

First Assistant Attorney Sczepanski Receives Award

On March 30, 2023, the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators honored Becker County First Assistant Attorney Braden Sczepanski and Detroit Lakes Police Investigator Phil Vaughn for their work related to the prosecution of Gary Bogatz, who was convicted of First Degree Arson for intentionally setting fire to “The Refuge” in Detroit Lakes in September 2018.

Also part of the investigative team and honored at the awards ceremony held on March 30th at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud were: Steve Kritzeck and Jane Lewis of the Minnesota Commerce Fraud Bureau, and Andrea Bexell, Deputy State Fire Marshal.

The Team received the “Investigation Team of the Year Award” for 2022.

