

2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

ABA Journal (American Bar Association)

Category: Online - Video

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Whirlwind': Bill Kurtis memoir tells how law school trained him for covering trials
Julianne Hill, Legal Affairs Writer; Bill Ward, Editor

Category: Print - Regular Department

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Business of Law

Victor Li, Assistant Managing Editor

Category: Print - Single Topic Coverage

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Generative AI and the Legal Industry

Victor Li, Assistant Managing Editor; Danielle Braff, Legal Affairs Writer

abajournal.com (American Bar Association)

Category: All Content - Feature Article, *Association*

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Talk to the Animals: If AI can translate whistles, barks and meows, could it be used
in court?

Julianne Hill, Legal Affairs Writer; Victor Li, Assistant Managing Editor

Category: All Content - Feature Article, *Association*

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: A Mother's Trial: Nurse wrongly accused of child abuse forges career bridging law
and medicine to help others

Kevin Davis, Managing Editor

Air Transport World (Informa Markets)

Category: All Content - Innovation Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: A SAF Swiss Army Knife

Brian Budzynski, Managing Editor; Rosa Pineda, Associate Director, Content Design

Architectural Products (Endeavor Business Media)

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread Design

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: NVIDIA Makes a Point

Lauren Lenkowski, Art Director

Category: Design - Print Article Design

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Wrapped for Wear

Lauren Lenkowski, Art Director

2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

BioSpace (BioSpace)

Category: All Content - Industry News Coverage

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: BioSpace: Keeping Tabs on Biopharma, From Market Dynamics to Regulatory Upheaval

Jef Akst, Managing Editor; Heather McKenzie, Senior Editor; Annalee Armstrong, Senior Editor

Collector magazine (ACA International)

Category: All Content - How-To Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: How to Expand Your Global Footprint

Anne Rosso May, Communications Director

Category: All Content - Individual Profile

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: ACA International CEO Profile

Anne Rosso May, Communications Director

CSP Daily News (Informa Connect)

Category: All Content - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Advancing the industry

CSP Editorial Staff

Category: All Content - Individual Profile

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Roots & Reinvention

Rachel Gignac, Editor

Category: Design - Best Design for a Single Issue

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Re-writing the future of c-stores

Victoria Rodriguez, Senior Art Director

Category: Online - Event Coverage

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Outlook Leadership Conference 2025

CSP Daily News Editorial Staff

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Category Management Handbook 2025

CSP Daily News Editorial Staff

2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

Daily Coffee News (Daily Coffee News)

Category: Online - Online Single Topic Coverage, *Industry*

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Finding Coffee in Chaos

Nick Brown, Editor; Howard Bryman, Associate Editor

Dental Economics (Endeavor Business Media)

Category: Design - Front Cover Design

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Us VS Them The Power Struggle In The OP

Meg Fuschetti, Art Director

ENA Connection (Emergency Nurses Association)

Category: All Content - Group Recognition Program

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: ENA Connection 20 Under 40 Program

Maya Norris, Managing Editor

Category: Online - Online Single Topic Coverage, *Association*

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Behavioral Health in the Emergency Department

Maya Norris, Managing Editor, and Laurie Saloman, ENA Connection Contributor

FastFinance (Healthcare Financial Management Association)

Category: Design - Email Newsletter Design

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: FastFinance

Brian Goins, Senior Editor, Visuals; Rich Daly, Senior Editor, Brad Dennison, Vice President, Voice & Content; Jean Hodges, hfm Executive Editor

Category: Online - Podcast

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Oct. 28, 2025 Podcast: FastFinance: One health system's efficiency push

Rich Daly, Host; Erika Grotto, Producer; Linda Chandler, Sound Engineer; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice

FCSI Project Showcase (Zoomba Group)

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: FCSI Project Showcase 2025

Renee Pas, Editor; Joe Carbonara, Editorial Director; Maureen Slocum, CEO & Publisher

FenderBender (Endeavor Business Media)

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread Design

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Evolving into the Future

Mitchell Bradford, Art Director

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Fleet Maintenance (Endeavor Business Media)

Category: Design - Front Cover Design

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Renewable Diesel: A Field Of Alternatives

Erin Brown, Art Director

Category: Design - Opening Page/Spread Design

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: From Pig Rig to Clean Machine

Erin Brown, Art Director

Category: Design - Print Article Design

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Measuring Success in the Shop

Erin Brown, Art Director

FleetOwner (Endeavor Business Media)

Category: Design - Front Cover Design

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Trucking By The Numbers

Eric Van Egeren, Art Director

Foodservice Director (Informa Connect)

Category: All Content - Feature Article, *Industry*

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Inside the Minnesota State Fair, a 12-day food frenzy where a cookie stand does \$5M

Jonathan Maze, Editor-in-Chief

Foodservice Equipment & Supplies (Zoomba Group)

Category: Design - Best Design for a Single Issue

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Inaugural State of the Industry Issue Design

Anne Locascio, Creative Director and Production Manager

Category: Print - State of the Industry

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Inaugural State of the Industry Issue

Renee Pas, Editor; Joe Carbonara, Editorial Director; Maureen Slocum, CEO & Publisher

hfm (Healthcare Financial Management Association)

Category: All Content - Government Coverage

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Government Coverage - Nick Hut

Nick Hut, Senior Editor; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice

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2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

hfm (Healthcare Financial Management Association)

Category: All Content - Industry News Coverage

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Rich Daly, Nick Hut - Healthcare Finance Industry News Coverage
Rich Daly, Senior Editor; Nick Hut, Senior Editor; Brad Dennison, hfm Executive Editor; Eric Reese, Managing Editor; Brian Goins, Designer; Bill Conway, Photographer; Marshall Clarke, Photographer

Category: All Content - News Analysis

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Where do we go now? by Rich Dally and Nick Hut
Rich Daly, Senior Editor; Nick Hut, Senior Editor; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice; Eric Reese, hfm Managing Editor; Marshall Clarke, Photographer

Category: All Content - Original Research Article

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The Healthcare CFO of the Future - Turning Risk into Opportunity
Jeni Williams, Senior Editor, Special Reports; Brian Goins, Senior Editor, Visuals; Paul Barr, Senior Editor; Marshall Clarke, Photographer; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice

Category: All Content - Regular Column

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: David Johnson - hfm - Regular Column
David W. Johnson, Author; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice; Jean Hodges, hfm Executive Editor; Eric Reese, Managing Editor; Deborah Filipek, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Regular Column

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Jill Geisler - hfm - Regular Column
Jill Geisler, Author; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice; Jean Hodges, hfm Executive Editor; Eric Reese, Managing Editor

Category: All Content - Thought Leadership

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Zeev Neuwirth, MD - Thought Leadership
Zeev Neuwirth, MD, Author; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice; Jean Hodges, hfm Executive Editor; Eric Reese, PhD, Managing Editor; Deborah Filipek, Senior Editor

Category: Design - Publication Design

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: hfm June-July 2025 and August-September 2025
Brian Goins, Senior Editor, Visuals; Linda Chandler, Graphic Designer; Marshall Clarke, Photographer; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice; Eric Reese, Managing Editor

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2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence

Upper Midwest Region Award Winners

(Alphabetical by publication name)

hfm (Healthcare Financial Management Association)

Category: Online - Online Single Topic Coverage, *Association*

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Rich Daly, Nick Hut - One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) Coverage
Rich Daly, Senior Editor; Nick Hut, Senior Editor, Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content and Voice; Jean Hodges, hfm Executive Editor

Category: Print - Special Section

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: The Healthcare C-suite of the Future
Jeni Williams, Senior Editor, Special Reports; Brian Goins, Senior Editor, visuals; Paul Barr, Senior Editor; Jean Hodges, hfm Executive Editor; Marshall Clarke, Photographer

HiFi Health News (Healthcare Financial Management Association)

Category: Online - Video

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: HiFi Health News - How to save on prescription drugs
Erika Grotto, HiFi Health News Producer and Host; Linda Chandler, Sound Engineer/Graphic Designer; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice

Marine Fabricator (Advanced Textiles Association)

Category: All Content - How-To Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Work smarter, not harder
Brianna Liestman, Senior Editor; Kari Pederson, Senior Graphic Designer; Barbara Connett, Education and Events Manager

McKnight's Home Care (Haymarket Media)

Category: All Content - Feature Series

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Family caregivers: The secret weapon for home care agencies
Liza Berger, Editor; Adam Healy, former Staff Writer; Monica Pizzi, Senior Art Director

McKnight's Long-Term Care News (Haymarket Media)

Category: All Content - Feature Series

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: HIV in LTC
Kimberly Marselas, Senior Editor, McKnight's Long-Term Care News

Category: Online - Online Single Topic Coverage, *Industry*

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: McKnight's Coverage of Genesis HealthCare Bankruptcy and Sale
Kimberly Marselas, Senior Editor; James M. Berklan, Executive Editor

2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

McKnight's Senior Living (Haymarket Media)

Category: All Content - Government Coverage

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: McKnight's Senior Living Government Coverage

Lois A. Bowers, Editor; Kimberly Bonvissuto, Content Editor; John O'Connor, Editorial Director

Meetings Today (Trade Press Media Group)

Category: Print - Regular Department

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: The Z

Taylor Smith, Content Manager, Destinations; Scott Easton, Senior Brand Designer

Modern Healthcare (Crain Communications)

Category: All Content - Data Journalism

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: The Great Medicare Advantage Retreat

Nona Tepper, Senior Reporter; Tim Broderick, Data and Analytics Lead; Jason McGregor, Senior Digital Designer

Category: All Content - Industry News Coverage

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Healthcare's inflection point

Modern Healthcare staff

NAR REALTOR® News (The National Association of REALTORS®)

Category: All Content - Group Recognition Program

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: REALTOR® News 30 Under 30 Program

Erica Christoffer, NAR REALTOR® News Product Manager and Rob Reuter, NAR Director of Member Networks, Program Managers; Nicole Slaughter Graham, NAR REALTOR® News Consulting Editor, Editor

Category: All Content - Original Research Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: 12 Remodeling Projects That Offer the Best Value at Resale

Melissa Dittman Tracey, Author; Research staff: Lawrence Yun, Ph.D., Chief Economist and Senior Vice President Jessica Lautz, Dr. of Real Estate, Deputy Chief Economist and Vice President, Research

Category: Online - Best Conversion from Print to Web

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: NAR REALTOR® News

Bennett Richardson, Raffi Williams, Stacey Moncrieff, Erica Christoffer, Wilma Veal, Lauren Pinch, Eliana Block, Melissa Tracey, Nicole Slaughter Graham, Danny Cozzi

2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

No-Till Farmer (Lessiter Media)

Category: All Content - Technical Article

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: How Soil Testing is Evolving into 'Predictive Agronomy'
Dan Crummett, Contributing Editor

Category: Online - Video

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: No-Till, Cover Crop Breakthroughs Turn Heads at 2025 Farm Progress Show
Noah Newman, Technology Editor, Mackane Vogel, Associate Editor, Joe Kuenzle, Video Production

NutraIngredients (William Reed)

Category: Online - Event Coverage

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: The Nutra Healthspan Summit
Asia Sherman, Editor; Danielle Masterson, Editor; Olivia Haslam, Deputy Editor; Lauren Nicolle, Senior Reporter; Cassandra Stern, Deputy Editor; Stephen Daniells, Editor-in-Chief

Officer (Endeavor Business Media)

Category: Design - Best Original Photo Illustration

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: How to Catch a Criminal: When Life Gives You Lemons
Kermit Mulkins, Art Director

Planning magazine (American Planning Association)

Category: Design - Publication Design

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Planning

Cynthia Currie, Creative Director; Catherine Bixler, Editorial Designer; Meghan Stromberg, Editor in Chief

Precision Farming Dealer (Lessiter Media)

Category: All Content - Case Study

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Slashing Inputs & Boosting Connectivity with New Precision Technology
Noah Newman, Technology Editor

Professional Distributor (Endeavor Business Media)

Category: Design - Data Visualization

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: 2025 Aftermarket Profile
Eric Van Egeren, Art Director

2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners

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REALTOR® News (The National Association of REALTORS®)

Category: Online - Video Series

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Good Neighbor Award Videos

Sara Geimer, Erik Tavcar, Dimitra Apostolopoulos, Michelle Delino, Jeff Tudor, Nehemie Jean and Matt Albertini, Contributors

Restaurant Business (Informa Connect)

Category: All Content - Case Study

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Family, fish and fortitude: San Pedro Fish Market's story of survival

Lisa Jennings, Executive Editor

Category: All Content - Enterprise News Story

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Restaurant tech's buying spree is just getting started

Joe Guskowski, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Feature Article, *Industry*

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Dirty sodas are making a splash on menus, from drive-thrus to casual dining

Pat Cobe, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Group or Company Profile

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The rise, fall and (possible) rebirth of Hooters

Joe Guskowski, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Impact/Investigative

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: A deportation crackdown sows fear across the restaurant industry

Lisa Jennings, Executive Editor

Category: All Content - Individual Profile

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The Chilihead

Jonathan Maze, Editor-in-Chief

Category: All Content - News Analysis

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: A deep look at Fat Brands' financial problems

Jonathan Maze, Editor-in-Chief

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Restaurant Business (Informa Connect)

Category: All Content - Original Research Article

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Top 100 Independents

Liz Barrett Foster, Contributing Editor; Lisa Jennings, Executive Editor

Category: All Content - Regular Column

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Tech Check

Joe Guszowski, Senior Editor

restaurant development + design (Zoomba Group)

Category: All Content - Editor's Letter or Note

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: rd+d Editor's Letter Entry

Rebecca Kilbreath, Editor-in-Chief

Category: Design - Print Article Design

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Designers Dish Print Article Design

Eric Uhl, Art and Production Assistant & Full Stack Developer

Category: Design - Publication Design

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: rd+d Publication Design

Eric Uhl, Art and Production Assistant & Full Stack Developer

Strip-Till Farmer (Lessiter Media)

Category: Online - Video Series

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: 2025 Strip-Till Innovator Video Series

Noah Newman, Technology Editor; Joe Kuenzle, Video Production

SWE Magazine (Society of Women Engineers)

Category: All Content - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: The Pendulum Swings on Corporate DEI

Seabright McCabe, SWE Contributor

Category: All Content - Sustainability Article

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Renewables Rising

Seabright McCabe, SWE Contributor

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SWE Magazine (Society of Women Engineers)

Category: All Content - Technical Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: The Magic of Recycling
Kent Kiser, SWE Contributor

Category: Design - Print Article Design

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: What's in a Title
JoAnn Dickey, JoAnn Dickey Design

Category: Print - Special Section

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Women in Engineering and STEM: A Review of the 2024 Literature
Michael Beach, Emily Knaphus-Soran, Ph.D., Maryam Tanveer, Jana Foxe, and Pauline C. Dott,
Center for Evaluation & Research for STEM Equity, University of Washington

TechChannel (MSPC Communications)

Category: All Content - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Women Driving Tech: Progress Made, Work Remains
Andrew Wig, Editor; Samantha Nobles, Freelance Writer; Mike Kooiman, Graphic Design

The Fabricator (FMA Communications)

Category: All Content - Editor's Letter or Note

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Editor's Corner
Dan Davis, Editor-in-Chief

Category: All Content - Technical Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Hem It Right
Tim Heston, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Technical Article

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: The Laser Cleans Up
Tim Heston, Senior Editor

Trade Show Executive (United Service Companies)

Category: Online - Web Special Section

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Trade Show Executive's Young Professionals Corner
Richard Simon, Chairman; Maddy Ryley, Managing Editor; Andrew Warrick, Senior Digital Editor

2026 Azbee Awards of Excellence Upper Midwest Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

Voices in Healthcare Finance (Healthcare Financial Management Association)

Category: Online - Podcast

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Change Healthcare cyberattack, one year later

Erika Grotto, Producer and Host; Linda Chandler, Sound Engineer; Shawn Stack, Director
Knowledge, Professional Practice; Nick Hut, Senior Editor; Brad Dennison, Vice President, Content
& Voice

Category: Online - Podcast

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: As RFK Jr. prepares to take on HHS, where is he likely to have the greatest impact?

Erika Grotto, Producer and Host; Linda Chandler, Sound Engineer; Nick Hut, Senior Editor; Brad
Dennison, Vice President, Content & Voice