

A professional portrait of Richard Ruohonen, a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket, a white shirt, and a light-colored tie. He is smiling slightly and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# RICHARD RUOHONEN

TSR Injury Law

**T**his attorney's last name is pronounced "ruinin'," and there's nothing he likes more than ruinin' an opponent's day, whether in the courtroom or on the ice.

A personal injury lawyer and partner in TSR Injury Law in Minneapolis, Richard Ruohonen won five jury awards last year, two of which exceeded the value of the injured parties' insurance policies. He also competes internationally on a curling team that has a shot at the Olympics.

A graduate of Hamline University School of Law, Ruohonen, 40, joined TSR three years ago. He is an expert in brain trauma and he's also legislative chair of the Minnesota Association for Justice, a trial lawyers' trade group. That role had him verbally sparring with insurance companies on the floor of the Minnesota Legislature last year to preserve the rights of injured parties.

"He is one of the hardest working lawyers I have ever run into," said partner Chuck Slane. "He's going to toe-to-toe with insurance companies, through hard work and just digging for more and more information."

Beyond hard work, Ruohonen just knows how to work up those cases properly, Slane said.

Ruohonen said he has two school-aged children "and an understanding wife." He frequently travels to Canada for curling matches, working on cases while on airplanes and in hotel rooms between games. "That's the only way I can get it done," he said.

What he got done last year included a \$412,000 verdict for a man injured in a traffic accident; his insurance company had offered \$28,000 out of the man's \$100,000 policy. A woman who was also injured in a traffic accident won a \$212,000 verdict from her insurer, which had offered \$30,000 out of her \$100,000 policy.

"I get upset when insurance companies do not do the right thing," Ruohonen said. "We're going to hold their feet to the fire on that. They're going to pay more than their limits."

— Nancy Crotti