

STATE OF MINNESOTA

BOARD ON JUDICIAL STANDARDS



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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MEMBERS AND STAFF*

Judge Members

Hon. Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks
Minnesota Court of Appeals
St. Paul, Minnesota

Hon. Vicki E. Landwehr
Seventh Judicial District
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Hon. David Knutson
First Judicial District
Hastings, Minnesota

Hon. Ellen L. Maas
Tenth Judicial District
Stillwater, Minnesota

Attorney Members

Cindy K. Telstad
Winona, Minnesota

William J. Wernz, Chair
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Public Members

Carol E. Cummins, M.B.A.
Golden Valley, Minnesota

Gerald T. Kaplan, M.A., L.P.
Wayzata, Minnesota

Timothy Gephart, Vice-Chair
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Terry Saario, Ph.D.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Staff

Thomas C. Vasaly
Executive Secretary

Sara Boeshans
Staff Attorney

John H. Fuller
Executive Assistant

* Brief biographies are appended at the end of this report.

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards is charged with enforcing the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct and with interpreting the Code for the education of judges and others. The Minnesota Legislature created the Board and funds it. The Governor appoints the Board members: four judges, four public members, and two lawyers. The Minnesota Supreme Court adopts procedural rules for the Board and adopts the Code for judges.

The Judicial Code establishes a high standard for judicial conduct in the State of Minnesota. The Preamble to the Code states:

The United States legal system is based upon the principle that an independent, impartial, and competent judiciary, composed of men and women of integrity, will interpret and apply the law that governs our society. Thus, the judiciary plays a central role in preserving the principles of justice and the rule of law. Inherent in all of the Rules contained in this Code are the precepts that judges, individually and collectively, must respect and honor the judicial office as a public trust and strive to maintain and enhance confidence in the legal system.

Judges should maintain the dignity of judicial office at all times, and avoid both impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in their professional and personal lives. They should aspire at all times to conduct that ensures the greatest possible public confidence in their independence, impartiality, integrity, and competence.

The members of the Board take these principles to heart in carrying out their duties. As it has since its creation in 1972, the Board continues to make every effort to fulfill its mission.

The Board's primary function is to receive, investigate, and evaluate complaints of judicial misconduct. Complaints that do not allege conduct that violates the Code are dismissed. If the Board finds that a judge has violated the Code, the Board may issue private discipline or a public reprimand. In cases involving more serious misconduct, the Board seeks public discipline by filing a formal complaint against the judge. After a public hearing, the Board makes a recommendation to the Supreme Court. In addition to cases involving misconduct, the Board has jurisdiction to consider allegations that a judge has a physical or mental disability.

Education is also an important Board function. The Board and its Executive Secretary respond to judges' requests for informal advisory opinions. The Board also issues formal opinions on subjects of importance. The Board's website provides links to the Code, the Board's procedural rules, Board opinions, public discipline cases, annual reports, and other resources.

The Board accomplished the important goals it set for itself in 2015. These include:

- Obtain Legislative funding to create a permanent part-time staff attorney position.

The Board is grateful to the Legislature for modestly increasing the Board's funding to create this position.

- Develop knowledge management systems so that the Board can retain, organize, and publish rule interpretations, informal opinions, and other work product.

This project is moving forward successfully. The Board's website has been enhanced with additional materials, including public reprimands issued by the Board and a summary of admonitions. The Board has been developing a comprehensive "Minnesota Judicial Ethics Outline" for posting in 2016. It includes a wide variety of subjects, such as the history of judicial discipline in Minnesota and summaries of the Board's ethics opinions. The Outline is primarily organized by annotations on the rules that comprise the Code.

- Identify needed changes in Board rules and petition the Supreme Court to adopt the changes.

After a comprehensive review of the Board rules, the Board filed a petition to amend the rules in October 2015. In addition, the Board filed a petition in December 2015 to amend two provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Both petitions are presently under consideration by the Court.

INTRODUCTION

A society cannot function without an effective, fair, and impartial procedure to resolve disputes. In Minnesota, the Constitution and laws provide a system designed to fit these essential criteria. The preservation of the rule of law, as well as the continued acceptance of judicial rulings, depends on unshakeable public recognition that the judiciary and the court system are worthy of respect and trust.

Unlike the executive and legislature branches of government, the judiciary "has no influence over either the sword or the purse." The Federalist No. 78, at 465 (Alexander Hamilton). "The judiciary's authority therefore depends in large measure on the public's willingness to respect and follow its decisions. . . . It follows that public perception of judicial integrity is a state interest of the highest order." *Williams-Yulee v. Florida Bar*, 135 S. Ct. 1656, 1666 (2015) (citation and internal punctuation omitted).

It is the Board's mission to promote and preserve public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of our judicial system by enforcing the Judicial Code and by educating judges regarding proper judicial conduct.

AUTHORIZATION

The 1971 Legislature approved an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution authorizing the Legislature to “provide for the retirement, removal or other discipline of any judge who is disabled, incompetent or guilty of conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.” The 1971 Legislature also created the “Commission” (now “Board”) on Judicial Standards and authorized the Supreme Court to make rules to implement the legislation. (Current version at Minn. Stat. §§ 490A.01-.03.) In 1972, Minnesota voters approved the constitutional amendment (Minn. Const. Art. VI, § 9), and the Minnesota Supreme Court adopted the Code.*

ORGANIZATION

The Board has ten members: one Court of Appeals judge, three district court judges, two lawyers, and four citizens who are not judges or lawyers. The Board members are appointed by the Governor and, except for the judges, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Members’ terms are four years and may be extended for an additional four years.

The Board meets nine times annually and more often if necessary. The judge members are not paid but do receive expense reimbursement. Non-judge members may claim standard State per diem as well as expense reimbursement.

The Board is supported by a staff consisting of the Executive Secretary, an executive assistant, and a part-time staff attorney. At the direction of the Board, the staff is responsible for reviewing and investigating complaints, providing informal opinions to judges on the application of the Code, maintaining records concerning the operation of the office, preparing the budget, administering the Board funds, and making regular reports to the Board, the Supreme Court, the Legislature, and the public.

CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The Minnesota Supreme Court has adopted the Code to govern judicial ethics. Intrinsic to the Code are the precepts that judges, individually and collectively, must respect and honor the judicial office as a public trust and strive to enhance and maintain confidence in our legal system.

The Board considers only complaints involving the professional or personal conduct of judges. The Code is not construed so as to impinge on the essential

* Until 1972, Minnesota appellate and district court judges could be removed or suspended from office for misconduct only by the rarely used impeachment process, which involves impeachment by the Minnesota House of Representatives and conviction by the Minnesota Senate. Since 1996, judges have also been subject to recall by the voters, although this has never happened. Minn. Const. Art. VIII, § 6.

independence of judges in making judicial decisions. Complaints about the merits of decisions by judges may be considered through the appellate process.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

The rules of the Board are issued by the Minnesota Supreme Court. Under its rules, the Board has the authority to investigate complaints concerning a judge's conduct or physical or mental condition. If a complaint provides information that furnishes a reasonable basis to believe there might be a disciplinary violation, the Board may direct the Executive Secretary to conduct an investigation.

Under the rules, the Board may take several types of actions regarding complaints. It may dismiss a complaint if there is not reasonable cause to believe that the Code was violated. A dismissal may be accompanied by a letter of caution to the judge. If the Board finds reasonable cause, it may issue a private admonition, a public reprimand, or a formal complaint. The Board may also defer a disposition or impose conditions on a judge's conduct, such as obtaining professional counseling or treatment.

The Board affords judges a full and fair opportunity to defend against allegations of improper conduct. If the Board issues a formal complaint or a judge appeals a public reprimand, a public hearing will be held. Hearings are conducted by a three-person panel appointed by the Supreme Court. After the hearing, the panel may dismiss the complaint, issue a public reprimand, or recommend that the Supreme Court censure, suspend, or remove the judge from office. Discipline other than a private admonition or public reprimand may be imposed only by the Supreme Court.

All proceedings of the Board are confidential unless a public reprimand is issued or a formal complaint has been filed with the Supreme Court. The Board notifies complainants of its actions, including dismissals and private dispositions, and gives brief explanations.

An absolute privilege attaches to any information or testimony submitted to the Board, and no civil action against a complainant, witness, or his or her counsel may be based on such information.

AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards has jurisdiction over complaints concerning the following judicial officials:

- State court judges, including judges of the District Courts, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. There are 289 district court judge positions and 26 appellate judge positions.

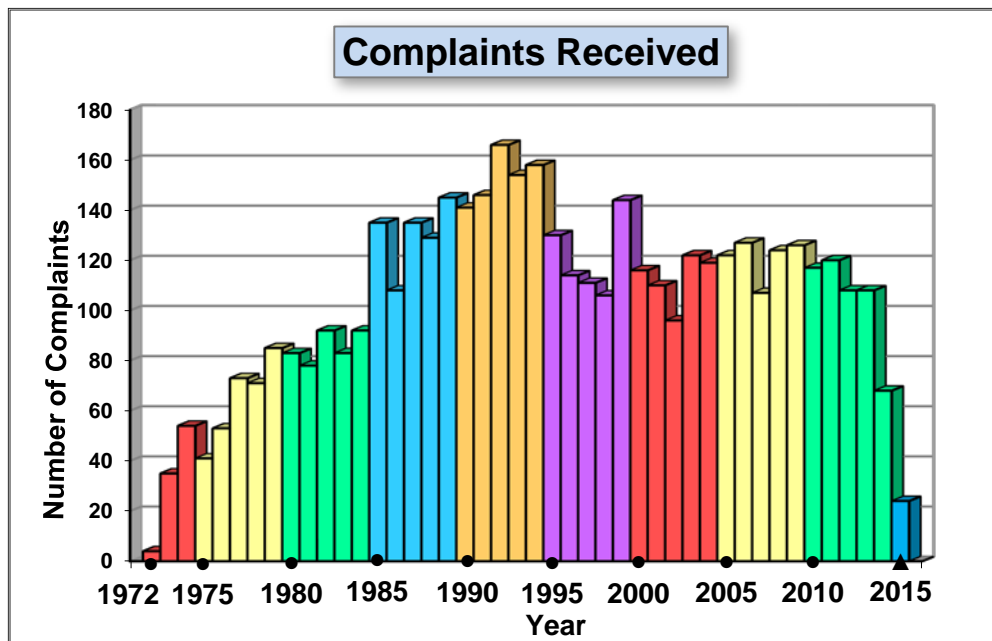
- Approximately 88 retired judges in “senior” status who at times serve as active judges.
- Judicial branch employees who perform judicial functions, including referees, magistrates, and other judicial officers.
- Judges of the Minnesota Tax Court and the Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals and the Chief Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings*

The Board does not have jurisdiction over complaints that concern the following persons:

- Court administrators or personnel, court reporters, law enforcement personnel, and other non-judicial persons.
- Federal judges. Complaints against federal judges are filed with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Lawyers (except, in some circumstances, those who become judges or who were judges). Complaints against lawyers may be filed with the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility.

2015 COMPLAINT STATISTICS

During 2015, the Board received 24 written complaints alleging matters within the Board’s jurisdiction. The number of complaints received annually by the Board since 1972 is set forth below:



* See Rule 2, Rules of Board on Judicial Standards; Code of Judicial Conduct, “Application”; Minn. Stat. §§ 14.48, subds. 2 and 3(d), 175A.01, subd. 4, 271.01, subd. 1, 490A.03.

This chart shows a decline in the number of files opened in 2014 and 2015. The decline appears to be due to at least two factors.

First, in 2014, the Legislature transferred primary responsibility for enforcing the “90-day rule” from the Board to the chief judges of the judicial districts. The 90-day rule generally requires a judge to rule within 90 days after a case is submitted. Minn. Stat. § 546.27. Judicial Branch case tracking reports of possible violations are now sent to the chief judges rather than to the Board.

Second, the chart reflects only complaints that were reviewed by the full Board and does not reflect complaints that were summarily dismissed. If a complaint does not fall within the Board’s jurisdiction, the complaint may be summarily dismissed by the Executive Secretary, subject to the approval of a single Board member. This procedure avoids the inefficiency of requiring the full Board to review complaints that are not within its jurisdiction. For example, complaints that merely express dissatisfaction with a judge’s decision are summarily dismissed under Board Rule 4(c). In recent years, nonjurisdictional complaints are more likely to be summarily dismissed rather than presented to the full Board, as shown in the next table:

<u>SUMMARY DISMISSALS</u> (BY YEAR)	
2009	76
2010	83
2011	56
2012	78
2013	60
2014	99
2015	102

As reflected below, most complaints were filed by litigants against district court judges:

<u>SOURCE OF COMPLAINTS – 2015</u>	
Litigants	13
Board	2
Other	1
Judge	1
Attorneys	3
Citizen	1
Prosecutor	1
Self-Report	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	24

<u>JUDGES SUBJECT TO COMPLAINTS – 2015</u>	
District Court Judges	21
Court of Appeals Judges	0
Supreme Court Justices	0
Referees/ Magistrates/Judicial Officers	2
Retired Judges on Active Duty	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	24

The types of allegations are set forth below. The total exceeds 24 because many complaints contained more than one allegation.

ALLEGATIONS REPORTED – 2015

General demeanor and decorum	9
Bias, discrimination, or partiality	8
Failure to follow law or procedure	7
Ex parte communication	4
Abuse of authority or prestige	2
Conflict of interest	2
Failure to perform duties	2
Loss of temper	2
Administrative irregularity	1
Chemical dependency	1
Criminal behavior	1
Public comment on a pending case	1
Other	1

The Board requested ten judges to respond in writing to the Board for explanation of their alleged misconduct. In addition, two judges self-reported possible Code violations, making a request for a response unnecessary. Two judges appeared before the Board in 2015.

The majority of complaints were dismissed. Many complaints are dismissed because they concern a judge's rulings or other discretionary decisions that are generally outside the Board's purview. The reasons for dismissal are set forth below. The total exceeds 24 because some complaints were dismissed for more than one reason.

DISMISSAL REASONS – 2015

Insufficient evidence	9
Within discretion of judge	8
Legal or appellate issues	6
No misconduct; no violation	6
Frivolous or no grounds	4
Lack of jurisdiction	2
Unsubstantiated after investigation	1

As indicated below, in 2015, one matter was resolved with a letter of caution and five matters resulted in discipline.

<u>DISPOSITIONS – BY YEAR ISSUED</u>					
Year	Letter of Caution	Admonition	Deferred Disposition Agreement	Public Reprimand	Supreme Court Discipline
2009	0	4	2	1	1
2010	1	11	0	2	0
2011	0	2	0	1	1
2012	2	5	0	1	0
2013	4	2	0	1	0
2014	2	5	0	2	1
2015	1	2	1	1	1

PUBLIC CASES

In 2015, the Board's most notable disciplinary proceeding concerned Judge Alan Pendleton, who was removed from office. In addition, the Board issued a public reprimand to Judge Edward Bearse. These two cases are described below.

Judge Alan F. Pendleton

In October 2014, the Board filed a formal complaint against Tenth District Judge Alan F. Pendleton. The complaint alleged that Judge Pendleton violated the residency requirement of the Minnesota Constitution by failing to reside within his judicial district. The complaint also alleged that he made a knowingly false statement regarding his residence address in the affidavit of candidacy he filed in connection with his candidacy for reelection in 2014.

A hearing panel appointed by the Supreme Court found that Judge Pendleton was not a resident of his judicial district from January 15 to June 2, 2014 and that he voluntarily lived in Minnetonka during that period. The panel also found that he knowingly made a false statement, with intent to deceive, in the affidavit of candidacy. The panel recommended that Judge Pendleton be censured and suspended without pay from his position as judge of district court for at least six months.

Judge Pendleton appealed the Panel recommendation, and the case was argued in the Supreme Court. In October 2015, the Court removed him from office, stating:

The integrity of the judicial system is seriously undermined when a judge not only violates his or her constitutional obligations but also flouts a discipline decision of our court [referring to the 2011 *Karasov* decision]. . . .

. . . Judge Pendleton’s intentional misrepresentation is particularly serious because it was made to the voters of his judicial district and was about a fundamental requirement to hold office.

In re Pendleton, 870 N.W.2d 367, 388 (Minn. 2015). The Court’s decision and the key documents in Judge Pendleton’s case are available on the Board’s website, www.bjs.state.mn.us, under “Public Discipline Filings.”

Judge Edward W. Bearse

Senior Judge Bearse* posted Facebook messages regarding several cases over which he presided. During a jury trial, Judge Bearse posted a message that included, “In a Felony trial now State prosecuting a pimp. Cases are always difficult because the women (as in this case also) will not cooperate.” When other judges became aware of the postings and notified Judge Bearse, he ceased posting comments about any of his cases.

The defendant was found guilty. Based on Judge Bearse’s post on the case, the defendant moved for a new trial. A new judge granted the motion, finding Judge Bearse’s posted statements “imply a pre-judgment of the case before any evidence is heard.” The Board issued a public reprimand to Judge Bearse, which he accepted. The Board found violations of Rules 1.2, 2.1, 2.8(B), 2.10(A), and 3.1(A) and (C) of the Code, and Board Rule 4(a)(5). The reprimand is posted on the Board’s website at <http://www.bjs.state.mn.us/board-and-panel-public-reprimands>.

This was Judge Bearse’s first discipline in over 32 years on the bench. When the reprimand was issued, the Board acknowledged Judge Bearse’s reputation as a highly competent and hard-working judge, his immediate corrective actions when the posts became an issue, his full co-operation with the Board, and his remorse.

PRIVATE CASES

In 2015, the Board issued two private admonitions, entered into one private deferred disposition agreement, and issued one letter of caution. They are summarized below. In addition, the Board has recently posted summaries of all 30 private admonitions the Board has issued since 2009. They are available on the Board’s website at <http://www.bjs.state.mn.us/file/private-discipline/private-discipline-summaries.pdf>.

* A “senior judge” is a judge who has retired but who is eligible for appointment to serve as a judge on an as-needed basis.

The purpose of providing summaries of the private dispositions is to educate the public and to help judges avoid improper conduct.

References are to rules in the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct. To maintain confidentiality, the Board has eliminated the details of the individual cases.

Private Admonitions

- In connection with a child welfare proceeding, a judge interviewed the 12-year-old child. The judge denied the county attorney's request to be present, contrary to Minn. Stat. § 260C.163, subs. 6 and 7 (2014) and Minn. R. Juv. Pro. P. 27.04. The Board found a violation of Rule 2.9(A) and (C). The child was moved from one family to a second family for a pre-adoption placement. The second family had the right to be heard in any hearing in the case. Minn. R. Juv. Pro. P. 22.02, subd. 2. When the judge was informed of a therapist's prior recommendation that the child remain with the first family, the judge scheduled a hearing on three and a half hours' notice. The judge did not attempt to learn whether the second family could participate in the hearing. Court staff informed the second family's mother and gave her a dial-in number. The mother was able to listen to only part of the hearing and did not otherwise participate, and the judge was not aware that she was on the call. At the hearing, the judge ordered that the child be returned to the first family immediately. The Board found the judge violated Rule 2.6(A) by not giving the second family a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
- A judge's interest in a local controversy was personal and unrelated to judicial duties. The judge sent communications regarding the controversy to persons potentially interested in the matter. One communication connected the private controversy with an earlier official act by the judge. The Board found a violation of Rule 1.3. The admonition memorandum cited *Matter of Mosley*, 102 P.3d 555 (Nev. 2004) (disciplining a judge who, among other things, used judicial letterhead to write a letter on family members' behalf).

Deferred Disposition Agreement

- A mother ("M") filed a petition for an order for protection regarding the father of her children. M did not present evidence sufficiently supporting the petition. At the hearing on the petition, the judge stated to M, "You need counseling badly, because your kids are suffering. Not because of [their father]. Because of you. . . . I don't believe your children are afraid of their father. I think they're afraid of you." The record did not support the statements that the children were afraid of M or were suffering because of M. The Board found violations of Rules 1.2, 2.2, and 2.8(B) and

entered into a deferred disposition agreement with the judge. If the Board does not learn of any further violations within two years, the judge will receive an admonition for his conduct in the M case. If the Board learns of further violations within two years, the Board may seek public discipline.

Letter of Caution

- The Board issued a letter of caution to a referee who presided over several routine hearings although the referee did not have an active license to practice law. A letter of caution is a non-disciplinary disposition.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES

The staff receives frequent inquiries about judges' conduct or that request information. The inquiries are often from parties involved in court proceedings. Callers are told how to file a complaint or are given appropriate referrals to other resources.

The staff often receives complaints that concern persons over whom the Board has no jurisdiction or that do not allege judicial misconduct. These persons are given appropriate referrals when other resources are available.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

The Board is authorized to issue advisory opinions on proper judicial conduct with respect to the provisions of the Code. The Board encourages judges who have ethical questions to seek its guidance. The Board provides three types of advisory opinions:

- The Board issues *formal opinions* on issues that frequently arise. These opinions are of general applicability to judges.
- A *Board opinion letter* is given to an individual judge on an issue that requires consideration by the full Board.
- An *informal opinion* is given by the Executive Secretary to an individual judge, usually in response to a telephone call. Judges regularly contact the Board office for informal opinions on questions involving the Judicial Code. Depending on the nature of the request, the Executive Secretary may consult the Board Chair or another Board member. Since 2014, informal opinions are often confirmed by e-mail.

The Board began issuing formal opinions in 2013. The Board's current practice is to ask for public comments on its proposed formal opinions before the opinions are made final. Formal opinions are sent to the chief judges of the Minnesota courts and are posted on the Board's website at <http://www.bjs.state.mn.us/formal-opinions>.

The Board issued two formal opinions in 2015:

- Activities of Retired Judges Appointed to Serve as Senior Judge (2015-1). The opinion discusses activities that are and are not permitted under the Judicial Code.
- U-Visa Certifications (2015-2). The opinion discusses when a judge may sign a form certifying that an alien applying for a visa has been helpful or is being helpful in the investigation or prosecution of a criminal activity in which the alien is a victim.

In addition, the Board asked for comments on its proposed opinion on charitable and civic activities. That opinion is presently on hold while the Supreme Court considers the Board's proposed rule change on this subject.

The Board also issued two advisory opinion letters to individual judges in 2015:

- A judge asked whether it is proper under the Judicial Code to create and maintain a website to advertise the judge's availability for paid speaking engagements. The Board opined that the judge's contemplated website is not categorically prohibited by the Code, but the judge should be mindful of numerous factors and limitations, including the statutory directive that "[a] judge of the district court shall devote full time to the performance of duties and . . . shall not engage in any business activities that will tend to interfere with or appear to conflict with the judge's judicial duties." Minn. Stat. § 484.065, subd. 1 (2014); *see also* Minn. Code Jud. Cond. R. 1.3, 2.1, and 3.1.
- A judge asked for an opinion concerning Judicial Code Rule 2.9(C), which provides, "A judge shall not investigate facts in a matter independently and shall consider only the evidence presented and facts that may properly be judicially noticed." The judge asked whether, in an order for protection proceeding in the judge's district, it is proper for a judge to access electronic court records in another case to determine whether there is an outstanding no-contact order involving the same respondent. The Board opined that the answer is yes, provided that the judge notifies the parties and gives them an opportunity to be heard as to the propriety of taking judicial notice, as provided in Rule 201(e) of the Rules of Evidence.

The Executive Secretary gave 83 informal opinions to judges in 2015. These opinions covered a wide range of subjects, including disqualification standards and permissible extrajudicial activities. In most cases, the opinions were given orally and confirmed by e-mail, and included analysis and citation to legal authority.

BUDGET

The Board's current base budget is \$361,000 per year, which is used to pay staff salaries, rent, and other expenses. The staff consists of an Executive Secretary, a half-time staff attorney, and an Executive Assistant. The \$361,000 budget for the 2016 fiscal year represents a \$30,000 increase over the previous fiscal year. This increase, combined with budget savings in other areas, enabled the Board to create the half-time staff attorney position.

In addition, a special fund of \$125,000 per year is potentially available to the Board to pay the expenses of major cases which often require the Board to retain private counsel, resulting in significant expenditures for attorney fees. For example, the Board retained private counsel to represent the Board in the proceedings concerning Judge Pendleton.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For additional information regarding the Board on Judicial Standards, please feel free to contact the Executive Secretary at (651) 296-3999.

Dated: January 15, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William J. Wernz

William J. Wernz

Chair, Minnesota Board on Judicial
Standards

/s/ Thomas C. Vasaly

Thomas C. Vasaly

Executive Secretary, Minnesota
Board on Judicial Standards

BOARD AND STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Carol E. Cummins, M.B.A.

Public member. Ms. Cummins, now retired, has more than 30 years experience in law firm management. She worked in-house in senior management roles and more recently as an independent consultant. Ms. Cummins served as a public member of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board from 2009 to 2015. She is a graduate of Hamline University and holds an MBA from the University of Minnesota. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2015.

Timothy Gephart

Board Vice-Chair and public member. Vice President of Claims at Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company since 1985. Mr. Gephart is an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, where he teaches a course on legal malpractice. He previously served on the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board and the Board of Legal Certification. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2012.

Honorable Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks

Judge of Minnesota Court of Appeals. Appointed in 1998. Private practice of law from 1985 to 1998. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2009.

Gerald T. Kaplan, M.A., L.P.

Public member. Licensed psychologist since 1977. Mr. Kaplan is the Executive Director of Alpha Human Services and Alpha Service Industries, which offer inpatient and outpatient programs for sex offenders. He is also a member of the Board of Medical Practice. Previously he served on the Board of Psychology, including two years as Board Chair. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2013.

Honorable David L. Knutson

Member of Board Executive Committee. Judge of District Court (First District). Appointed to the bench in 2004. Private practice of law from 1986 to 2004. Minnesota State Senator for twelve years serving Apple Valley, Burnsville, Lakeville, and Rosemount, MN. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2012.

Honorable Vicki E. Landwehr

Judge of District Court (Seventh District). Appointed to the bench in 1993. Private practice of law from 1979 to 1993. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2008.

Honorable Ellen L. Maas

Judge of District Court (Tenth District). Appointed to the bench in 1995. Law clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Glenn E. Kelley 1981-1982. Private practice of law from 1982 to 1995. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2013.

Terry Saario, Ph.D.

Public member. Former foundation executive and community volunteer. Dr. Saario has more than 26 years of philanthropic experience and extensive nonprofit and corporate board experience. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2011.

Cindy K. Telstad

Attorney member. Private practice of law in Winona since 1987, primarily in the areas of real estate law, employment law, probate and trust administration, estate planning, and business law. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2014.

William J. Wernz

Board Chair and attorney member. Retired ethics partner, Dorsey & Whitney. Director of the Minnesota Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility from 1985-1992 and author of *Minnesota Legal Ethics: A Treatise*. Appointed to the Board on Judicial Standards in 2011.

Thomas C. Vasaly

Executive Secretary. Admitted to practice in 1974. Mr. Vasaly has worked in legal services programs, the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Sara P. Boeshans

Staff Attorney. Admitted to practice in 2007. Ms. Boeshans clerked for Judge Marybeth Dorn, Second Judicial District, after which she was employed as an Assistant Attorney General in the public safety and health licensing divisions of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.