Celebrate the winners!

2019 READER RANKING AWARDS

READER RANKINGS

MINNESOTA LAWYER

FINANCE & COMMERCE

- Education • Entertainment •
- Finance, Accounting & Insurance •
- General Business • Health Care •
- Legal Services • Real Estate •
- Technology • Top Employers •
We measure our success by the success of our client partners.

For 100 years Cobb Strecker Dunphy & Zimmermann has provided an unrivaled level of service based on our foundational values of Integrity, Insight, Innovation and Impact. We pride ourselves on offering unparalleled expertise in crafting client specific risk management solutions.

CSDZ is a nationally recognized specialty risk management organization with expanded industry focus in construction, energy, transportation, design and professional services. Privately held and fiercely independent, our mission is to listen, understand, advocate, educate, serve and improve our clients.

Visit us at csdz.com to learn more about how we can help with solutions for your business.
For the past 3 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. 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 2019.

We thank you for your support in making the decisions on the winners of the 2019 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
**BEST Commercial Real Estate Brokerage**

1. CBRE
   
   CBRE’s 34,000 U.S. professionals in 200 offices provide exceptional outcomes for clients by combining local market insight, broad services, specialized expertise and premier technology tools and resources.
   
   www.cbre.us

2. Kraus-Anderson

3. Cushman & Wakefield

**BEST Commercial Leasing Company**

1. Doran Companies
   
   Doran Companies was founded in 2007 by Kelly Doran and has experience growth every year and helped to establish Doran Companies.
   
   www.dorancompanies.com

2. CBRE

3. Cushman & Wakefield

**BEST Commercial Real Estate Developer/Partner**

1. Doran Companies
   
   Doran Companies was founded in 2007 by Kelly Doran and has experience growth every year and helped to establish Doran Companies.
   
   www.dorancompanies.com

2. Ryan Companies

3. Davis

**BEST Commercial Property Manager**

1. Doran Companies
   
   Doran Companies was founded in 2007 by Kelly Doran and has experience growth every year and helped to establish Doran Companies.
   
   www.dorancompanies.com

2. Ryan Companies

3. Colliers

**BEST 1031 Exchange Experts**

1. The Excelsior Group
   
   The Excelsior Group (TEG) is a full-service Minneapolis real estate firm offering boutique-level services in the fields of management, real estate, and more.
   
   www.excelsiorlc.com

2. Cushman & Wakefield

3. Commercial Partners Exchange Company, LLC

**BEST Tenant Representation**

1. CBRE
   
   CBRE’s 34,000 U.S. professionals in 200 offices provide exceptional outcomes for clients by combining local market insight, broad services, specialized expertise and premier technology tools and resources.
   
   www.cbre.us

2. Cushman & Wakefield

3. Carlson Partners (Carlson Commercial)

4. KimbleCo

5. Marcus & Millichap

6. Other (please specify)

**BEST Appraisal Companies**

1. CBRE
   
   CBRE’s 34,000 U.S. professionals in 200 offices provide exceptional outcomes for clients by combining local market insight, broad services, specialized expertise and premier technology tools and resources.
   
   www.cbre.us

2. MN Real Estate Appraisal Services

3. Shenehon Company

**BEST Title Companies**

1. First American Title
   
   First American Title Insurance Company facilitates and streamlines real estate transactions by providing comprehensive title insurance protection and professional settlement services.
   

2. Commercial Partners Title

3. Chicago Title Insurance

4. Old Republic Title

**BEST Appraisal Companies**

1. MN Real Estate Appraisal Services
   
   Minnesota Real Estate Appraisal Services offers it’s 40+ years of Commercial, Industrial, Land, Legal and Multi-Family Residential Appraisal Expertise for your project. We are Real Estate Appraisers you can trust.
   
   www.mnreappraisals.com/contact

2. CBRE

3. Shenehon Company

**BEST Commercial Valuation**

1. Minnesota Real Estate Appraisal Services
   
   Minnesota Real Estate Appraisal Services offers it’s 40+ years of Commercial, Industrial, Land, Legal and Multi-Family Residential Appraisal Expertise for your project. We are Real Estate Appraisers you can trust.
   
   www.mnreappraisals.com/contact

2. Shenehon Company

3. Hoff Appraisal Associates

**BEST Business Bank**

1. Bridgewater Bank
   
   As a full service bank, Bridgewater is committed to serving the diverse, individual needs of entrepreneurs. Their focus on unconventional relationship-based service and consistent leadership has led to continuous growth and profitability.
   
   www.bridgewaterbankmn.com

2. U.S. Bancorp

3. Bremer Bank

4. Sunrise Banks

**BEST Insurance Brokerage**

1. Christensen Group
   
   Founded in 1952 and 100% employee-owned, Christensen Group is the largest locally-owned, independent insurance and employee benefits agency.
   
   www.christensengroup.com

2. Cobb Streecker Dunphy & Zimmermann

3. Wells Fargo

4. Lockton
BEST Executive Search Firms
1. Robert Half
   Founded in 1948, Robert Half has a long company history of innovation, always guided by high ethical standards and the belief that finding the right fit for a client and candidate creates an engaged and energized workforce.
   www.roberthalf.com
2. SkyWater Search Partners Inc.
3. LymanDoran
4. Midwest Financial Search Partners

BEST Accounting Firm
1. CliftonLarsonAllen
   CliftonLarsonAllen exists to create opportunities — for their clients, their people, and their communities. They are dedicated to building an inclusive culture that thrives on different beliefs and perspectives.
   www.claconnect.com
2. Baker Tilly
3. Redpath and Company

BEST Staffing Agency
1. Robert Half OfficeTeam
   Founded in 1948, Robert Half has a long company history of innovation, always guided by high ethical standards and the belief that finding the right fit for a client and candidate creates an engaged and energized workforce.
   www.roberthalf.com
2. Humera
3. Avenica

BEST Office Interiors
1. Doran Companies
   Doran Companies was founded in 2007 by Kelly Doran and has experience growth every year and helped to establish Doran Companies.
   www.dorancompanies.com
2. bdh+young interiors | architecture
3. Perkins & Will

BEST Wealth Management
1. RBC Wealth Management
   At RBC Wealth Management, they understand your financial goals are unique — that’s why their financial advisors provide customized, objective advice.
   us.rbcgam.com/default.fs
2. Morgan Stanley
3. Thrivent Financial

BEST MBA Program
1. Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota
   At the Carlson School of Management, they share a commitment to imagination, engagement, and ambition. Their approach connects students to unique experiential learning opportunities, dynamic international education programs, and to a vibrant network of businesses throughout the state and beyond.
   www.carlsonschool.umn.edu
2. Opus College of Business, University of St. Thomas
3. Carlson School of Management
4. Hamline School of Business

Thank you to the readers of Minnesota Lawyer for choosing Benchmark Reporting Agency as the Best Court Reporter & Deposition Service and the Best Deposition Video Provider in the 2019 Minnesota Reader Rankings poll for the second year in a row.

As one of the most respected court reporting agencies in the nation, Benchmark has been Minnesota’s premier court reporting agency for over 50 years. We offer a full range of litigation support services, video services, video conferencing, and video streaming to meet the needs of clients throughout the U.S. and abroad.

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Messerli Kramer focuses on “service-first” motto

“Our clients know that as their businesses grow and change, they will have the right legal team in place to help them along the way.” – Brett Larson, Messerli Kramer

Brett Larson is a shareholder and chair of the Minneapolis Division at Messerli Kramer. Its Minneapolis office provides a full suite of legal services to individuals and businesses of all sizes.

BY KATE LEIBSLE

Bigger firms with hundreds of employees, layers of management and rigid structures to match are all the rage it seems. Not so at Messerli Kramer – a 55-year-old, Minnesota law firm that’s intent on remaining independent and accessible for many years to come.

Messerli Kramer has offices in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Plymouth, Omaha, Bismarck and Milwaukee. The firm has about 70 attorneys, practicing in corporate, commercial real estate, estate planning, bank and finance, general business litigation and family law.

At a time when the Twin Cities continue to see the entry of national and regional firms through mergers and acquisitions, many companies are finding fewer options in full-service legal providers with a rate structure that works within the parameters of their legal budget. Messerli Kramer is committed to doing things differently, said Brett Larson, who leads the firm’s Minneapolis Division.

“We are committed to growing our business organically, remaining independent and providing services in the same manner that our clients have come to expect,” he said.

At the heart of the strategic plan is the firm’s commitment to its clients and its employees long-term.

“We ask ourselves all the time how what we are doing affects our clients,” he said.

“We live here. We understand the market and what the market values. “Our clients know that as their businesses grow and change, they will have the right legal team in place to help them along the way.”

The key to hiring and retaining that legal team for Messerli Kramer has been developing a culture that makes the long hours and hard work worth coming to the office.

“This generation of professionals appreciates the autonomy that they are given at our firm to serve their clients in a manner that works for them and the client,” Larson said.

The firm focuses a lot of attention on its “service-first” motto. Attorneys are encouraged to be about their clients’ needs – not about “face time” at the law office.

Everyone is encouraged to be involved in decision-making and in working collaboratively across the practices. Sika are not the way Messerli Kramer wants to build its business.

“We are working hard to make sure everyone is engaged at all levels because we understand that as we become more inclusive in our approach to managing the firm, we will also be more successful in our ability to grow it,” Larson said. “Our leadership ranks are filled with young attorneys who are developing their practice and have a vision for how to best-serve our clients and move the firm in the right direction—in a way that is sustainable for years to come.”

Speaking of the future, Larson sees nothing but good days ahead for Messerli Kramer. The firm’s growth plan will evolve organically – not growth just for the sake of getting bigger.

“We look forward to serving more and more clients who appreciate working with a full-service law firm with boots on the ground,” he said. “We are also excited about the opportunity to expand our talent-pool with professionals who seek the management structure and career opportunities afforded by working with a locally managed law firm.”
BEST IT Outsourcing Provider
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   Driven by people, guided by process, powered by technology. This is how we keep an eye on today while focusing on the future.
2. IBM
3. Cognizant Technology Solutions
4. Deloitte

BEST Office Equipment
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   www.loffler.com
2. Innovative Office Solutions
3. Podany’s

BEST Office Supplies
1. Office Depot
   Office Depot, Inc. is an American office supply retailing company headquartered in Boca Raton, Florida, United States. The company has combined annual sales of approximately $11 billion, and employs about 38,000 associates with businesses in the United States.
   www.officedepot.com
2. Innovative Office Supplies
3. Loffler Companies, Inc.

BEST Printer
1. FedEx
   FedEx Corporation is an American multinational courier delivery services company headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee. The name “FedEx” is a syllabic abbreviation of the name of the company’s original air division, Federal Express, which was used from 1973 until 2000.
2. Nightowl Discovery
3. Sir Speedy

BEST Commercial Mortgage Lender
1. Bridgewater Bank
   As a full service bank, Bridgewater is committed to serving the diverse, individual needs of entrepreneurs. Their focus on unconventional relationship-based service and consistent leadership has led to continuous growth and profitability.
   www.bridgewaterbankmn.com
2. U.S. Bancorp
3. Bremer Bank

BEST Small Business Banking
1. Bridgewater Bank
   It all started with a vision in 2005 to create an entrepreneurial bank where answers came quickly, opportunities were plentiful and the culture was optimistic. An unconventional attitude sets us apart from traditional banks – and our clients, employees and investors notice the difference.
   www.bridgewaterbankmn.com
2. Sunrise Banks
3. Bremer Bank

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   Doran Companies was founded in 2007 by Kelly Doran and has experience growth every year and helped to establish Doran Companies.
   www.dorancompanies.com
2. Kraus-Anderson
3. Adolfson & Peterson - write in

BEST Contractor
1. Greiner Construction Inc.
   Greiner prides itself on ensuring each project we are involved with is a true partnership.
   www.greinerconstruction.com
2. D.J. Kranz Co., Inc.
3. Gardner Builders

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1. Doran Companies
   Doran Companies was founded in 2007 by Kelly Doran and has experience growth every year and helped to establish Doran Companies.
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2. BWBR Architects
3. HGA Architects & Engineers

BEST Engineer
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   www.bkbm.com/about/personnel
2. Braun Intertec
3. Alliant Engineering
3. Pope Architects

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   www.jschwieters.com
2. Tamarack Materials, Inc.
3. Brock White

BEST Construction/Real Estate Law Firm
1. Briggs & Morgan
   Briggs and Morgan is a full-service law firm with offices in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.
   www.briggs.com
2. Messerli & Kramer
3. Winthrop & Weinstine
3. Hellmuth & Johnson
3. Larkin Hoffman
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<tr>
<th>BEST Electrical Contractor</th>
<th><a href="#">Reader Rankings 2019</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Collins Electric</td>
<td><strong>BEST Landscape Design Company</strong></td>
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</table>
| Collins was established in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1948 to help meet the electrical construction demands of postwar America. Through the years, we've built customer relationships on a foundation of integrity and trust—a philosophy that has been the cornerstone of our company since its inception. www.collinsmn.com | **1. Cunningham Group**  
Cunningham Group: Architecture Urban Interior and Landscape Design. We exist to Uplift the Human Experience. www.cunningham.com |
| 2. Egan Company            | **2. Midwest Landscapes Inc.** |
| 3. Parsons Electric        | **3. KG Landscape** |

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<th>BEST Concrete Company</th>
<th><strong>BEST Windows and Glazing</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cemstone</td>
<td><strong>1. Andersen Windows</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>As a family-led business, having a values-oriented, people-focused culture is at the heart of who we are. <a href="http://www.cemstone.businesshomepage.info/about">www.cemstone.businesshomepage.info/about</a></td>
<td>Andersen Corporation is an international window and door manufacturing enterprise employing approximately 12,000 people at more than 30 manufacturing, logistic centers and company owned retail locations. <a href="http://www.andersenwindows.com">www.andersenwindows.com</a></td>
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<td>2. Northland Concrete and Masonry</td>
<td><strong>2. Marvin Windows</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Goodmanson Construction</td>
<td><strong>3. Empirehouse</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>BEST Painting Company</th>
<th><strong>BEST Roofing Contractor</strong></th>
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| 1. Swanson & Youngdale Inc. | **1. Central Roofing Company**  
Founded in 1929, Central Roofing Company™ is a certified Woman-Owned corporation operated in two locations: Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota. www.centralroofing.com | Egan Company  
With over 1,100 employees and more than 10 specialty trades, Egan continues to earn recognition for delivering you a more integrated, efficient customer experience from start to finish. For over 70 years, they have been by your side, building on promises kept. www.eganco.com |
| 2. Superior Painting & Decorating Inc. | **2. Berwald Roofing Company – Roofing and Metal Wall Panels** |
| 3. Show Me Painting LLC     | **3. Horizon Roofing, Inc.** |
| 3. Sunrise Painting         | **BEST Paving** |

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<tr>
<th>BEST Plumbing Company</th>
<th><strong>BEST Public Relations Firm</strong></th>
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| 1. Egan Company            | **1. Weber Shandwick**  
Weber Shandwick is a public relations firm formed in 2001 by merging the Weber Group, Shandwick International, and BSMG. www.webershandwick.com | Central Roofing Company  
Founded in 1929, Central Roofing Company™ is a certified Woman-Owned corporation operated in two locations: Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota. www.centralroofing.com |
| 2. Wenzel Plumbing Heating Cooling | **2. Metro Paving Inc.** |
| 3. Erickson Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Electrical | **3. Minnesota Roadways Co.** |
| 3. Schadegg Mechanical Inc. | **BEST Fabrication Company** |

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<tr>
<th>BEST Security Company</th>
<th><strong>BEST Printing &amp; Promotional Items</strong></th>
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| 1. Code42                  | **1. AlphaGraphics**  
AlphaGraphics is a franchised chain of more than 270 independently owned and operated marketing service providers with full-service print shops. AlphaGraphics business centers are franchised by AlphaGraphics, Inc., part of the MBE Worldwide group of companies. www.alphagraphics.com | AlphaGraphics is a franchised chain of more than 270 independently owned and operated marketing service providers with full-service print shops. AlphaGraphics business centers are franchised by AlphaGraphics, Inc., part of the MBE Worldwide group of companies. www.alphagraphics.com |
| Code42 believes every file has value and Code42 Next-Gen Data Loss Protection is designed to protect every file. www.code42.com | **1. Innovative Office Solutions**  
We bring everything in your workplace together: invigorating productive people, innovating work environments and inspiring ideas that tell your brand story. www.innovativesys.com |
| 3. Loffler Companies, Inc. | **BEST Printing & Promotional Items** |

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<tr>
<th>BEST Fabrication Company</th>
<th><strong>BEST Roofing Contractor</strong></th>
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| 1. MG McGrath, Inc.        | **1. Central Roofing Company**  
Founded in 1929, Central Roofing Company™ is a certified Woman-Owned corporation operated in two locations: Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota. www.centralroofing.com | Egan Company  
With over 1,100 employees and more than 10 specialty trades, Egan continues to earn recognition for delivering you a more integrated, efficient customer experience from start to finish. For over 70 years, they have been by your side, building on promises kept. www.eganco.com |
| In 1985, Mike McGrath envisioned a company that provided higher quality, and the best of customer service in architectural surfaces industry. Today, MG McGrath is an award-winner and leader in the industry; providing creative solutions in design, fabrication, and installation of architectural surfaces. www.mgmcgrath.com | Central Roofing Company  
Founded in 1929, Central Roofing Company™ is a certified Woman-Owned corporation operated in two locations: Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota. www.centralroofing.com |
| 2. J L Schwieters Construction | **2. Berwald Roofing Company – Roofing and Metal Wall Panels** |
| 3. Fabcon Precast           | **3. Horizon Roofing, Inc.** |

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<th>BEST Landscape Design Company</th>
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| 1. Cunningham Group           | **1. Andersen Windows**  
Andersen Corporation is an international window and door manufacturing enterprise employing approximately 12,000 people at more than 30 manufacturing, logistic centers and company owned retail locations. www.andersenwindows.com | Andersen Corporation is an international window and door manufacturing enterprise employing approximately 12,000 people at more than 30 manufacturing, logistic centers and company owned retail locations. www.andersenwindows.com |
| Cunningham Group: Architecture Urban Interior and Landscape Design. We exist to Uplift the Human Experience. www.cunningham.com | **2. Marvin Windows** |
| 2. Midwest Landscapes Inc.    | **3. Empirehouse** |
| 3. KG Landscape               | **BEST Paving** |

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Founded in 1929, Central Roofing Company™ is a certified Woman-Owned corporation operated in two locations: Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota. www.centralroofing.com |
| 3. Empirehouse                | **3. Horizon Roofing, Inc.** |

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<th>BEST Roofing Contractor</th>
<th><strong>BEST Paving</strong></th>
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| 1. Central Roofing Company   | **1. Bituminous Roadways, Inc.**  
Bituminous Roadways, Inc. (BR) strives to be the “company of choice” for everything asphalt throughout the Twin Cities Metro area. For more than 70 years, BR has been an industry leader providing customers the highest quality results for all their pavement projects. www.bitroads.com | Central Roofing Company  
Founded in 1929, Central Roofing Company™ is a certified Woman-Owned corporation operated in two locations: Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota. www.centralroofing.com |
| 2. Berwald Roofing Company – Roofing and Metal Wall Panels | **2. Metro Paving Inc.** |
| 3. Horizon Roofing, Inc.      | **3. Minnesota Roadways Co.** |

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| Bituminous Roadways, Inc. (BR) strives to be the “company of choice” for everything asphalt throughout the Twin Cities Metro area. For more than 70 years, BR has been an industry leader providing customers the highest quality results for all their pavement projects. www.bitroads.com | **2. Metro Paving Inc.** |
| 3. Minnesota Roadways Co.     | **BEST Public Relations Firm** |
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Weber Shandwick is a public relations firm formed in 2001 by merging the Weber Group, Shandwick International, and BSMG. www.webershandwick.com | Weber Shandwick is a public relations firm formed in 2001 by merging the Weber Group, Shandwick International, and BSMG. www.webershandwick.com |
| 2. Goff Public               | **2. Metro Paving Inc.** |
| 3. LEVEL Brand, LLC          | **3. Minnesota Roadways Co.** |

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AlphaGraphics is a franchised chain of more than 270 independently owned and operated marketing service providers with full-service print shops. AlphaGraphics business centers are franchised by AlphaGraphics, Inc., part of the MBE Worldwide group of companies. www.alphagraphics.com | AlphaGraphics is a franchised chain of more than 270 independently owned and operated marketing service providers with full-service print shops. AlphaGraphics business centers are franchised by AlphaGraphics, Inc., part of the MBE Worldwide group of companies. www.alphagraphics.com |
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We bring everything in your workplace together: invigorating productive people, innovating work environments and inspiring ideas that tell your brand story. www.innovativesys.com |
| 2. Goff Public               | **2. Nelson Ink** |
| 3. LEVEL Brand, LLC          | **BEST Printing & Promotional Items** |
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| 1. Innovative Office Solutions  
We bring everything in your workplace together: invigorating productive people, innovating work environments and inspiring ideas that tell your brand story. www.innovativesys.com | **2. Nelson Ink** |
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1. Northland Crane Service, Inc
   At Northland Crane Service our most important objective is to provide our customers with extraordinary service Minneapolis, Minnesota.
   northlandcraneservice.com
2. Titan Machinery Inc.
3. Vic’s Crane & Heavy Haul, Inc.

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1. Dunham Associates
   Dunham is the preferred partner for architects and building owners who demand a higher level of engineering expertise and service.
   www.dunhameng.com
2. Michaud Cooley Erickson
3. Steen Engineering, Inc.

BEST Construction Law Firm
1. Briggs & Morgan
   Briggs and Morgan is a full-service law firm with offices in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.
   www.briggs.com
2. Winthrop & Weinstine
3. Messerli & Kramer

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1. Wicked Wort Brewing Company
   Wicked Wort Brewing Company is a family owned brewery located in Robbinsdale Minnesota. Established in 2014, with a 10 Barrel system providing 10 deliciously malted craft beers at all times.
   www.wickedwortbrewingco.com
2. Fulton Brewing Taproom
3. Excelsior Brewing Company

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1. Saint Croix Vineyards
   Founded in 1992, Saint Croix Vineyards has grown to become one of Minnesota’s premier wineries.
   www.scvwines.com
2. Winehaven Winery
3. Carlos Creek Winery

BEST ADR Company
1. Gilbert Mediation Center, Ltd.
   Gilbert Mediation Center is a leading alternative dispute resolution (ADR) firm serving clients throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Aspen, Colorado and nationwide.
   www.gilbertmediation.com
2. Benchmark National ADR, LLC
3. DeCourcy Law PLLC
3. JAMS

WE WELCOMED AN INCOMING CLASS OF 375 STUDENTS THIS FALL
They study full time and part time in Saint Paul, and our blended-learning students study from their hometowns across the country and beyond. They represent our commitment to delivering a practice-based legal education to motivated students in a way that fits their lives.

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