International Municipal Lawyers Association
2021 Annual Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Guns and Cities: Intersection of 1st and 2nd Amendments

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This moderated presentation will provide a multi-faceted approach to the many issues that arise when examining the intersection of the First and Second Amendments. Our panel consists of city attorneys from both the criminal prosecution and civil litigation perspectives, as well a police chief with extensive experience in civil disturbance response. This presentation will answer questions about demonstrator rights, rights to carry firearms even when protesting, and considerations for prosecutors when dealing with crimes involving firearms, civil liability concerns, and potential strategies for judicial intervention. For example, what can a City do regarding a concern about a citizen bringing a gun to a city council meeting? Can a person demonstrate in public while openly carrying a firearm? Does Minnesota law limit the locations where these demonstrations can and cannot occur? What should city attorneys advise law enforcement regarding such events? What liability considerations should Cities consider in responding to such incidents? What are some of the top issues a prosecutor should keep in mind regarding firearms? The audience will also be invited to submit additional questions for consideration by the panel.

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Cliff Berg

Cliff Berg is a Senior Prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the Saint Paul City Attorney's Office. Mr. Berg has handled all types of misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases and all phases of prosecution including initial charging decisions, jury trials, and appeals. Mr. Berg is currently assigned to the Community Justice Unit (CJU) and serves as the office's liaison to law enforcement. He has lectured at several CLEs and often conducts training sessions for the Saint Paul Police Department and other local law enforcement on issues related to substantive criminal law and criminal procedure.

Anissa Mediger

Anissa Mediger serves as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of St. Paul in the Civil Litigation Division of the Saint Paul City Attorney's Office. Ms. Mediger has litigated cases for over 20 years, serving in both the private and public sectors. Prior to her work with the City of St. Paul, Ms. Mediger represented corporate clients in complex product and premises liability litigation, taking and defending 100's of depositions and handling cases from discovery through trial. In her role as an Assistant City Attorney, she has handled cases asserting constitutional violations and advised City officials on issues associated with civil unrest, demonstrator safety and the intersection with Minnesota's conceal and carry laws.



Steven Frazer

Steven Frazer is the Chief of Police for the Prior Lake Police Department. Frazer has been in law enforcement for more than 31 years, serving 27 years in the St. Paul Police Department, where he served as Senior Commander of the Special Operations Unit, which was formed to address civil disturbances, First Amendment demonstrations, and similar events. He has trained over 1,000 police officers regionally in crowd management. When St. Paul hosted the Republican National Convention 2008, Frazer served as Commander of the Mobile Field Force, directing response to civil disturbance response, disaster response, and other coordinated law enforcement response, continuing for nearly a decade after. Frazer also serves as an instructor for the St. Paul Police Civilian Police Academy, guest lecturer, and expert witness.



Stephanie Angolkar, Moderator
Stephanie Angolkar is a partner with Iverson Reuvers in Bloomington, MN. Stephanie's practice focuses on the defense of civil rights and government liability claims against municipalities in state and federal courts. Stephanie has tried several jury and court trials and frequently argues at an appellate level in the Minnesota Court of Appeals and Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Stephanie was named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars list in 2019 and 2020. Stephanie serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association, Minnesota Supreme Court Rules of Evidence Advisory Committee, and is a Girl Scouts Troop Co-Leader.

