

Minnesota Client Security Board

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NEWS RELEASE

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CLIENT SECURITY BOARD APPROVES CLAIMS

ST. PAUL -- At its February 2013 meeting, the Minnesota Client Security Board approved payment of four claims, in the total amount of \$85,539.39, against disbarred attorney Deno W. Berndt and deceased attorney Richard J. Haefele.

The Board approved three claims against Deno Walter Berndt in the total amount of \$85,139.39. The Board has now approved eight claims against Berndt in the total amount of \$184,314.84. Berndt last practiced law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was disbarred by the Minnesota Supreme Court in March 2012.

The Board approved one claim against Richard J. Haefele (now deceased) in the total amount of \$400. Haefele last practiced law in Chaska, Minnesota. He died in June 2012.

The Client Security Fund was established by the Minnesota Supreme Court, and is funded by Minnesota attorneys, to reimburse clients who suffer loss of money or other property from the dishonest conduct of their attorney. The Fund is administered by a Board appointed by the Court, and consists of five lawyer members and two non-lawyer members. All serve without compensation as a public service.

The Client Security Fund covers most situations in which lawyers have stolen clients' money or other property entrusted to them. The Fund does not cover losses resulting from the malpractice or negligence of lawyers.

For more information on the Client Security Fund, visit the Board's Web site at <http://csb.mncourts.gov>.

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