considered seeking an appointment to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. But his choice was ultimately influenced by several family friends and neighbors who were attorneys. Deciding that was the career for him, he enrolled in the law school at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, which he chose because his wife Cheryl, a fellow Minnesota (formerly Mankato) State graduate, had accepted a high school teaching position in the state.

Following his cum laude graduation in 1978, Jones returned to Minnesota where he became the 24th lawyer hired at Meagher & Geer, which now has about 80 attorneys in four offices, including Chicago, Phoenix and Bismarck.

One of the first cases he handled remains—four decades later—the strangest. In 1978 a busy senior attorney assigned the novice Jones to take a statement from a person who purportedly had information about an insured's missing or stolen gold coins and Kruggerands. Accompanied by a court reporter Jones, eager to make a good first impression, soon located the person. He asked if he knew about the missing coins. He did. Jones asked if he knew their whereabouts. He did. Jones then inquired: Where are they? "I have them," was the response. "May I have them," asked Jones. "Yes," the man said, "they are right here." Jones, somewhat dumbfounded at the ease of the recovery, wondered: "will all my cases be this easy?"

They have not been. Over the years the size and significance have escalated with his experience. Several years ago, for example, he successfully defended the Scottsdale Insurance Company that insured the Chicago suburb of Crestwood for about \$50 million. The city was being sued by hundreds of its residents who alleged they were exposed to contaminated city drinking water for 20 years. Jones successfully argued before the Seventh Circuit that such pollution claims were specifically excluded in the policies.

Currently, Meagher & Geer focuses almost exclusively on insurance defense. Jones says his most frequent question to insurance managers, self-insureds and others the firm works with is: "what more can we do for you?" The reason, he says, is the enormous resources Meagher & Geer offers in insurance law.



CLM Minnesota Chapter President Brad Jones of Meagher Geer Law Firm.

Jones says his work is his hobby, but it is very clear he has other substantial interests—with family ranking at the top. Wife Cheryl switched her career and now has a top position in human resources with a Tampa-based business. Daughter Suzanne is a partner at the Hinshaw & Culbertson law firm in Minneapolis where she specializes in insurance. Son Ricky, now completing a fellowship in pediatric radiology at Stanford University's medical school, has become the most semi-famous member in the family.

A decade ago, while a biology major at the California Institute of Technology, he and a fellow student invented a human-operated machine to turn unpitted olives from the numerous such trees that dot the school's Pasadena campus into highly prized oil.

Their imaginative effort was reported by the Los Angeles Times as well as other local and regional media outlets, which caught the attention of the Tonight Show staff in nearby Burbank. But after a lengthy interview, the elder Jones reports, the show's producers decided that even Jay Leno could not make the olive-crushing machine entertainingly humorous. There was no further fame-enhancing appearance for the younger Jones, although he did win the New Yorker Magazine weekly cartoon caption contest. ■

For more information on CLM membership, contact Brad Jones at: bjones@meagher.com

**Jones Wondered After His First Assignment:
'Will All My Cases Be This Easy?'**

Structured Settlements Recommended For . . .

- **Medicare Set-Asides**—use of a structured settlement is far more economical than a lump sum.
- **Workers' Compensation**—compromise indemnity and medical benefits.
- **Third Party Liability**—cases including attorney fees.
- **Tax-Free Payments**—with no fees or costs for defense or claimant to set up, we are a free expert.
- **Protection of Settlement**—guarantees payments will be around when they are needed.



Greg S. Lukens, MBA, CPCU, CMSS
3109 Hennepin Ave. S. Minneapolis MN 55408
612-824-5300 glukens@teamarcadia.com
612-205-1195 cell www.teamarcadia.com

Formerly EPS Settlements

Minnesota Insurance

THE WORK COMP WARS

*N*early a half century ago, a battle over work comp insurance began in Minnesota that rivals the furor over health insurance today. It began in the early 1970s; raged in the 1980s; and was essentially resolved in the mid 1990s. An unsung, ~but crucial actor~throughout was the Minnesota Self-Insurers Association that served as a crucial buffer between the two major contentious forces:

Business and Labor.

Winona Agency buys Western Agency; Seven Hills, Cleveland Company merge.
Photos of more than 100 insurance people: MEWCA; MAHU/NAIFA; RIMS events
Self-Insurer Special Issue: Dr. Insurance Fraud tells how to detect it.

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Little Falls, MN
Permit No. 9

Minnesota
Insurance
MD 16
Chaska MN 55318
Return Service
Requested