



A Winning Team

Formed from Unique Backgrounds



When Scott Benson and Mark Briol joined forces in 1998, they dreamed of creating a boutique trial firm that would attract the best and brightest attorneys to provide the highest level of service to clients who were facing major financial litigation. But these two lawyers could not have been more different.

Benson grew up on a farm in west central Minnesota, raising chickens and performing at the local community theater. Briol grew up in the city and trained to become a professional boxer. As is so often the case with winning teams, there was great strength to be found by combining the talents of these two expert lawyers from such opposite backgrounds. Together, Briol and Benson formed a powerhouse firm that provides unparalleled representation to its clients.

From a young age, Benson had a passion for the stage. In high school and college, Benson appeared in numerous productions, eventually graduating from St. Olaf College with a degree in speech and political science. Even in law school, he performed with the Georgetown Gilbert and Sullivan Society—the only Gilbert and Sullivan company with its own law school.

This background proved invaluable to Benson's work as a trial attorney. "My speech degree taught me rigorous thinking and how

While Scott Benson and Mark Briol are different from one another, they've used their passions to help form a trial firm full of extraordinary attorneys.

to persuade. My theater experience taught me how to make it authentic and interesting for the judge and the jury."

Even today, Minneapolis theatergoers might catch Benson performing with Minnesota's Gilbert and

Sullivan Very Light Opera Company. "Gilbert was a lawyer and wrote many lyrics that tickle a lawyer's unique sensibilities. Who but a lawyer could write: 'The law is the true embodiment of everything that's excellent. It has no kind of fault or flaw, and I my lords embody the law.'"

Benson also brings with him a commitment to public service and a dedication to provide exemplary service to his clients. Elected to the Minneapolis City Council in 2001, Benson served his 11th Ward constituents with distinction for eight years. In the courtroom, Benson fights for his clients with fierce determination. He works with clients in a broad range of matters, including securities fraud litigation and arbitration, bet-the-company litigation, high-asset marital dissolutions, and minority shareholder disputes.

The idea born in 1998 to bring disparate skills together to produce unparalleled results for clients persists today at Briol & Benson. "Mark and I have been careful to hand-pick attorneys who share our passion to deliver high-quality legal services and who complement our strengths with their own varied talents."

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As one of Minnesota’s top law firms handling all manner of commercial, financial, and securities litigation for clients ranging from individuals to Fortune 500 companies, Briol & Benson is the go-to firm—both locally and nationally—when complex matters require razor sharp legal acumen.

Briol & Benson’s reputation has been meticulously built over the past 30 years by the hard work of 10 attorneys who never back down from a fight and possess an unrivalled willingness to take cases to trial.

“An experienced trial lawyer can distinguish between the light at the end of the tunnel and an oncoming train,” says firm partner Mark Briol. “It’s something you can understand only when you have been through as many trials as we have.”

Each attorney at Briol & Benson has a diverse and highly accomplished background, having graduated from some of the best law schools, graduate schools, and undergraduate colleges and universities in the United States. Many have had distinguished legal careers even before joining the firm, and several are currently serving or have served as adjunct professors. Because of their extensive experience, Briol & Benson’s attorneys are uniquely positioned to offer the best legal services available. What’s more, they offer efficiencies and access you simply can’t find at larger firms.

The firm’s record demonstrates these attorneys’ exceptional experience and expertise. Attorneys at Briol & Benson have tried over 250 cases to award or verdict, in practice areas ranging from high-asset marital dissolutions to securities fraud litigation and arbitration, and when everything is on the line, bet-the-company litigation.

“Lately we have been litigating several minority shareholder cases,” says firm partner Scott Benson. “But regardless of why a client seeks our services, they know they’re getting a preeminent financial litigation firm. And our team approach is highly effective for our clients, producing extraordinary results.”

Clients receive unmatched service. In fact, Briol gives his clients 24-hour telephone access and is happy to take calls in the middle of the night. “I do, however, always tell clients they shouldn’t lose sleep over their case because they have the best representation they could possibly get.”