

DIW Board Profile: George Soule, Board of Director's Chair



There is no argument that we could all use some fresh homemade chocolate chip cookies.

George Soule (White Earth Nation) is the current Chair of the Board of Directors at DIW, and also quite famous for his chocolate chip cookies.

Soule started making them decades ago, and then for a Holiday party with close friends. The cookies and holiday party have become a trademark; one that he now shares with his wife Lisa McDonald in their south Minneapolis home.

When George isn't making the cookies, he's a successful lawyer and partner at Soule & Stull LLC. Started with his partner Melissa Stull in 2014, Soule & Stull has grown to a nine person team, including 3 additional lawyers, 2 retired judges, and 2 paralegals. On most days, he rides his bike to work.

“It was just a natural thing to ask Melissa to be my partner in this new venture.” George said.

Soule returned to Minnesota in 1979, after finishing a Law degree at Harvard Law School. George was a founding partner with Bowman and Brooke, which grew from 14 lawyers to about 180 lawyers in eleven offices nationally.

George grew up in the small town of Audubon, MN in Becker County, about 6 miles west of Detroit Lakes. In 10th grade, his family moved to Moorhead, MN where he finished high school. He said his best friend still lives in Audubon.

Soule's specialty is litigation, including product liability, commercial and negligence claims. Soule defends his clients all over the country. He has done over 60 trials in 19 states, including several memorable cases. George recalls a federal case in Colorado that spanned over 9 years from the accident to the trial, including a strong plaintiff team and difficult judge. In the end, the jury ruled for his client.

“The cases that stand out for me are the hardest ones,” Soule said.

One case area that George really enjoys is cross examination of expert witnesses. He said you need to understand all the information being presented, know all the witnesses, and look for weaknesses in your opponent's case.

“The competitiveness of being a trial lawyer really comes out.”

George was recruited to the DIW Board by former board chair Judge Robert A. Blaeser. George and Robert are good friends of over 25 years. George's mother grew up on the White Earth Reservation, about 30 miles from Audubon.

One board accomplishment George is very proud of is the successful separation of DIW from the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC), which started back in 2016. Many board members and staff were crucial to this effort.

"The board was 100% supportive and helpful."

"We knew it was important that we be our own organization."

"Louise and DIW staff have been great before, during, and after the transition."

In 2016, George's cookies made their first appearance at our annual LEAP fundraising event. George said LEAP! has been very successful and fun, and that the DIW programs speak for themselves as the ultimate success stories.

As for his cookies, he said they are a simple Betty Crocker recipe.

"Most of the bidders are people I know. I guess they like cookies."

Soule received a Law degree from Harvard Law School in 1979, and Bachelor of Arts from Moorhead State University in 1976.