

Seasoned attorneys join AG Ellison's team pro bono in George Floyd case

Includes former acting U.S. Solicitor General Neal Katyal, Minnesota attorneys Lola Velázquez-Aguilu, Jerry Blackwell, and Steve Schleicher

July 13, 2020 (SAINT PAUL) — Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison today announced that four seasoned attorneys and trial lawyers have joined on a *pro bono* basis the prosecution team he leads in the George Floyd case. This team includes attorneys from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

"Out of respect for Judge Cahill's gag order, I will say simply that I've put together an exceptional team with experience and expertise across many disciplines. We are united in our responsibility to pursue justice in this case," Attorney General Ellison said.

The attorneys joining the prosecution team, each of whom Attorney General Ellison has appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General, are:

- **Neal Katyal**, partner at the international law firm Hogan Lovells, and former acting Solicitor General and former Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the United States.
- **Lola Velázquez-Aguilu**, litigation and investigation counsel for Medtronic, and former prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota. During her tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, she prosecuted complex multi-defendant, white-collar crimes, including the successful prosecution and trial of several former executives from Starkey Hearing Technologies. Until today, she served as Chairwoman of the Commission on Judicial Selection, to which position she was appointed by Governor Tim Walz.
- **Jerry Blackwell**, trial lawyer and founding partner, CEO, and chairman of the Minneapolis law firm Blackwell Burke, P.A. In June 2020, he won a full, first-ever posthumous pardon for Max Mason, who was wrongly convicted of rape in connection with the infamous Duluth lynchings of June 1920.
- **Steven L. Schleicher**, partner at the Minneapolis law firm Maslon LLP; former prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, the Winona County Attorney's Office, and U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps. In 2016, he led the successful prosecution of the person responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Jacob Wetterling.

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