



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **The National Federation of Paralegal Association Awards Justice Champion Award to Maren Schroeder, MBA, RP®**

Minneapolis, MN, November 2020 – The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA®) presented the Justice Champion Award to Maren Schroeder, MBA, RP® at NFPA's Annual Convention on October 24, 2020.

Schroeder is a member of the Minnesota Paralegal Association (MPA) where she has served on their Board for seven years. Her earnest desire for inclusivity, diversity, and desire to learn about societal implications and apply those lessons to her work and life.

Through inclusion “outside the box” initiatives, some of Schroeder's work include: authoring articles discussing her bipolar disorder and challenges as a paralegal; served on the Alternative Legal Models Task Force with the Minnesota State Bar Association working with members to address Access to Justice in Minnesota; secured speakers on implicit bias and made presentations on implicit bias for MPA. Maren has also worked with NFPA's Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Committee on initiatives to incorporate continuing legal education to Minnesota Certified Paralegal program.

With a standing commitment to access to justice, Maren was appointed as the Minnesota Paralegal Association's representative on the Minnesota Supreme Court's Paraprofessional Practice Pilot Program Implementation Committee. Serving alongside attorneys, educators, an Appellate Court Judge, and a Supreme Court Justice, she is worked to establish the framework for advancement of an initiative to allow the limited practice of law by paralegals with attorney supervision in evictions and in certain types of family/domestic matters, with a target on cases with high rates of pro se litigants. This program is expected to provide relief to the thousands of Minnesotans facing court cases without representation.

Schroeder also volunteers with a number of community organizations such as a volunteer crisis advocate for victims of sexual assault; volunteer mediator with Mediation and Conflict Solutions and has served on the Planning & Zoning Commission in her city. Maren's work on medical cannabis and drug policy issues with Sensible Minnesota is also recognized for her efforts medical cannabis reform to access to naloxone, a life-saving opioid overdose reversal agent.



The Justice Champion Award recognizes a practicing paralegal whose conduct, actions and activities demonstrate extraordinary dedication to diversity and inclusion as defined in NFPA's Position Statement on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity.

The Justice Champion Award is given in honor of the late Heather Danielle Heyer, a paralegal who exemplified dedication to the expansion of civil rights, social justice and the expectation that all peoples be treated with dignity and respect. Ms. Heyer was killed while peacefully protesting at a rally in Charlottesville on August 12, 2017.

NFPA is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 8,000 paralegals and is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. NFPA's core purpose is the advancement of the paralegal profession and promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

*NFPA – The Leader of the Paralegal Profession*®

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