

MSBA Questionnaire for Judicial Candidates in Contested Races:

1. What is your full name? **Margaret Helen Chutich**
2. Does your campaign have a website or facebook page? If so, please list it.
<https://justicemargareтчutich.org/> and
<https://www.facebook.com/CitizensForJusticeChutich/>
3. List the colleges and law schools you have attended, including your dates of attendance and degrees awarded.

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1981-1984

University of Zagreb, 1980-1981

University of Minnesota, B.A., 1978-1980

Stanford University, 1976-1977

4. List where you have been employed since graduation from law school, including dates employed, your position and the nature of your employment responsibilities.

Minnesota Supreme Court, Associate Justice

Appointed March 2016 - Term expires January 2019

Responsibilities: I hear cases, work with my colleagues on the Court to decide these cases, author decisions, and act as a liaison with two judicial districts and several court committees.

Minnesota Court of Appeals

Appointed February 2012; Elected 2014

Responsibilities: I worked with my colleagues on the court of appeals to make decisions in over 850 cases, and I authored almost 300 decisions during my four years on the court.

Assistant Dean, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

2008-2012

Responsibilities: I oversaw all areas relating to student services, information technology, facilities, and human resources. I also co-chaired the School's diversity committee and was a liaison to the alumni.

Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General's Office

1996-2008

Responsibilities: While Deputy Attorney General of the Law Enforcement Section (1996-1998), I supervised over 100 lawyers and staff members working to enforce the laws in areas that included antitrust, consumer fraud, charities, Medicaid Fraud, and criminal law.

From 2000-2008, I represented the Department of Human Services in administrative actions and civil litigation involving complex federal and state laws and regulations and constitutional claims.

Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Minnesota, Criminal Division

1994-1996

Responsibilities: I prosecuted criminal cases including murder, assault, child abuse, arson, bank robberies, counterfeiting, possession of illegal weapons, and other charges.

Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, Criminal Division

1992-1994

Responsibilities: I handled over seventy felony criminal appeals for county attorneys' offices in greater Minnesota and prosecuted criminal cases including arson, state lottery fraud, and gambling offenses.

Attorney, Opperman Heins & Paquin (now Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P.)

1989-1991

Responsibilities: I represented parties in complex class actions involving securities fraud and antitrust claims. I also represented parties in environmental and employment law matters.

Attorney, Tanick & Heins

1986-1989

Responsibilities: I represented parties in complex class actions involving securities fraud and antitrust claims. I also represented union members in labor arbitrations.

Law Clerk, Hon. Diana E. Murphy, United States District Court, District of Minnesota

1984-1986

Responsibilities: I drafted bench memos for the court and assisted with the drafting of judicial opinions.

5. Have you ever been convicted of a crime or publically disciplined by a lawyer or judicial standards board? If so, feel free to provide an explanation.

No.

6. What is/was the general nature of your practice? Indicate any areas of practice in which you concentrate or concentrated.

During the 25 years that I practiced law before my appointment to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, my practice was broad and varied. I prosecuted crimes in the state and federal courts. I also developed appellate expertise when I represented Minnesota in responding to over 70 appeals from convictions in a wide range of felony crimes throughout the state.

In addition, during my time in private practice and in representing a large public agency, I litigated cases involving millions of dollars and complex federal and state laws and regulations. I also represented persons in labor arbitrations, helping them to get their jobs back. Finally, I had management experience in directing over 100 attorneys

and staff as Deputy Attorney General of the Law Enforcement Section, and while serving as assistant dean at the Humphrey School.

7. What percentage of your practice is/was litigation?

My work as a lawyer was almost exclusively litigation. I was engaged in both trial and appellate work. I also oversaw litigation while serving as Deputy Attorney General.

8. Why do you want to be an appellate judge?

As a Minnesota native, I am honored to serve the people of my home state in my current position as a Justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court. It has been a privilege to work hard each day to ensure that all who appear before the Court are heard with respect and treated fairly.

The Minnesota Supreme Court is the last stop for those seeking justice under the Minnesota Constitution, and the Court often hears novel and difficult issues. Considering and deciding these challenging controversies is meaningful and rewarding.

I also enjoy authoring opinions that are written in plain language so that the parties and the public know exactly what the Court decided and why it reached the result that it did. I have devoted most of my career to public service, and I am eager to serve the citizens of Minnesota in this role for an additional six years.

9. What qualities do you believe are most important in an appellate judge? Explain how you have demonstrated that you possess those qualities:

Because the Minnesota Supreme Court hears cases involving a wide variety of disputes, a Justice on the Court must have the intellectual ability and the work ethic to be a quick study. My broad background and experience, and the challenging work that I have undertaken in private practice and on behalf of the public as a government attorney shows I am a generalist who can get up-to-speed quickly on the thorny issues that our Court is called upon regularly to decide.

In addition, an effective Justice must be able to write clearly to communicate to the public the decisions of the Court and its rationale. My work—the 299 opinions that I authored on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the more than 30 majority and dissenting opinions I authored on the Minnesota Supreme Court—shows I write clearly and simply, in a respectful manner to the parties and my colleagues.

A Justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court must be fair and impartial, coming to each case without an agenda and with an open mind. I strive to listen closely to all points of view before carefully deciding each case based on the applicable law and the pertinent facts. My record shows that I have been an independent judge who has decided cases in an unbiased, nonpartisan, and fair manner. Because of my record, I have received support from leaders in both major political parties, and from a broad cross-sector of attorneys and non-lawyers throughout the State.

10. Why do you believe you are the best candidate for the appellate judge seat?

I am the best candidate for this seat for several reasons. I have been doing the work of an appellate judge for over six years, with two years of experience on the Minnesota Supreme Court. This experience, combined with my broad legal background, sets me apart. I understand first-hand the challenging and meaningful work of the Court, and my record shows that I have performed well in this role.

In addition, I have the intellectual ability, curiosity, and work ethic to succeed in mastering the different areas of the law that the Court faces. I value collegiality and civility, and I enjoy working with my colleagues to arrive at a just resolution in a difficult matter.

Finally, I am dedicated to ensuring that every person who appears before our court is heard in a fair and respectful manner. I have shown that I am an impartial and nonpartisan Justice, and that I will decide cases in an even-handed manner, without fear or favor.

I would be pleased and honored to receive your support and vote.