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## **The Honorable Kerry W. Meyer Elected as Fourth Judicial District Chief Judge**

*The Honorable Judge Mark J. Kappelhoff to Serve as Assistant Chief Judge*

***For immediate release***

Minneapolis, Minn. (May 7, 2024) – Judges in the Fourth Judicial District have elected the Honorable Kerry W. Meyer and the Honorable Mark J. Kappelhoff to serve as chief judge and assistant chief judge, respectively, for the next two years. The two-year term begins July 1.

Judge Meyer, who had been assistant chief judge since 2020, became chief judge in October 2023 when the City of Minneapolis appointed former Judge Toddrick Barnette as community safety commissioner. Judges in November elected Judge Kappelhoff as assistant chief judge to fill out the remainder of Judge Meyer’s term through the end of June.

Judge Meyer has served the Fourth District since her appointment in August 2006. She has presided over all levels of criminal cases and served as the Criminal presiding judge from 2017-2020. She has also spent multiple years in the Juvenile and Civil Divisions, and more than three years in Treatment Courts. She worked as an Assistant County Attorney at the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office prior to her appointment to the bench. Judge Meyer earned her juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School and her bachelor’s degree from Alma College.

“I am honored to be elected Chief Judge and to continue to work with judges, court staff, and judicial partners,” Judge Meyer said. Timely resolution of all case types and staff retention are very important to Judge Meyer as she, Judge Kappelhoff, District Administrator Sara Gonsalves and the two Deputy District Administrators, Melissa Kantola and Brandy Martin, lead the Fourth Judicial District.

Judge Kappelhoff earned appointment to the Fourth District in 2016. He has served as presiding judge of the Juvenile division and has since returned to an assignment in the Criminal division. He has served as a member on several multijurisdictional committees, including the Equal Justice Committee, Domestic Violence Steering Committee, and the Youth Justice Council. Judge Kappelhoff previously worked in the United States Department of Justice’s civil rights division, including as deputy assistant attorney general and chief of the Criminal Section. He has also served as an assistant public defender in the state of Maryland, Associate Professor of Clinical Law at the University of Minnesota Law School, and as a special assistant U.S. attorney for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Minnesota. Judge Kappelhoff earned his juris doctorate degree from American University and his bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University.

“I am honored and grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to working with Judge Meyer, the judges, court staff, and judicial partners in this new role,” Judge Kappelhoff said.

A chief judge of a judicial district exercises general administrative authority over the courts within the district, including assigning judges to serve in locations throughout the district according to Minnesota state statute. The chief judge of each judicial district serves as a member of the Minnesota Judicial Council, the administrative policy-making authority for the Minnesota Judicial Branch. Judge Meyer is also serving on standing committees of Judicial Council working on statewide issues.

*About Minnesota’s Fourth Judicial District*

The Fourth Judicial District consists solely of Hennepin County. Seventy-five judicial officers serve the district, which is the largest of Minnesota's 10 judicial districts.

For more information, visit the Web site at [www.mncourts.gov/district/4/](http://www.mncourts.gov/district/4/).

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