

# Minnesota Claims

## TCCA's Shayne Hamann: From Perham to President

Small-town values and big-city litigation have helped to shape her philosophy

North Star Claim Case Has Some Really Odd Twists

Another Good Year at the Legislature for Insurance

Are You One? Photos of 90 Claims People, Vendors, Attorneys

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Little Falls  
Permit No. 9

Minnesota Claims  
1107 Hazeltine Blvd.,  
MD 16  
Chaska MN 55318  
Return Service  
Requested

# From Perham to President

Small-town values and big-city litigation have helped fashion the philosophy of TCCA president Shayne Hamann

Growing up in Perham, Minnesota, a town of 2,000 near Detroit Lakes, Shayne Hamann was especially noted for three things. She had a first name with an unusual spelling (having been born in the 1970s). She was an outstanding athlete, excelling at basketball, volleyball and golf. And, she was renowned as an extraordinarily youthful negotiator, bargaining with her baby sitter over whether she could stay up another hour and with her parents for allowance increases. Eventually, parents, relatives and friends began

suggesting that she take advantage of her verbal dexterity by becoming an attorney.

Participating in lawyerly activities like high school speech competitions, mock trials and Girls State, where she visited the state capitol and sat in lawmakers' chairs during mock legislative sessions, Hamann always kept her sights on a possible legal career and took that motivation with her as she started her collegiate career, first at Bethel University for a year and then at Concordia College in Moorhead.

She focused on that career in law, but also had a keen interest in the communication field, and possibly a broadcasting career that was inspired by her internship at the local NBC affiliate in nearby Fargo, ND. Hamann quickly found herself doing some on-air work, and eventually became a weekend sports reporter and fill-in anchor. It was a position in which she benefitted from those earlier athletic accomplishments (her high school basketball team finished fourth in the state; her volleyball team finished fourth; while the golf team she was on became the academic state champs.)

As graduation from Concordia approached, she gave increasing thought to pursuing the more glamorous—but less certain—field of TV sports reporting and anchoring. That ambition, however, ultimately succumbed to the deeply entrenched Hamann family trait of practicality. Her father Mike is a dentist in Perham. Her mother Tricia a teach-



**OBJECTIVE**

**NEUTRAL**

**EFFECTIVE**

*Facilitating timely & medically appropriate Return to Work for the Injured Worker*

Welcome to CompAlliance QRC



If you would like more information regarding the services we provide or to discuss a referral contact us at [www.CompAlliance.com](http://www.CompAlliance.com) Toll Free: 866.825.9800 [info@CompAlliance.com](mailto:info@CompAlliance.com)

## Cover Story

er. Her sister Natasha is a family practice physician in Buffalo, MN and her youngest sister Brooke is a dentist in her home town with her dad.

Hamann eventually determined those early suggestions of a legal career had merit. She enrolled at what is now Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul. During summers while in law school, she worked at Meshbeshier & Spence, a prominent Minneapolis plaintiff firm. After graduation in 1998, she clerked a year for Hennepin County District Court Judge Cara Lee Neville.

She was then hired by another high-profile Minneapolis plaintiff firm, now known as SiebenCarey, where she spent five years before switching to the defense side at the Votel, Anderson and McEachron Law Firm in St. Paul that concentrated solely on litigation involving the Farmers Insurance Group.

Moving to the other side was a significant departure for Hamann. Soon after her arrival at Votel, Anderson and McEachron, she was presented with about 100 files and began delving into auto cases, slip and falls, dog bites, insurance coverage and no-fault related cases. It was at this juncture Hamann began to formulate the philosophic approach she still practices today.

“Working at SiebenCarey—then immediately moving to Votel, Anderson and McEachron—provided me a first-hand, battlefield understanding of the contrasting approaches to the same issues,” Hamann explained. “I have seen enough cases from enough perspectives to wait until I have seen *all* sides, before drawing any conclusions.”

In 2006, Hamann had an opportunity to continue broadening her civil litigation experience when she accepted an offer to join the Arthur Chapman firm in Minneapolis where she would be handling cases for as many as 20



**Twin Cities Claim Association President Shayne Hamann in college considered pursuing a sports broadcasting career.**

insurers at a firm with more than 50 attorneys. She also would be doing so in one of the most iconic locations in Minneapolis, the historic Young-Quinlan building at 81 S. 9th S. that still has

what likely is the only manually operated elevator in the city. Hamann’s fifth floor office prominently features photos of her and husband Dan Werner’s children: 10-year-old twin boys

An advertisement for Johnson, Killen & Seiler Attorneys. The background is dark with a large, glowing lightbulb on the left side. The text is white and centered on the right.

**Focused on solutions.**  
**Since 1888.**

JOHNSON, KILLEN & SEILER  
ATTORNEYS

800 Wells Fargo Center • 230 West Superior Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802 • 218.722.6331 • [jksblaw.com](http://jksblaw.com)

# Cover Story

Drake and Dylan and seven-year-old daughter Savannah.

-0-

Hamann has advanced steadily in the career she was steered towards so many years ago. She was selected as a Rising Star and designated as a Super Lawyer by a legal magazine from 2006-2012.

She has served as her firm's automobile and no-fault law chair since 2012 and also on the Minnesota Supreme Court's No-Fault Standing Committee. She has also continued to develop her distinct philosophies on the best way to practice law. In addition to her open-minded approach, she now has an especially strong appreciation for the value of connecting personally with clients.

"That is important because for some of those we represent it may be the only

time they are involved in the legal system, which can be very stressful for them; so it is my job to assist and help the clients understand the legal process," Hamann noted.

Achieving those personal relationships can be accomplished, she explains, by things as basic as listening attentively to clients and being readily accessible. She also has a deft touch for establishing good relationships with opposing attorneys.

But that congenial approach does not mean an avoidance of litigation. Hamann finds herself in the courtroom numerous times a year, even in a legal system that promotes mediation.

She is especially adept at ferreting out decisive information, and does admit to enjoying the look on the opposition attorney's face when she reveals it. ■

## Shayne Hamann's Twin Cities Association Claim Presidency

That trait of open-mindedness Hamann learned early in her career is also helpful in her current role as president of the Twin Cities Claim Association where she has to address the often differing interests of claims professionals, defense attorneys, vendors and assorted others who meet the organization's membership requirement of having an interest in insurance claims.

The TCCA's cornerstone is monthly luncheon meetings, which feature speakers on topics of interest to members.

Typical recent presentations, for example, included a look at the Minnesota Supreme Court's ruling in the landmark Wilbur v. State Farm Mutual decision and an update pertaining to collateral sources; upcoming presentations will include a discussion of the state's Dram Shop law; and a financial planner explaining how to become more financially secure.

Equally important to the education, Hamann points out, is the camaraderie and networking among the TCCA membership that is facilitated by events such as the TCCA's annual summer golf outing and the socializing surrounding the group's annual Winter Seminar.

## ONSITE

### ENGINEERING

& Forensic Services, Inc.

## Forensic Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Experts

OnSite Engineering is known for its ability to process large and small loss sites as well as for researching and reviewing investigation data to ensure that conclusions are based on scientific principles.





P.O. Box 718 5714 Graystone Court SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 952-440-4321

www.onsite-engineering.com

email: info@onsite-engineering.com



EXCELLENCE IN ACCIDENT  
RECONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

5972 Executive Dr., Suite 200 Madison WI 53719  
608-442-7321 email: office@skogen.com

Areas of Expertise

- Motor Vehicle Accident Reconstruction • Truck Accidents • Vehicle Defect Analysis
- Mechanical Defect Analysis • Low-Speed Impact Analysis
- Vehicle Airbag Sensing Systems • Seat Belt Restraint Analysis • Product Liability
- Slip/Trip and Fall Analysis • Farm and Industry Accidents
- Computer Simulations • CDR - Crash Data Retrieval • Environmental Analysis
- Electrical Systems • Structural Failure Analysis
- Construction Analysis • Highway/Street Design Analysis

OVER 100 YEARS COMBINED EXPERIENCE



## SINCE 1961



3920 Nicollet Ave. S, Minneapolis

Not your typical body shop. Family owned for nearly half a century, we lead the industry in being years ahead of environmental requirements.

612-823-7257

www.mulroysbodyshop.com