

# LARSON • KING

**PETER J. GLEEKEL**  
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July 20, 2017

**VIA EMAIL**

Honorable Kevin W. Eide  
Judge of District Court  
Carver County Justice Center  
604 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chaska, MN 55318

Re: Matter of the Estate of Prince Rogers Nelson

Your Honor:

First, thank you on behalf of myself and Larson King for the opportunity to be considered to assist the Court in the matter of the Estate of Prince Rogers Nelson, Court File Number 10-PR-16-46 in Carver County, Minnesota. The issues before the Court as outlined in your letter of July 13, 2017 are issues with which I believe Larson King is uniquely able to assist the Court.

We have performed a conflict search and can report that we would have no conflict of interest in pursuing the course outlined in your letter on behalf of the Prince Rogers Nelson Estate. I can enthusiastically tell you that we have tremendous interest in assisting the Court.

To supplement my CV, I have been involved in a large number of IP disputes involving trademark infringement, copyright, trade dress design, patent design and the like. In connection with my IP practice, I have also litigated a number of licensing agreement disputes and have, on behalf of one longtime client involved in the loyalty rewards industry, negotiated licenses on behalf of that client. So too do I have considerable experience in cases involving fiduciary duties.

My complex commercial litigation practice has also involved a large number of commercial contract disputes, in addition to the referenced licensing agreement matters. Through my 30 plus years of commercial litigation experience I have gained considerable expertise in complex damages cases including those for lost profits, royalties and business valuations. My CV is attached. My rate is \$430.00 per hour.

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In addition to my qualifications above, your letter raised the question of whether Bremer Trust and its attorneys departed from accepted standards of care in negotiating and entering into the UMG agreement, whether it is in the best interest to pursue any trustee malpractice claims and/or legal malpractice claims against Stinson Leonard, and then whether our firm can pursue these claims if appropriate.

As mentioned, I am confident that we are uniquely qualified to assist the Court. There are, at best, few firms in the area that investigate and pursue claims against lawyers and trustees. One of our partners, Patrick H. O'Neill, Jr has been involved in investigating and pursuing professional negligence claims since 1996. He has handled over 100 legal malpractice cases to a conclusion. Last year, he was hired by a successor trustee of an irrevocable trust to examine and pursue the former trustee, and the trust accounting firm and broker for self-dealing, trustee mismanagement, and broker and accounting malpractice. This resulted in a seven figure mediated settlement. In this particular case Larson King argued the applicability of MSA 501B. 152(b), which requires agents, when performing delegated trust functions, to comply with the terms of the delegation, and act in manner consistent with the terms of the trust.

Mr. O'Neill has also pursued the recovery of monies on behalf of estates for defective estate planning instruments, (e.g. defective grantor trust, defective Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust) and successfully tried to a jury in Wisconsin legal malpractice involving a family farm estate, seven beneficiaries and conflicts of interests by the attorney in distributing the funds. He has also analyzed numerous conflicts of interest against several of the large firms in the Twin Cities, as well as breach of fiduciary duty claims, and power of attorney violations. He has also reviewed and challenged the reasonableness of attorney fees charged to an Estate, under the well settled multi factored benefit to the estate test. He was involved in one the largest trust litigation cases in our state which involved the James J Hill 1917 Hill Family Trusts which were drafted by William D. Mitchell.

I have spoken with Mr. O'Neill and he is available to assist in this project. Mr. O'Neill's CV is attached. His rate is 400.00 per hour.

In addition to Mr. O'Neill and myself, and recognizing that legal research may be appropriate with respect to the issues generally raised in your letter, if given the opportunity to assist the Court, we would, where appropriate, utilize one and/or two of our associates to address cost considerations both of which have hourly rates of \$200.00. The first is Stephanie Chandler. Her CV is attached. As you will see from Ms. Chandler's CV, she graduated first in her class from William Mitchell in 2013.

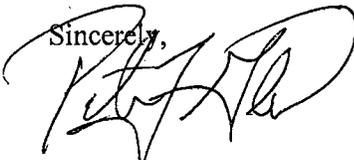
The second is Bradley Prowant. His CV is attached too. Prior to joining Larson King, he was a law clerk to the Honorable Shawn Bartsh of the Ramsey County Court.

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Again, thank you for your invitation to respond to your letter of July 13, 2017 and for consideration of us to assist the Court in what appears to be an intellectually challenging matter.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Gleekel', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Peter J. Gleekel

PJG/jh  
Enclosures

1633445

**PETER J. GLEEKEL  
CURRICULUM VITAE**

I am a complex commercial litigator with more than 30 years of jury and bench trial experience in federal and state courts throughout the nation as well as arbitrations. I have been ranked by my peers as "AV Preeminent" in LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell ratings. I have had extensive experience in intellectual property litigation including, complex trade secrets, trademark dilution, copyright, trade dress, patent design and unfair competition. In addition, I have had extensive experience in licensing disputes, corporate ownership and governance disputes and complex commercial contract disputes, including license agreements.

My cases have provided me with experience across a wide spectrum of industry, from wine manufacturing to hair care production, from construction to consumer electronics, from casualty insurance to customer loyalty corporate incentives, from franchising to all aspects of manufacturing, from dealerships to web based services. My clients have consisted of both high-profile multinationals as well as mid-size corporations and smaller family-held businesses.

**Education:**

Law School: Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, J.D., 1983.

**College:**

University of Minnesota, B.S., *magna cum laude*, 1980.

**Admitted:**

Minnesota; Missouri; U.S. District Courts for the District of Minnesota; U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Wisconsin; U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Michigan; U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit; U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit.

**Work Experience:**

September 1983 – December 1986, Blumenfeld, Sandweiss, Marx, Tureen, Ponfil & Kaskowitz, St. Louis, Missouri.

December 1986 – February 2014: Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

March 2014 – Present: Larson King, LLP, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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## ATTORNEYS

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### CONTACT

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### NEWS AND EVENTS

Larson • King Welcomes  
 Patrick H. O'Neill, Jr.

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### PUBLICATIONS

Minnesota House Passes  
 Minimum Wage  
 Modification for Tipped  
 Employees

## Patrick H. O'Neill, Jr.

### Professional Profile

Patrick H. O'Neill, Jr., a third generation St. Paul attorney, focuses his practice on professional liability litigation, business and commercial disputes, and financial services litigation. He brings nearly 25 years of litigation experience advising clients with disputes in the professional services, banking, construction and insurance sectors, covering a wide variety of issues.

With his extensive trial experience in business and commercial matters Pat deftly handles cases involving attorney negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract; collections; attorney fee disputes; partnership and shareholder disputes; failure to deliver goods and services; and employment contracts, including severance packages and non-compete agreements.

Pat earned his J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law, and is a graduate of St. Olaf College.

### Law School

William Mitchell College of Law, J.D. (1990)

### College

St Olaf College, B.A. (1986)

### Member

Ramsey County Bar Association  
 Minnesota State Bar Association  
 American Bar Association  
 Minnesota Association for Justice  
 American Association for Justice

### Admitted

Minnesota; Wisconsin; U.S. District Court District of Minnesota; U.S. Court of Appeals 8th Circuit; North Dakota and Iowa (pro hac vice)

### Publications & Seminars

Unavoidable Unsafe Products and the Design Defect Theory: An Analysis of Applying Comment K to Strict Liability & Negligence Claims, William Mitchell Law Review, Vol. 15, No. 4, 1989

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## Stephanie Chandler

Stephanie focuses her practice in the areas of business litigation, financial services litigation, insurance, and re-insurance. Before joining Larson King, Stephanie was an associate at a Minneapolis civil litigation firm where she represented employers, insurers, businesses, and public entities in state court litigation in a variety of areas.

Stephanie graduated *summa cum laude* from William Mitchell College of Law, where she was ranked number one in her class. While attending law school, she was a member of the Rosalie Wahl Moot Court team and clerked for the Ramsey County Attorney's Office – Child Support Division

### Law school

William Mitchell College of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2013

### College

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2010

### Member

Minnesota Women Lawyers  
American Bar Association  
Minnesota State Bar Association  
Ramsey County Bar Association  
Minnesota Defense Lawyers Associations  
DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar  
National Alliance of Medicare Set-Aside Professionals (NAMSAP)

### Admitted

Minnesota; Wisconsin; United States District Court, District of Minnesota; U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

### Awards

Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) awards for achieving the highest grade in Torts I & II, Contracts, Education Law, Workers' Compensation, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law – Liberties, Corporate & White Collar Crime, and Constitutional Criminal Procedure.

Minnesota State Bar Association's Law Student Award for Excellence in Employment Law

National Association of Women Judges Equal Access to Justice Scholarship

### Publications & Seminars

Co-Author, Writing a Reservation of Rights: A North American Compendium (Minnesota Chapter), Defense Research Institute (2013)

Co-Presenter, The First Amendment, The Internet, and Schools, Minnesota School Boards Association's Leadership Conference (2015)

# LARSON • KING

## LITIGATION REDEFINED

### ATTORNEYS

#### Bradley R. Prowant



Bradley focuses his practice in the areas of business litigation, financial services litigation, insurance, and labor and employment. Prior to joining Larson • King, Bradley served as a law clerk for the Honorable Shawn Bartsh in Minnesota's Second Judicial District, where he worked on a broad range of civil cases pending in state court.

Bradley graduated *cum laude* from the University of Minnesota Law School. While attending law school, he advocated as a student attorney in the Consumer Protection Clinic, clerked for the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, and was a member of the ABA National Moot Court team.

#### CONTACT

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 Insurance  
 Labor and Employment

#### NEWS AND EVENTS

Larson • King Welcomes  
 Bradley R. Prowant

#### Law School

University of Minnesota Law School, *cum laude*, 2013

#### College

University of Iowa, B.A., 2010

#### Member

American Bar Association  
 Minnesota State Bar Association  
 Ramsey County Bar Association

#### Admitted

Minnesota

#### Publications

Co-Author, *Re-Thinking Minnesota's Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence Using a Prevention Lens*, 39 WM. Mitchell L. Rev. 1584 (2013)

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