

# Local Attorneys Author Free Book on Dram Shop Damages

Attorneys Rick Lind and Matt Sloneker, of the law firm of Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson, P. A. in Minneapolis, have authored a new, free liquor liability desk book entitled "Investigating and Defending Minnesota Civil Damages Act Claims." The book summarizes Minnesota statutes and case law on the liability of liquor vendors. The pair said they "set out to create a useful, practical guide for the investigation and defense of dram shop claims, based on their experience in investigating and trying liquor liability matters." Most recently, the attorneys successfully defended a na-

## Investigating and Defending Minnesota Civil Damages Act Claims



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tional restaurant chain by obtaining a verdict for the defense on liability in



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a case where the jury found \$8 million in damages.

Lind said the desk book is a valuable resource for insurers, liquor vendor-insureds, and defense attorneys alike. "It contains a detailed investigation checklist for insurers to follow in handling these types of claims, and sample forms useful for preparing initial pleadings, discovery requests, and trial documents," he said. Lind and Sloneker also offer presentations on various aspects of Minnesota liquor liability, targeted to insurers.

Minnesota's Civil Damages Act, sometimes called the Dram Shop Act, is the statute that authorizes civil claims against commercial liquor vendors in Minnesota. "Insurers writing liquor liability coverage know the complexities of the statute, and those handling liquor liability claims understand the difficulties faced in properly investigating such claims. In these types of cases, early investigation is key. Evidence quickly becomes stale or disappears, and claimants often have a significant head start on interviewing witnesses and gathering evidence," Lind said.

"In order to mount a proper defense to a dram shop claim, it is important for the claims handler or defense attorney to begin as soon as possible," Sloneker said. The free desk book can be downloaded from [www.lindjensen.com](http://www.lindjensen.com) or a hard copy can be obtained by contacting Rick Lind ([rick.lind@lindjensen.com](mailto:rick.lind@lindjensen.com)) or Matt Sloneker ([Matt.Sloneker@lindjensen.com](mailto:Matt.Sloneker@lindjensen.com)) at 612-333-3637. ■