Briggs attorneys receive MJF recognition

The Minnesota Justice Foundation is recognizing a group of Briggs and Morgan attorneys for their volunteer services at the Ramsey County Mental Court as part of MJF’s annual dinner next month.

Michael Wilhelm, Knapp Fitzsimmons, and Ankoo Bagchi and Alan Maclin will be recognized with the Outstanding Service Award for private practice.

Maclin is the president of the firm. He will be recognized for creating an environment that values pro bono work at Briggs. Wilhelm, Fitzsimmons and Bagchi were nominated for their pro bono work by the RCMC.

The mental health court began in 2005 and has served over 300 mentally-ill participants facing criminal charges in Ramsey County. Participation is voluntary, and it offers participants an alternative to purely criminal sanctions. The court is credited with shortening incarceration rates, reducing recidivism, and saving public dollars.

The MJF dinner is Nov. 13 at International Market Square. The guest speaker is Judge Jane Kelly from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. More information is available at http://www.mjfjustic.org.

For the past 31 years, MJF has worked to secure legal aid for under-represented Minnesotans by coordinating the efforts of volunteer law students and attorneys.

'Tis the season

For recognition of our deserving colleagues. In addition to Briggs' awards, the Council on Crime and Justice is accepting nominations for the 2013 Equal Justice Awards. The awards are presented to outstanding individuals and organizations that make the criminal justice system work better for all of us through their efforts in research, service, or advocacy.

And, the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project presented its Advocate Award to attorney Judy Miller-Thomas, formerly a legal advocate at the Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Center. It presented its Law Firm Award to Cooper & Reid, which it says is one of the few firms that openly offers highly experienced attorneys to handle full family law representation at set sliding-scale fee rates based on income and federal poverty guidelines.

If you know of an interesting or fun fact or happening relating to the Minnesota legal community, please contact Managing Editor Barbara Jones at 612-584-1543 or at barbara.jones@minnlawyer.com.