

YJB Attorney Christopher W. Bowman to Receive MSBA Professional Excellence Award

May 22, 2019



The Minnesota State Bar Association has awarded YJB Attorney **Christopher W. Bowman** (pictured), along with Michael Boulette of Barnes & Thornburg and Jenneane Jansen of Lommen Abdo, its Professional Excellence Award for 2019. The award honors members of the bar who strive to meet the many responsibilities of being an attorney, including efforts to improve the administration of justice and practice of law, efforts to promote access to justice, efforts to serve and govern the profession, and service of benefit to the community.

The three attorneys were recognized due to their *pro bono* work on two family law appeals to the Minnesota Supreme Court, specifically *In re Application of J.M.M. o/b/o Minor Children for a Name Change* and *In re Thornton v. Bosquez*. In *J.M.M.*, the three responded to an order from the Supreme Court to prepare and file a brief responding to appellant's argument that a biological father was not entitled to notice of a proceeding brought by the mother to change the last name of the couple's minor children. In *Thornton*, Bowman and Boulette represented the MSBA as *amicus curiae* in a question involving the interpretation and application of Minnesota's child-custody statute where domestic abuse had occurred between the parties.

The award will be presented at the MSBA's annual convention in Prior Lake, MN, in June.