

Member Profile: Kristine Zajac

By Mara Garcia

We are pleased to spotlight MHBA Board member Kristine J. Zajac in this edition of *Noticias*.

Kristine was born and raised in Northeast Minneapolis. After graduating from high school, Kristine lived in Argentina for a year as an exchange student with the Rotary Club. Following her Argentine excursion, Kristine attended the University of Minnesota, graduating with Honors with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Spanish.

After graduating from the "U," Kristine attended law school at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul and graduated Cum Laude in 1998. Kristine served as the president of the Hispanic Law Student Association for 1996-1997.

After law school, Kristine was admitted to the Minnesota Bar in 1998. Kristine worked as a law clerk for the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office in the Special Litigation Division, and for the Fourth Judicial District. She also worked as an associate for Lanners and Olson, P.A.

In 2000, Kristine opened her own firm, the Zajac Law Firm. At her law firm, which is located in downtown Minneapolis, Kristine practices in the

areas of family and criminal law. She is also associated with a law firm that practices workers' compensation and personal injury.

Kristine's grandmother, or "Grandma Z" as Kristine calls her, influenced her decision to learn Spanish. Kristine recalls the Grandma Z told her that learning Spanish would be very useful. She believes that her experience living in Argentina helped her a great deal in gaining a deeper understanding of the Spanish language. In addition, she credits Peter Reyes with encouraging her to become a member of MHBA.

Kristine is a frequent guest speaker on legal topics of interest at churches that serve primarily the Latino population. Kristine travels to Mexico about once a year and visits Argentina on a less frequent basis. Most of her clientele is Spanish-speaking. She points out that most of her clients are hard-working, new immigrants.

In her spare time, Kristine enjoys playing basketball in a judge's and lawyer's league. She also enjoys swing dancing and does it on a regular basis. Kristine is very active in her church, and she enjoys traveling.

Mara Garcia is a third-year law student at William Mitchell College of Law.



MHBA board member Kristine Zajac relaxes outside her home with Honey May and her "little" puppy Bella May.