

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION

130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

612/296-0015
Jan Gallagher

M.S. 480.01
Laws of 1990

PURPOSE: The Commission on Judicial Selection solicits, evaluates and makes recommendations to the Governor for vacancies which occur in the District Courts.

MEMBERSHIP: 49 Members:

There are **nine-at-large members** - 7 of those are appointed by the Governor; 2 appointed by the Supreme Court.

They address all judicial vacancies.

There are **four district members representing each of the ten judicial districts** - two appointed by the Governor; 2 appointed by the Supreme Court. They serve on the Commission to address a vacancy in their district only.

Therefore, when the Commission meets the total membership present at any given time equals 13.

MEETINGS: As required.

COMPENSATION: No per diem, no expenses.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

Appointed by the Governor

James H. Gilbert
Attorney at Law
Minneapolis, MN

Verna Kelly
Willmar, MN

A. Gene Pleasant
Bloomington, MN

George W. Soule
Attorney at Law
Minneapolis, MN

Kathleen A. Meyerle
Attorney at Law
Rochester, MN

Richard L. Pemberton
Attorney at Law
Fergus Falls, MN

Robert J. Monson
Attorney at Law
St. Paul, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Bob Renner, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Bloomington, MN

Marlene M. Johnson
St. Paul, MN

DISTRICT MEMBERS:

**1st Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Gale Barsness
Prior Lake, MN

Thomas A. Erdmann
Attorney at Law
Red Wing, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Paul W. Rogosheske
South St. Paul, MN

Thomas H. Swain
Lilydale, MN

**2nd Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Joseph O'Neill
Attorney at Law
St. Paul, MN

Suzanne White
St. Paul, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Reverend Kathleen M. Gatson
St. Paul, MN

A. Patrick Leighton
Attorney at Law
St. Paul, MN

**3rd Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Jean Michaels
Rochester, MN

Henry J. Savelkoul
Attorney at Law
Albert Lea, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Kent Gernander
Attorney at Law
Winona, MN

Marian Robinson
Austin, MN

**4th Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Regina Reed
Minneapolis, MN

Bruce Willis
Attorney at Law
Minneapolis, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Allen L. Berryman
Robbinsdale, MN

William E. Mullin
Attorney at Law
Minneapolis, MN

**5th Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Daniel Gislason
Attorney at Law
New Ulm, MN

Verne E. Long
Pipestone, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Barbara J. Runchey
Marshall, MN

William Wettergren
St. Peter, MN

**6th Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Robert F. Eaton, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Duluth, MN

Mary Ryland
Duluth, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Geraldine McHugh
Virginia, MN

Floyd D. Rudy
Attorney at Law
Cloquet, MN

**7th Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Keith Hughes
Attorney at Law
St. Cloud, MN

Ellen Palmer
Parkers Prairie, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Cathy Wiggan Hansen
Wadena, MN

Charles W. Kennedy
Attorney at Law
Wadena, MN

**8th Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Arne Anderson
Montevideo, MN

Ann M. Gustafson
Attorney at Law
Willmar, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Carol Kobberman
Hancock, MN

Brian Wojtalewicz
Attorney at Law
Appleton, MN

**9th Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Janet Moran
Brainerd, MN

Romaine Powell
Attorney at Law
Bemidji, MN

**10th Judicial District
Appointed by the Governor -**

Nancy Castle Coleman
Attorney at Law
Anoka, MN

Larry Whitmore
Mahtomedi, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Charles Johnson
Grand Rapids, MN

Kurt J. Marben
Attorney at Law
Thief River Falls, MN

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Will Antell
Bayport, MN

Patrick T. O'Neill
Cambridge, MN

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION

OUTLINE OF PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

An attorney may become a judge by being elected or appointed. If he or she is appointed by the Governor, that person must run for election beyond one year of the swearing-in date. An elected judge's term is six years.

The Minnesota Constitution directs the Governor to fill all judicial seats that are vacated prior to a judge's elected term being completed. Minnesota State Statute 480B.01 (1990) created the Commission on Judicial Selection (also called the Commission).

The Commission on Judicial Selection solicits, evaluates and makes recommendations to the Governor for vacancies which occur in the District Courts. The Commission is not mandated to make recommendations to the Governor for vacancies which occur in the Appellate Courts.

The procedure the Commission will use in recommending judicial candidates is set forth below:

- I. The Commission shall announce all judicial vacancies as they are certified by the Supreme Court and specify a deadline for application.
 - A. An attorney wishing to apply requests an application by either writing the Chair of the Commission on Judicial Selection at 130 State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155, or by calling Jan Gallagher, Director of Judicial Appointments at 296-0015.
 - B. The application is eight pages plus a Demographic Data Sheet. Four additional pages are the authorizations which are used to make confidential inquiries should the applicant become a finalist. These are made with the Department of Revenue, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Lawyer's Professional Responsibility Board and/or the Board on Judicial Standards, and the Clerk of the Supreme Court. The Demographic Data Sheet is kept separate from the application and should be sent to the Director of Judicial Appointments for statistical purposes.
 - C. Applications and letters of recommendations are kept for two years.
 - D. An applicant must reapply each time a new vacancy is announced in his or her judicial district.
 - E. All judicial applications are confidential.

- II. The Commission shall search out likely candidates for judicial appointment.
- A. The Commission shall actively seek and encourage qualified individuals, including women and minorities, to apply for judicial offices. (Minnesota State Statute 480B.01, Subd. 7, 1990). The Commission shall evaluate the extent to which candidates have the following qualifications for judicial office: integrity, maturity, health (if job related), judicial temperament, legal knowledge, ability, experience and community service.
 - B. An applicant must be a resident of the judicial district for which she or he applies. There are ten judicial districts made up of the 87 Minnesota counties, as shown on the attached map.
- III. The Commission shall receive and review judicial applications and letters of recommendation written on behalf of those applicants.
- A. All recommendations for judicial applicants should be made in writing and directed to the Chair.
 - B. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by the Chair or his/her designee. All letters of recommendation will be made available to the members of the Commission on Judicial Selection.
 - C. The Commission, or a designated subcommittee of the Commission, shall review the applications and letters of recommendation and determine from the written materials which applicants shall be semi-finalists who shall be afforded personal interviews.
- IV. Individual Commission members shall not meet with applicants for the purpose of a telephone or personal interview prior to the actual meeting of the Commission.
- A. Interviews of the semi-finalists will be conducted on the day of the Commission meeting. The applicants who are selected to interview will meet with the nine at-large members of the Commission and the four district members.
 - B. The members of the Commission include four district members who serve where there is a vacancy in their judicial district, plus the nine at-large members. Membership includes men, women and minorities who offer a wide variety of life experiences.

C. On the day of the meeting the Commission will:

1. Personally interview candidates.
2. Discuss the education and experience of each applicant.
3. Prepare a list of three to five finalists for each judicial vacancy to be presented to the Governor.

V. The Commission will publish the list of finalists.

After the confidential inquiries are completed, the Chair of the Commission on Judicial Selection and the Director of Judicial Appointments present the finalists to the Governor. The Governor has the option to personally interview finalists. The Governor may fill the vacancy from the nominees presented by the Commission. If the Governor declines to select a nominee to fill the vacancy from the list of nominees, the Governor may select a person to fill the vacancy without regard to the Commission's recommendation.

VI. No applicant or individual on behalf of or in opposition to any applicant should make direct personal, telephonic or written contact with members of the Commission regarding any judicial application during the period between the announcement of a judicial vacancy and the Governor's announcement of appointment. All inquiries or communication with the Commission should be either in writing or by telephone to the Director of the Commission on Judicial Selection, 130 State Capitol, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155. (612/296-0015).

