

News from the Bench

Governor Dayton appointed **Sara R. Grewing** and **Nicole J. Starr** as District Court Judges in Minnesota's Second Judicial District. Ms. Grewing and Ms. Starr will be replacing the Honorable Paulette K. Flynn and the Honorable Gregg E. Johnson, who retired earlier this year. Both appointees will be chambered at St. Paul in Ramsey County.

Sara Grewing is the St. Paul City Attorney, where she serves as the chief prosecutor for all misdemeanors within the city, oversees all civil litigation, and provides legal counsel to the Mayor and City Council. Previously, she was Chief of staff to the Mayor of St. Paul, the State Director for United States Senator Amy Klobuchar, and an associate attorney at Flaherty and Hood, PA. Ms. Grewing earned her B.M. from the University of Minnesota and her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law.

Ms. Grewing is a member of the Board of Trustees for William Mitchell College of Law, the Board of Directors for the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation, and the President's Leadership Circle of Minnesota Women Lawyers.



Sara Grewing

Nicole Starr is an Assistant Public Defender in the Second Judicial District Public Defender's Office, where she specializes in forensic science. She is also of counsel at Hellmuth and Johnson, PLLC, and previously served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Katherine D. Roe in Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District and the Honorable Justice Zakeria Mohammed Yacoob in the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Ms. Starr earned her B.A. from the University of Minnesota and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Ms. Starr is a former board member of the YWCA of the USA and is currently an executive board member of the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



Nicole Starr

Governor Dayton appointed **Paul R. Scoggin** as District Court Judge in Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District. Mr. Scoggin will be replacing the Honorable Marilyn B. Rosenbaum, who retired earlier this year. Mr. Scoggin will be chambered at Minneapolis in Hennepin County.

Mr. Scoggin is a Senior Attorney at the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, where he serves as the team leader of the Property Crimes Section. Previously, he has served as a Division Chief of the Violent Crime Division and the team leader of the Appellate Section of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. Mr. Scoggin earned his B.S. with honors from St. John's University and his J.D. with honors from the University of Minnesota Law School.

In 2009, Mr. Scoggin was assigned as an International Prosecutor in the Republic of Kosovo, and has previously served on the Advisory Committee to the Minnesota Supreme Court on the Rules of Criminal Procedure and as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee of the Minnesota County Attorney's Association.



Paul Scoggins

Governor Dayton appointed **Eric J. Braaten, Christopher J. Lehmann, Timothy J. Looby, and Cynthia L. McCollum** as District Court Judges in Minnesota's First Judicial District. Mr. Braaten replaces the Honorable Richard C. Perkins, and is chambered at Chaska in Carver County. Mr. Timothy J. Looby replaces the Honorable Thomas G. McCarthy, and is chambered at Gaylord in Sibley County. Mr. Christopher J. Lehmann and Ms. Cynthia L. McCollum replace the Honorable Richard G. Spicer and the Honorable Robert R. King, Jr., and are chambered at Hastings in Dakota County.

Eric Braaten was an attorney at Braaten & Braaten, P.A., where his practice focused on family law, including dissolutions, adoptions, paternity, custody, and various post-dissolution enforcement issues. Mr. Braaten also served as a mediator, and previously practiced at the law firms of Nicklaus Braaten & Hollenhorst, P.L.L.C., and Katz & Manka Ltd. He has received the NorthStar Service Award for his commitment to pro bono service, and earned his B.A. from Saint Olaf College and his J.D. from the Marquette University Law School.

Mr. Braaten has extensive appellate court experience, is a member of the Carver County Low Fee Family Law Panel, and is active in his three children's school activities.



Eric Braaten

Christopher Lehmann was a partner at Grannis & Lehmann, P.A., where his practice consisted

of estate planning, wills, probate matters, residential real estate transactions, and family law. Mr. Lehmann also served as an Assistant Public Defender for the First Judicial District, and previously was an Assistant City Attorney for the City of St. Paul. He earned his B.A. from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and his J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law.

Mr. Lehmann is a South St. Paul City Councilmember, and the President of the South Metro Fire Department Joint Powers Board and the Dakota County Bar Association.



Christopher Lehmann

Timothy Looby was a partner at Melchert Hubert Sjodin, P.L.L.P., where he practiced in family law, including marriage dissolutions, child custody, and spousal maintenance. Previously, his practice has also consisted of wills, real estate, business, employment, criminal, and municipal law. He earned his B.S. from Bemidji State University and his J.D. from the University of Minnesota School of Law.

Mr. Looby is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a volunteer attorney coach and judge for the Minnesota State Bar Association state high school mock trial program, and a member of the Waconia Lions Club.



Timothy Looby

Cynthia McCollum was a senior attorney in the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office, where she supervised a team of lawyers and maintained a caseload of adult felony, adult misdemeanor, and juvenile cases. Ms. McCollum also serves as an adjunct professor of law at the William Mitchell College of Law and the Hamline University School of Law. She earned her B.A. from the University of Minnesota and her J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law.

Ms. McCollum has been Lead Faculty or Co-Director of the North Star Regional Trial Skills Program for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and is the former Chair of the Board of Directors for the Minnetonka Anchor Club.

Minnesota's First Judicial District consists of Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, LeSueur, McLeod, Scott, and Sibley Counties.



Cynthia McCollum

Governor Dayton appointed **Darci J. Bentz** as District Court Judge in Minnesota's Fifth Judicial District. Ms. Bentz will be replacing the Honorable Linda S. Titus, who retired earlier this year. Ms. Bentz will be chambered at Jackson in Jackson County.

Ms. Bentz was an Assistant Public Defender for the Fifth Judicial District, where her practice focused on representing adults and juveniles in criminal cases. Previously, she was an attorney at Scott, Nielsen & Bentz, representing clients in workers' compensation cases, unemployment cases, and civil litigation, and a managing attorney for the Fifth Judicial District Public Defender's Office. Ms. Bentz earned her B.A. from the University of Minnesota and her J.D. from the Hamline University School of Law.

Ms. Bentz is a volunteer member of the Martin/Jackson/Faribault County Family Dependency Court and serves as the treasurer for the Kinship Board of Directors, a nonprofit youth mentoring program.

Ms. Bentz resides with her family in Fairmont, MN.

Minnesota's Fifth Judicial District consists of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, and Watonwan Counties.



Darci Bentz

Governor Dayton appointed **Diane B. Bratvold, Hilary Lindell Caligiuri, William J. Fisher, and Juan G. Hoyos** as District Court Judges in Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District. The appointees fill the vacancies created upon the appointment of the Honorable Denise D. Reilly to the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the retirements of the Honorable Ann L. Alton, the Honorable Mary S. DuFresne, and the Honorable Mark S. Wernick. These district court judgeships will be chambered at Minneapolis in Hennepin County in the Fourth Judicial District.

Diane Bratvold was a shareholder with Briggs and Morgan, P.A., where her practice focused on civil appeals and advice to clients and trial counsel. Ms. Bratvold was also a volunteer attorney at Advocates for Human Rights and an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas Law School. Previously, she was a partner with Rider Bennett, L.L.P. and an attorney with Fetterly & Gordon, P.A. Ms. Bratvold earned her B.A. from Macalester College and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota School of Law.

Ms. Bratvold is a mentor at the University of St. Thomas Law School and Zion Lutheran Church, where she also serves on the Zion Foundation Board and the South Sudan Committee.



Diane Bratvold

Hilary Lindell Caligiuri served as a Senior Assistant Hennepin County Attorney, where she supervised the drug unit and maintained a caseload of felony controlled substance crimes. Previously, she served in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office as an Assistant Attorney General, managing the office's criminal division, and as the Deputy Attorney General, overseeing the civil litigation, torts and employment law, and tax litigation divisions. Ms. Caligiuri earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota School of Law.

Ms. Caligiuri is a member of the Minnesota Violent Crime Coordinating Council, and has served on the Board of Trustees for Sunny Hollow Montessori.



Hilary Lindell Caligiuri

William Fisher was a shareholder at Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett, P.A., where his practice consisted of commercial bankruptcy cases and commercial collection cases in state and federal court. Mr. Fisher has been an adjunct professor at the William Mitchell College of Law and a community faculty member at Metropolitan State University. Mr. Fisher earned his B.A. from Tufts University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

Mr. Fisher is a board member for the Society for Legal Aid, a member of the Pro Bono Committee of the Bankruptcy Section of the Minnesota Bar Association, and has represented numerous pro bono clients, working with the Volunteer Lawyers Network, among other organizations.



William Fisher

Juan Hoyos was an Assistant County Attorney at the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted felonies with an emphasis on crimes against persons. Previously, he was a public defender, serving in the State Public Defender's Office and in Minnesota's First and Second Judicial Districts. Mr. Hoyos earned his B.A from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and his J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law.

Mr. Hoyos currently co-chairs the Minnesota State Bar Association's Public Law Section, is a member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates, and is the past president of the Warren Burger Inn of Court, the Ramsey County Bar Association, and the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association.



Juan Hoyos

Governor Dayton appointed **Thomas A. Gilligan, Jr.** as District Court Judge in Minnesota's Second Judicial District. Mr. Gilligan replaces the Honorable Gail Chang Bohr, who retired earlier this year. Mr. Gilligan will be chambered at St. Paul in Ramsey County.

Mr. Gilligan was a shareholder and trial lawyer with the law firm of Murnane Brandt, where he had practiced for 24 years in civil litigation, focusing on personal injury, toxic tort, and employment discrimination matters. He also served as a guardian ad litem with the Ramsey County Guardian Ad Litem Program, and is a former adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas Law School. Mr. Gilligan earned his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law.

Mr. Gilligan is a volunteer attorney for the Tubman Safety Project and a board member of the St. Paul Blackhawks Soccer Club and the Sanneh Foundation.

Mr. Gilligan resides in Arden Hills with his family.



Thomas Gilligan Jr.

November 4, 2014 Judicial Elections:

Minnesota Supreme Court –

Wilhelmina Wright*	56%
John Hancock	42%

David Lillehaug*	53%
Michelle MacDonald	46%

**Minnesota District Courts –
4th Judicial District –**

James Moore*	66%
Bruce Rivers	33%

Bridget Sullivan	60%
Paul Scoggin	38%

Bev Benson	63%
Chris Ritts	35%

Amy Dawson	53%
Beverly Aho	45%

5th Judicial District –

Christina Wietzema*	55%
Nathan Busch	44%

7th Judicial District –

Andrew Pearson	56%
Richard Osburn	42%

Steven Cahill*	51%
Kenneth Kohler	48%

10th Judicial District –

Susan Miles*	55%
Julie Lafleur	44%
Nancy Logering*	52%
Stacy Lashinski	46%

*Incumbent

The judges of the Minnesota Tax Court announced that, effective January 5, 2015, **Joanne H. Turner** has been elected Chief Judge of the court. Before her appointment to the Tax Court, Turner was of counsel to the Minnesota Supreme Court. From 1993 to 2005, she was an attorney in private practice with the Minneapolis law firm of Mackall, Crouse & Moore, where she was a member of its Board of Governors. Before her admission to the bar, Turner was an Assistant Professor of Accounting and Taxation at The Ohio State University and the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

Governor Dayton reappointed the **Honorable Bradford Delapena** as Judge of the Minnesota Tax Court. Judge Delapena is appointed to a six year term, which will expire on January 4, 2021. Judge Delapena was originally appointed to the Tax Court in November 2012, and became its Chief Judge later that year. Prior to his appointment, Judge Delapena was a Solo Practitioner at Bradford Delapena, Ltd, specializing in appellate law and tax matters. He was also an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Minnesota, where he served as the Tax Litigation Division Manager. Judge Delapena received his B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and his J.D. with honors from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Judge Delapena is a former adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota and William Mitchell College of Law. He is a board member of the Twin Cities Aikido Center, and has regularly served as judge for various law school moot courts and high school mock trial programs.



