

ASA-MN Appoints Lobbyist

by Mike Schmaltz

ASA of Minnesota is delighted to announce the appointment of Remi Stone as our lobbyist. ASA significantly stepped up advocacy efforts during the last two years; our needs and expectations have reached a tipping point - we need professional support as we move ahead.

The ASA reinitiated the Contractors Bill of Rights Coalition (CBRC) in 2008 and drafted legislation with that Coalition. One provision passed and was signed into law during the 2009 session; other provisions have been introduced separately and will be considered during the next session. More recently, the ASA joined with the Building Jobs Coalition and is working with that group to stimulate construction in Minnesota.

Remi played a decisive role in the passage of the 2009 bill; this demonstrated an ability observed in the past. We are looking forward to employing that ability for subcontractors. She has extensive experience at the legislature, before state agencies, with cities, townships, counties watershed districts and the Metropolitan Council. Other experience includes representing The Builders Association, The League of Minnesota Cities, the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, the Association of Minnesota Building Officials and individual private and public clients.

Remi began her career in politics working for US Senator Herb Kohl (Wisconsin) and Minnesota State Senator Jim Vickerman. She also served four years in the Minnesota Air National Guard. Remi sat as Chair of the Roseville Planning Commission Variance Committee and Chair of the St. Paul Capital Improvement Maintenance Budget Committee. A graduate of Hamline University - School of Law, she still spends time at her alma mater as an adjunct professor of law teaching legislation and lobbying.

Remi will work with ASA Executive Director Mike Schmaltz and the Government Affairs Committee in developing and implementing plans to advance our interests at the capitol. She will also assist us in working with the CBRC and the Construction Jobs Coalition. ■