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CENTRAL ROOFING COMPANY
- Since 1929 -

BEST ROOFING CONTRACTOR

Commercial Roofing
Expert Leak Investigation
Service & Repairs
Sheet Metal & Panels
Waterproofing
Emergency Response
For the past six years the readers of Finance & Commerce and Minnesota Lawyer have chosen their most trusted brands and business partners. This year’s selections include many repeat winners and several newcomers.

How are companies chosen for Reader Rankings? Well, just like it sounds. We pick the categories, populated with a list of companies that have been nominated over the past years and you, the readers vote. If a company is not on the list, they are added by write-in or can be suggested to us for inclusion. Our readers then vote on their favorites through our website. We then tally the votes and the bragging rights begin — Reader Rankings 2022.

We thank you for your support in making the decisions on the winners of the 2022 Reader Rankings. And no doubt, the businesses you selected in the top spots appreciate your support every day. Congratulations to the winners!

Sincerely,
Bill Gaier
Publisher
READER RANKINGS 2022

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

BEST Commercial Real Estate Brokerage
1—Frauenshuh, Inc
2—CBRE
3—Kraus-Anderson

BEST Commercial Leasing Company
1—CBRE
2—Cushman & Wakefield (Tie)
3—Kraus-Anderson (Tie)

BEST Tenant Representation
1—Cushman & Wakefield
2—CBRE
3—JLL

BEST Commercial Property Manager
1—Cushman & Wakefield
2—CBRE
3—Ryan Companies

For two decades now, Minneapolis-based Shepherd Data Services has been meeting the electronic discovery and digital forensic service needs of corporations, law firms and government entities.

Certified woman-owned, the company offers clients e-discovery tools and training, digital forensics, training and consulting and managed reviews.

Company founder Christine (Chris) Chalstrom understands the needs of her clients because she’s been on their side of the fence. She started her career as a litigator and started looking into technological possibilities in the early 1990s. Apart from being an attorney, she’s also a programmer and certified computer forensic investigator with more than 25 years of experience.

“I have always liked to figure out puzzles,” said Chalstrom. “I also love using creativity to bring teams together. As an employee, I didn’t often have an opportunity to do that.”

Shepherd, which has 18 employees, offers end-to-end e-discovery service using RelativityOne software. Their offerings in e-discovery include training, preparations and collections, processing and hosting, analysis, review, productions, project management and reporting. Shepherd can even custom-design e-discovery software if a client’s needs call for it.

Shepherd’s experienced attorney reviewers and the expediency of the latest technologies, are able to comb through massive amounts of data with efficiency and accuracy that ultimately saves clients money.

Some other highlights: Shepherd has developed a tool to process and review Abbreviated New Drug Application documents in the order of index; it provides expert trial witness testimony to validate results; it supports HR professionals when departing employees trigger data confidentiality concerns; and it has identified an email data breach and helped set up a covert sting to catch the hacker in the act.

Shepherd also keeps a regular schedule of seminars and events. Recent examples have included “eDiscovery and Data Law,” a continuing legal education event that looked at the latest case law affecting e-discovery practitioners and the legal community, and was hosted by Relativity’s David Horrigan.

“We’ve always been very collaborative,” said Chalstrom. “We specialize in people who understand that intersection of legal and technology; there aren’t a lot of them out there.

“We’ve had, and still have, some amazingly talented people here.”

—Dan Heilman

LEADING THE WAY ON E-DISCOVERY, DIGITAL FORENSICS

Part of research in today’s legal world involves scouring for data—even data that’s been deleted by the user. Using digital forensics, Shepherd’s experts can extract, handle, analyze and catalog relevant information from databases and metadata. The company also has a proprietary test to help clients determine whether deeper investigation is needed.

For mobile device forensics, Shepherd developed proprietary software, fOne. The software integrates data extracted from mobile devices within Relativity and supports real-time collaboration, keyword filtering, and comparative analysis to control, track and review mobile data.

Chalstrom is one of the few women computer forensics technologists in her industry. Top that with a legal degree, and it’s easy to see why clients come to Shepherd.

“When you have your own company, there are no barriers,” she said. “I saw starting this company as a fun challenge—a way to explore the intersection of legal issues and technology. I thought forming my own company would really help me dive into solutions for that industry.”

Shepherd also spun a software package it developed into a separate company, Sadie Blue Software. That company offers a cloud-based legal project management platform.

As for training, Shepherd sees itself as a mentor and translator for legal technology. It advises clients on preserving electronically stored information to avoid spoliation sanctions, and develops custom uses for Relativity. In fact, once the company reviewed and coded 32,593 maps with unique location coordinates.

Sponsored Content

Shepherd Data Services
Leading The Pack Since 2002

20
READER RANKINGS 2022

BEST 1031 Exchange Experts

1— Cushman & Wakefield
2— CPEC1031 - Commercial Partners Exchange Company
3— First American Title Company (Tie)
3— The Excelsior Group (Tie)

BEST Appraisal Companies

1— CBRE
2— MN Real Estate Appraisal Services
3— Diversified Real Estate Services

BEST Title Companies

1— Guaranty Commercial Title
2— First American Title
3— Old Republic Title

BEST Commercial Valuation

1— CBRE
2— Minnesota Real Estate Appraisal Services
3— Shenehon Company

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CONSTRUCTION

BEST Large Contractor - Over $250 million

1— Ryan Companies
2 — Kraus-Anderson
3 — Mortenson Construction

CENTRAL BOASTS ENVIEABLE LIST OF ROOFING SPECIALTIES

Over nearly a century in business, Minneapolis-based Central Roofing Company has developed an enviable list of specialty areas, including:

• Commercial roofing
• Preventative maintenance
• Architectural sheet metal
• Water infiltration clean-up
• Service and repairs
• Multi-family housing services
• Emergency response
• Green roofing
• Waterproofing
• Historical restoration

Started in 1929, Central works closely with clients on design and pre-construction. The overall goal is to provide the customer with no surprises that aren’t good surprises. Central has been a family business from the start, but not always the same family. The Somers family owned it for several generations before the Stock family eventually bought it in 2011.

“My family had another roofing company, Stock Roofing, that started in the 1980s,” said Jason Stock, Central’s vice president and CFO. “We sold that company and later became Central’s vice president and CFO. “We were one of the first to get innovative company,” said Jason Stock. “We were one of the first to get crane. We’ve been into job costing software for quite a while. We’ve tried to do everything to stay one step ahead of our competitors.”

—Dan Heilman

BEST Contractor - Under $250 million

1— LS Black Constructors
2 — Loeffler Construction & Consulting
3 — RJ Ryan Construction

BEST Commercial Real Estate Developer

1— Sherman Associates
2 — Ryan Companies
3 — Doran Companies

BEST Architect

1— ESG Architecture & Design
2 — LHB Inc.
3 — Wold Architects and Engineers

Sponsored Content

Over nearly a century in business, Minneapolis-based Central Roofing Company has developed an enviable list of specialty areas, including:

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• Historical restoration

Central’s list of high-profile clients is extensive. It includes Battle Creek Regional Park Pavilion, Creekside Condos, Mercy Hospital, Masonic Institute For The Developing Brain, First Industrial Realty Trust, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Crosstown Cove- nant Church and Gopher Resources—and that’s just in the past few years. (Prospective clients who want to dig into the company’s project archives are welcome to do so.)

One characteristic project involved Allina Health Mercy Hospital in 2017. Short on space, the hospital needed to move and enlarge its main entrance, which meant reconfiguring the hospital’s interior and adding a parking garage. It was a big project, involving 168,000 square feet of space. Four different roof plans were created for the new structure. In all it took Central Roofing Company almost three years to complete the roofing work.

The reason was that workers had to connect the older roofing sections with the new roof areas. For the initial new roof areas, concrete decks were installed. Primer and a vapor barrier were added. Polyiso insulation layers were put in place, followed by gypsum cover board in low-rise foam adhesive. A membrane was then adhered to the cover board. The same system was installed on two roof canopies.

After the expansion portion of the project, Central had to do detail work on the older building to make the old and new roofs unified. It used core drillers on the concrete decks for the multiple penetrations. One of Central’s steady clients is the University of Minnesota. The school has contracted Central to assure that the roofs on their campus structures stay in top condition. The company’s Preventive Maintenance Inspections (PMI) program is designed so that every foot of each rooftop is inspected, evaluated and reported on each year.

And when we say inspected, we mean inspected. Every spring, teams of Central Roofing employees walk the rooftops of Twin Cities buildings on the East Bank, West Bank and St. Paul campuses, removing debris and clearing roof drains, scuppers and any other drainage discharge areas. The workers also make notes of roofing failures and potential long-term problems.

During inspection, minor repairs are made. Missing roof shingles, deteriorated roof areas or missing pieces of sheet metal flashing are fixed, as are cracked roof walkway pavers or areas with ponding water. Last year the team even removed a couch placed on a roof by students.

Central has a top 5% safety record, and puts extra resources into employ- ee training and jobsite safety.

“Central has always been an innovative company,” said Jason Stock. “We were one of the first to get cranes. We’ve been into job costing software for quite a while. We’ve tried to do everything to stay one step ahead of our competitors.”

—Dan Heilman
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  - ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS STEP AWARD –
  - FIRESTONE INNER CIRCLE CONTRACTOR
  - FIRESTONE MASTER CONTRACTOR
  - FIRESTONE PARTNERS IN QUALITY
  - INC. 5000 FASTEST-GROWING PRIVATE COMPANIES IN AMERICA – 7X HONOREE
  - PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER AWARD
  - FINANCE & COMMERCE PROGRESS MINNESOTA
  - FINANCE & COMMERCE READER RANKINGS TOP THREE ROOFING CONTRACTORS IN MN.
  - MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL BUSINESS JOURNAL FAST 50 – 2X HONOREE
  - SIKA SARNAFIL CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR
  - SIKA SARNAFIL PARTNERS CLUB
  - SIKA SARNAFIL ELITE MEMBER – ONE OF FOUR IN MINNESOTA
  - ROOFING CONTRACTOR MAGAZINE: TOP ROOFING CONTRACTOR IN THE NATION
  - MNOSHA PARTNERSHIP AWARD
  - 2019 IREM INDUSTRY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

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COMMERCIAL ROOFING, ARCHITECTURAL SHEET METAL, SHINGLING AND SIDING, 24/7 SERVICE, ROOF MAINTAINANCE, WATERPROOFING
BEST Engineer - Mechanical - Structural - Electrical
1—Egan Co
2—LHB Inc.
3—Bolton & Menk (Tie)
3—HGA (Tie)
3—Pope Design Group (Tie)

BEST Engineer - Civil - Earthwork-Utilities-Infrastructure-Remediation
1—Braun Intertec
2—Bohlander
3—Civil Site Group

BEST Construction/Real Estate Law Firm
1—Winthrop & Weinstine
2—Fredrickson & Byron
3—Larkin Hoffman

BEST Materials Supplier
1—Brock White
2—Menards
3—Shaw Stewart Lumber (Marvin Windows Dealer)

BEST Equipment Rental
1—United Rental
2—Sunbelt
3—Ziegler Cat

BEST Concrete Company
1—Northland Concrete and Masonry
2—Ryan Companies
3—North Country Concrete

BEST Concrete Supplier
1—Cemstone
2—Aggregate Industries
3—Marshall Concrete Products

BEST Paving
1—Northland Paving
2—Metro Paving Inc.
3—Minnesota Roadways Co.

BEST Electrical Contractor
1—Hunt Electric
2—Egan Company
3—Collins Electric (Tie)
3—Gephart Electric (Tie)

BEST Plumbing Company
1—Egan Company
2—Horwitz
3—Wenzel Plumbing Heating Cooling

BEST Fabrication Company
1—MG McGrath, Inc.
2—RTL Construction
3—TEK Fabricators Inc. (Tie)
3—Fabcon Precast (Tie)

BEST Landscape Design Company
1—Midwest Landscapes Inc.
2—Cunningham Group
3—0 Margolis

BEST Windows and Glazing
1—Andersen Windows
2—Marvin Windows
3—Twin City Glass

BEST Roofing Contractor
1—Central Roofing Company
2—Horizon Roofing
3—Berwald Roofing Company

BEST Painting Company
1—Swanson & Youngdale Inc.
2—Superior Painting & Decorating Inc.
3—Sunrise Painting
TOP PROJECTS of 2021

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LEGAL SERVICES

BEST ADR Company
1—Gilbert Mediation Center, Ltd.
2—Benchmark National ADR, LLC
3—SiebenCarey

BEST ADR Individual Moderator
1—Mary E. Pawlenty / Gilbert Mediation
2—James H. Gilbert / Gilbert Mediation
3—Cara Lee Neville / Benchmark National ADR

BEST Claims Administration
1—American Risk Services
2—Rust Consulting Inc.
3—Heffler Claims Group

BEST Class Action Claims Administration Services
1—Dahl Administration
2—Rust Consulting Inc.
3—Heffler Claims Group

BEST Court Reporter and Deposition Service
1—Depo International
2—Benchmark Reporting Agency
3—Twin West Reporting

BEST Deposition Video Provider
1—Veritext
2—Benchmark Reporting Agency
3—On The Record

BEST Digital Forensics
1—Carney Forensics
2—Shepherd Data Services
3—Digital Forensics Corp

BEST Docketing and Calendaring Software
1—Thomson Reuters Elite
2—MyCase
3—BEC Legal

BEST E-Discovery
1—Shepherd Data Services
2—Thomson Reuters
3—Robert Half Legal

BEST Expert Witness
1—Thomson Reuters Expert Witness Services
2—Juris Pro
3—The TASA Group

BEST Expert Witness Financial
1—Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
2—Wipfli
3—Financial Advisors, LLC (Tie)
3—Hunter Advisors, PLLC (Tie)
3—SDK CPAs (Tie)
BEST Forensic Accounting
1—Ernst & Young LLP
2—Wipfli
3—Eide Bailly LLP (Tie)
3—Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLP (PwC) (Tie)

BEST Jury Consultant
1—The Advocates
2—Populus law
3—JuryScope, Inc.

BEST Law School
1—Mitchell Hamline School of Law
2—University of Minnesota Law School
3—University of St. Thomas School of Law

BEST Legal Liability Insurance
1—Minnesota Lawyer’s Mutual Insurance
2—Hays Companies
3—Patrick J Thomas Agency

READER RANKINGS 2022

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BEST Legal Outplacement and Career Transition Provider
1— Talon Performance Group
2— Minneapolis Outplacement Services
3— Roy S. Ginsburg, J.D. Strategic Advisor to Lawyers and Law Firms

BEST Litigation Consulting Firm
1— Shepherd Data Services
2— Martin Litigation Support Services, LLC
3— Barrington Capital Management, Inc.

BEST Litigation Valuation
1— Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
2— Abdo, Eick & Meyers
3— Bassford Remele

BEST Legal Staffing
1— Robert Half Legal
2— Talon Performance Group
3— Sand Search Partners

BEST Non-Association Continuing Legal Education Provider
1— Mitchell Hamline School of Law
2— University of St. Thomas School of Law
3— Law Moose (Tie)
3— Minnesota County Attorneys Association (Tie)

BEST Online Research Provider
1— Thomson Reuters
2— LexisNexis
3— Fastcase (Tie)
3— QuickView (Tie)

BEST Paralegal Program in the MN
1— Hamline University
2— North Hennepin Community College
3— Winona State University

BEST Practice Management Software
1— ProLaw
2— MyCase
3— Smokeball

BEST Private Investigator
1— Private Eye Security
2— Andrew P. Miklesh
3— Gilbertson Investigations

BEST Process Server
1— Metro Legal Services Inc
2— Pro Legal MN
3— Excel Legal (Tie)
3— Legal Process Minnesota, LLC (Tie)

BEST Tables of Authority Software
1— Thomson Reuters
2— LexisNexis
3— Best Authority

BEST Time and Billing Solutions
1— AbacusLaw
2— MyCase
3— Coyote (Tie)
3— TimeSolv (Tie)

BEST Translation Services
1— Minnesota Translations
2— Global Translation
3— Lynne Krenz, Stillwater

BEST Trust Administration
1— Thrivent Financial
2— Securian
3— Marquette Asset Management
BEST Business Bank
1— Bridgewater Bank
2— Alerus Financial
3— Bremer Bank

BEST Small Business Banking
1— Bridgewater Bank
2— Alerus
3— Bremer Bank

BEST Commercial Mortgage Lender
1— Bridgewater Bank
2— Alerus
3— U.S. Bancorp

BEST Wealth Management
1— Alerus Wealth Management
2— Thrivent Financial
3— RBC Wealth Management

BEST Insurance Brokerage
1— Kraus-Anderson Insurance
2— Hays
3— CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services

BEST Accounting Firm
1— Mahoney
2— CliftonLarsonAllen
3— Wipfli

Up & Coming Attorneys 2022
Nominations are now open!

Nomination deadline: June 26, 2022
Event Date: September 16, 2022

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1—Robert Half
2—Midwest Financial Search Partners
3—Versique Search and Consulting

1—Robert Half OfficeTeam
2—Salo
3—The Creative Group - Robert Half

1—Beehive
2—Carmichael Lynch Relate (Tie)
2—Padilla (Tie)
3—Goff Public

1—Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota
2—Opus College of Business, University of St. Thomas
3—Hamline School of Business

1—Loffler Companies, Inc.
2—Blue Team Alpha (Tie)
2—Code42 (Tie)
3—Atomic Data

1—The Nerdery
2—Irish Titan
3—BridgeTower Media

1—OnTrack
2—Atomic Data
3—Secure Data Recovery

1—IBM
2—Thomson Reuters Legal Managed Services
3—Deloitte
READER RANKINGS 2022

BEST Document Destruction
1— Shred-it
2— Iron Mountain
3— Shred Right

BEST Document Management
1— Loffler Companies, Inc.
2— Shepherd Data Services
3— Nightowl Discovery

BEST Tech Recycling & Disposal
1— Atomic Recycling LLC (Tie)
2— Tech Dump (Tie)
3— Best Buy

BEST Local Brewery
1— Bent Paddle
2— Surly
3— Fulton Brewing Taproom

BEST Local Winery
1— Saint Croix Vineyards
2— Winehaven Winery
3— Carlos Creek Winery

BEST Document Management
1— Loffler Companies, Inc.
2— Innovative Office Solutions
3— Podany’s

BEST Office Supplies
1— Office Depot
2— Loffler Companies, Inc. (Tie)
3— Innovative Office Supplies

BEST Printer
1— Loffler
2— MetroSales
3— FedEx

BEST Office Interiors
1— BDH
2— Adolfson & Peterson, Inc.
3— DLR (Tie)
3— Perkins & Will (Tie)

BEST Courier and Messenger Service
1— Metro Legal Services Inc
2— OnTime Delivery
3— Quicksilver

BEST Office Equipment
1— Loffler Companies, Inc.
2— Innovative Office Solutions
3— Podany’s

BEST Office Supplies
1— Office Depot
2— Loffler Companies, Inc. (Tie)
3— Innovative Office Supplies

BEST Printer
1— Loffler
2— MetroSales
3— FedEx

BEST Office Interiors
1— BDH
2— Adolfson & Peterson, Inc.
3— DLR (Tie)
3— Perkins & Will (Tie)

BEST Courier and Messenger Service
1— Metro Legal Services Inc
2— OnTime Delivery
3— Quicksilver

LEISURE

BEST Local Brewery
1— Bent Paddle
2— Surly
3— Fulton Brewing Taproom

BEST Local Winery
1— Saint Croix Vineyards
2— Winehaven Winery
3— Carlos Creek Winery

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⭐ BEST Digital Forensics ⭐ BEST eDiscovery ⭐ BEST Document Management