



## JAMES S. BALLENTINE

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BALLENTINE

**J**im Ballentine's unique and diverse career history makes him a highly devoted and successful advocate for injured people.

The son of a minister, Jim Ballentine was born in Minneapolis and raised in Minnesota. After graduating from college in 1970, he attended seminary. Upon seminary graduation in 1974, Jim and his wife Marva moved to Connecticut, where he served as an associate pastor. He later pastored a church in Massachusetts.

In the ministry, Jim gained many important insights about helping people facing family problems, personal problems, and death. He recognized that helping parishioners and achieving church goals often required a team of professionals. For example, physicians were often involved in restoring medical well-being, while attorneys helped to determine economic solutions or the financial impact of an injury or death. With that background as inspiration, Jim enrolled at William Mitchell College of Law located in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Jim wanted to be an advocate for people, so he participated in the trial advocacy program during law school. In his third year, Jim won the regional Association of Trial Lawyers of America Trial Competition and placed sixth in the national competition. Ultimately, Jim realized he could most effectively help people through oral advocacy in the courtroom.

Jim also worked full-time during law school. During the first two years, he sharpened his writing skills as an editor at a legal publishing house. During his last year, he was a staff writer on the William Mitchell Law Review. Jim gained "hands on" experience as a law clerk for two of Minnesota's largest and most successful plaintiffs' personal injury firms. One of those firms was Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben.

Jim enjoys working with people – counseling them and finding legal theories to help them prevail. He is excited about his work and considers it a great honor to be an attorney who helps people in crisis.

SCHWEBEL  
GOETZ &  
SIEBEN

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Motion
- Appellate

## BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- Minnesota State Bar, 1990
- U.S. Federal District Court–District of Minnesota, 1990
- Wisconsin State Bar, 1998

## EDUCATION

- William Mitchell College of Law, 1990
- Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Plymouth, MN 1974
- Pillsbury College, Owatonna, MN 1970
- Tyler High School, Tyler, MN 1966

## JOINED FIRM

- 1990

## PAST EMPLOYMENT

- Pastor, New Testament Baptist Church, West Yarmouth, Mass, 1978-86
- Pastor, Farmington Avenue Baptist Church, West Hartford, CT 1974-78

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Minnesota Association for Justice, Member
- William Mitchell College of Law, Instructor
- Minnesota State Bar Association, Member
- Hennepin County Bar Association, Member
- Ethics Committee Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Member
- Christian Legal Society, Member
- American Arbitration Association, Panel of Arbitrators
- American Association for Justice, Member
- University of St. Thomas Law School, Adjunct Instructor

## HONORS

- Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory–A.V. Rated
- “The Best Lawyers in America,” Consumer Guide, Woodward/White
- “Super Lawyer,” Minnesota Law & Politics

## SEMINARS

- Advanced Trial Advocacy program, William Mitchell College of Law, Instructor
- "Minor Settlements Under the New Court Rules," Settlement and Release Seminar, Guest Speaker, MTLA
- "Sovereign Immunity Issue in Motor Vehicle Accident Cases," Guest Speaker, Minnesota CLE
- "Communicating With Clients and Termination of the Attorney/Client Relationship," Guest Speaker, HCBA

## PUBLICATIONS

- "Motions In Limine at Trial," Author, MTLA Magazine, Fall 1997
- "Venue: Minnesota's Least Litigated Issue," Author, MTLA Magazine, Winter 1994

## HOMETOWN

- Tyler, Minnesota