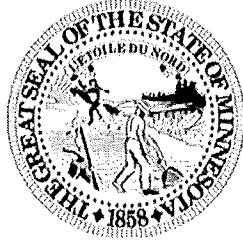


STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department



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MAR 20 2023

Governor Tim Walz

President of the Senate

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Eric Cooperstein

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

Member

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Board of Directors

Effective: March 24, 2023

Expires: January 4, 2027

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 17, 2023.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Filed March 17, 2023
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon

Replacing: Craig Klausing

ERIC T. COOPERSTEIN

333 Washington Ave. North, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55401

952-261-2843 (c)
etc@ethicsmaven.com

Experience – Law Office of Eric T. Cooperstein, PLLC
Legal Ethics Consulting and Representation
November 2006 to present.
Private law practice devoted to representing and consulting with lawyers and law firms regarding legal ethics, risk management, and practice management. Services include defending lawyers against allegations of violations of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC), advising lawyers regarding prospective compliance with the MRPC, providing informal and formal expert opinions, representing lawyers and law firms regarding law firm dissolutions and lawyer departures, and presenting seminars on legal ethics.

Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Co.
Director, August 2015 to present.

Minnesota Continuing Legal Education
Director, July 2015 to present.
Chair, July 2019 to June 2022.

Minnesota State Bar Association, Professional Regulation Committee
Chair, Sep. 2009 through June 2012;
Vice-Chair 2008 to 2009; member from Sep. 2007 to present.

Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers,
Member, 2007 to present.
Co-chair, Subcommittee on Cross-Border Practice, 2020 - 2021.

Minnesota Supreme Court, Advisory Committee on the Lawyer Discipline System, Member, 2007 to 2008.

Hennepin County Bar Association
Member, Fourth District Ethics Committee, 2003 to 2007.

Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility
Senior Assistant Director, July 1998 – April 2001.
Assistant Director, October 1995 – July 1998.
Investigated and prosecuted ethical misconduct of attorneys.
Conducted discovery, trial, and negotiation; presented briefing and oral argument to Minnesota Supreme Court; drafted private disciplinary decisions and case dismissals. Provided telephone advisory opinions and taught seminars on ethics issues. Administered Overdraft Notification Program and supervised audits of trust accounts.

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- Education** **University of Minnesota Law School** J.D. *Cum Laude* May 1990
Articles Editor, Law and Inequality Journal.
Author, "Protecting Rape Victims from Civil Suits by their Attackers"
8 *Law & Inequality* 279 (1989).
- Hamilton College, Clinton, NY** B.A. *Magna Cum Laude* May 1985
Government major, Computer Science minor.
Studied politics at University of York, England, during junior year.
- Other** **Office of the Monitor, *Pigford v. Schafer***
Employment *Assistant Senior Counsel*, April 2001 – February 2008.
Manage appeals process and assist in administering Consent Decree in lawsuit by African-American farmers against USDA. Review, edit, and approve hundreds of decisions on petitions for reexamination of claims. Supervise in-house and contract attorneys and staff.
- Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis**
Staff Attorney, June 1990 - October 1995.
Represent and advise indigent clients in housing and public benefits cases.
- William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, MN**
Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing, 2009-2010. Also taught Persuasive Legal Writing (1999 – 2001), Lawyering Skills (1998 – 1999), Legal Practicum (1998 – 1999), and First Year Legal Writing (1995 – 1998).
- University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN**
Legal Writing Instructor, August 1994 - May 1995.
- Mansfield & Tanick, Minneapolis, MN**
Associate, August 1990 - January 1992 (half-time).
Private practice focusing on plaintiffs' employment law, defamation, and First Amendment law.
- National Westminster Bank, USA, New York, NY**
Lending Representative / Loan Officer Development Program, June 1985 - July 1987.
Managed \$28 million portfolio of loans to a dozen mid-sized companies.

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**Bar
Leadership
and Other
Volunteer
Work**

American Bar Association

Standing Committee on Bar Services and Activities (SCOBAS), July 2018 to June 2021.

House of Delegates, Jan. 2016 to Aug. 2019.

Hennepin County Bar Association

Board of Directors, July 2017 to June 2019.

Chair, Hennepin Lawyer Committee, July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2017.

Diversity Committee, Sept. 2016 to 2021.

President, July 2013, to June 2014.

Past-President, July 2014, to June 2015.

President-Elect, July 2012 through June 2013.

Treasurer, July 2011 through June 2012.

Secretary, July 2010 through June 2011.

Finance Committee, July 2007 through June 2014.

Joint Advisory Board to HCBA, HCBF, and VLN, July 2006 to June 2007.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Tax Preparer and Reviewer

Emerge, 2016 – 2018 (Jan. – Apr. each year).

Prepare & Prosper 2019 – 2021.

First Universalist Church, Minneapolis, MN

Board of Trustees, July 2014 to June 2020.

President, July 2016 to June 2019.

First Universalist Foundation, Minneapolis, MN

Board of Directors, July 2004 to June 2010.

Chair, July 2006 to June 2010.

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SAMPLING OF RECENT SEMINARSNational Seminars

Do You Have Boundary Issues? Avoiding the Unauthorized Practice of Law: When Crossing State Lines, ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, January 24, 2022 (webcast with Robin Wolpert and Lynda Shely).

Great Debates: Revisiting Recent Listserv Topics, APRL Annual Meeting, October 23, 2021 (Moderator).

Do You Have Boundary Issues? The Ethics of Multi-Jurisdictional Practice, Practice Law Institute, October 7, 2021 (webcast with Nicole Hyland).

Great Debates: Revisiting Recent Listserv Topics, APRL Mid-Year Meeting, March 6, 2021 (panel discussion).

The Politics of Muting Your Mic: Virtual Governance Do's and Don'ts, April 7, 2020 (ABA webcast with Ndidi Moses, Willard L. Boyd, III, Catherine Sanders Reach, and Farah Fite).

Ethics Issues for In-House Counsel, Feb. 18, 2020 (ABA Center for Professional Responsibility webcast) (with Mary Blatch and Joseph Caligiuri)

Successfully Crossing the State Line: Ethical Issues When Your Practice Becomes Multijurisdictional, June 12, 2019 (ABA Webcast)

Bar President as Ambassador, March 15, 2019 (ABA Bar Leadership Institute, Chicago)

The Inclusive President, March 16, 2018 (with Michelle Behneke) (ABA Bar Leadership Institute, Chicago)

If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Omaha: Navigating New Developments in MJP and UPL, (panel discussion) 43rd ABA National Conference on Professional Responsibility).

Can We Talk? Techniques for Increasing Audience Participation, August 2, 2016 (ACLEA Mid-Year Meeting, Seattle, Washington).

Member Engagement through Micro-Volunteerism, March 18, 2016 (with Robert Craghead) (ABA Bar Leadership Institute, Chicago).

Liar, Liar: What to do When Your Client Lies, October 14, 2015 (ALI Teleconference).

Ethics Hypotheticals: Diverse Approaches, Sept. 23, 2014 (Law Society of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia).

If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Omaha: the Ethics of Multi-jurisdictional Practice, August 5, 2014 (ALI Teleconference).

Hot Documents, Hot Water: Ethical Pitfalls in Gathering Evidence, January 30, 2014 (ALI Teleconference).

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Liar, Liar: What to Do When Your Client Lies, May 4, 2012 (NOSSCR Mid-Year meeting, Philadelphia, Pa.)(with Timothy Tripp).

But It's Waivable, Right? Handling Complex Conflicts Scenarios, April 27, 2012 (Products Liability Advisory Council, Mid-Year Seminar, Asheville, North Carolina).

Keynote Addresses

Practice of Law 3.0: Competing with Nonlawyers for Clients, Aug. 3, 2015 (Strategic Solutions for Small Firms Conference).

Creating a New Paradigm for Lawyer Relationships, Aug. 6, 2012 (Strategic Solutions for Small Firms Conference).

Minnesota Seminars (all for Minnesota CLE, except where noted)

Enough is Enough! Ethically Withdrawing from Representation (Family Law Institute), March 22, 2022.

Your Piece of the Pie: Ethics for Contingent Fee Lawyers, March 11, 2022 (webcast).

Oh, the Conflicts You'll Know! Recent ABA Conflicts Opinions, February 18, 2022 (webcast).

You are Hereby Commanded: How to Respond When a Subpoena is Served on You, December 10, 2022 (webcast).

Threats, Harassment, and Other Dirty Tricks, August 20, 2022 (webcast).

Do You Have Boundary Issues? The Ethics of Multi-Jurisdictional Practice, Thompson Coburn LLP, June 17, 2021.

The Ethics of Working with Family-Owned Businesses: Who is My Client? (Probate Institute), June 7, 2021 (with Jacqueline Dorsey).

Too Close for Comfort: Conflicts in Representing Closely Held Businesses (Business Law Institute), May 3, 2021.

One Hat, Many Heads: Privilege for In-House Counsel (Environmental Law Institute), April 22, 2021.

Conflicts of Interest for Minnesota Public Law Attorneys, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, April 14, 2021.

What Can I Say? Doubling Down on Confidentiality (Family Law Institute), March 3, 2021.

Ethics for Contingent Fee Attorneys, Minnesota Association of Justice, February 19, 2021.

Elder Law Ethics: Oh, the Conflicts You'll Know!, February 12, 2021.

Threats, Harassment, and Other Dirty Tricks, November 6, 2020 (webcast).

Two's Company, Three's a Crowd: Conflicts in Representing Multiple Clients, Oct. 22, 2020.

I've Got My Eyes on You: The Ethics of Supervising Lawyers and Staff, Aug. 26, 2020.

Conflicts of the Titans: State of MN v. 3M, June 30, 2020 (webcast).

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Watching the Watchers: Ethical Discipline for County Attorneys, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, June 26, 2020.

Ethics in Light of the Sineneng-Smith Case, Upper Midwest Immigration Law Institute (AILA Minnesota), May 29, 2020.

Who is My Client?, May 14, 2020 (webcast).

Suddenly Remote Starter Kit, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual (webcast), April 3, 2020.

Red Pill or Blue Pill: Ethical and Practical Considerations in Offering Subscription Agreements and Limited Scope Retainers, February 7, 2020 (webcast) (with Jessica Birken and Jenna Westby).

New Developments in Confidentiality, February 7, 2020.

I've Got My Eyes on You: the Ethics of Supervising Lawyers and Staff, January 10, 2020 (webcast).

Drawing Lines in Shifting Sands: Avoiding UPL as a Non-Practicing or Cross-Border Lawyer, December 16, 2019 (Tax Law Institute).

Associates, Of Counsel, Contractors: The Ethics of Attorney Relationships, December 13, 2019 (webcast).

Ex Parte Contacts with Employees, Nov. 21, 2019 (Labor and Employment Law Institute (with Donald Lewis and Rachhana Strey).

Liar, Liar: What to do When Your Clients Lie, November 8, 2019 (webcast).

New Developments in Confidentiality, October 10, 2019 (Elder Law Institute).

E-mail and Social Media: Keys to Preventing or Resolving 5 Tricky Ethics Issues, September 6, 2019 (webcast).

Use It or Lose It: Preventing Privilege and Confidentiality Waivers, August 16, 2019 (webcast).

Collecting Fees from Clients, August 6, 2019 (Strategic Solutions for Solo and Small Firms).

Planning for Incapacity or Retirement: Key Ethical Considerations, June 10, 2019 (Probate Law Institute) (with Paul Floyd).

Ethics Issues in Winding Down a Law Firm, May 10, 2019 (webcast) (with Paul Floyd).

Was It Something I Said? Gnarly Ethics Issues in Deposition Practice, February 8, 2019 (webcast).

Ethical Considerations When Offering Unbundled, Limited-Scope or Flat Fee Family Law Services, March 20, 2018 (moderator) (MCLE Family Law Institute).

Ethics for Employee Benefits Attorneys (with Andrew Staab), February 22, 2018.

Use It or Lose It: Preventing Confidentiality and Privilege Waivers, February 9, 2018 (webcast).

Cradle to Grave: Six Ethics Watersheds Over the Life of Client Files, December 8, 2017.

You are Hereby Commanded: How to Respond When a Subpoena is Served on You, November 10, 2017.

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Have I Got A Deal for You! Using Flat Fee Agreements, August 22, 2017 (also January 22, 2016) (webcast).

Liar, Liar: What to do When Your Clients Lie, August 8, 2017 (Strategic Solutions conference).

Three Ethics Rules that Threaten the Future of Legal Practice, March 21, 2017 (MCLE Family Law Institute).

Two's Company, Three's a Crowd: Ethics of Representing Multiple Clients, February 10, 2017 (webcast).

Cybersecurity, Smartphones, Tablets & Wifi (with Mark Lanterman), December 2, 2016 (MCLE Workers Compensation Institute).

Can We Talk: Developments in Rules 4.2 and 4.3, October 26, 2016 (webcast).

Whither Thou Goest? Evaluating Three New ABA Opinions, September 16, 2016 (webcast).

Write If You Get Work: The Ethics of Attorney Relationships, August 9, 2016 (MCLE Strategic Solutions for Solo and Small Firms).

RECENT ARTICLES

Someone, Please, Get Me Out of Here! The Hennepin Lawyer, March 2022.

Those Annoying Sounds, The Hennepin Lawyer, November 2021.

Navigating Your Clients' Mental Health Issues, The Hennepin Lawyer, September 2021.

Antacid, Anyone? The Hennepin Lawyer, July 2021.

Hot Prospects, The Hennepin Lawyer, May 2021.

Looking to the Courts to Lead the Profession in a Post-COVID World, The Hennepin Lawyer, March 2021.

Sweat the Small Stuff, The Hennepin Lawyer, January 2021.

Talk Less, Smile More, The Hennepin Lawyer, November 2020.

Managing All the Pieces, The Hennepin Lawyer, July 2020.

All Good Things: Planning a Graceful Exit from the Practice of Law, The Hennepin Lawyer, May 2020.

E-sign on the Dotted Line, The Hennepin Lawyer, March 2020.

Here's Looking at You, Kid, The Hennepin Lawyer, January 2020.

With Whom are You in Relationship? The Hennepin Lawyer, November 2019.

You're Not So Special, The Hennepin Lawyer, September 2019.

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How to Draft a Conflicts Waiver, The Hennepin Lawyer, July 2019.

The More Fee Agreements Change, the More they Stay the Same, The Hennepin Lawyer May 2019.

Hey, Lawyer – Can You Spare a Dime? The Hennepin Lawyer March 2019.

Spread the Word, The Hennepin Lawyer (President's Column), May 2014.

Showing Up, The Hennepin Lawyer (President's Column), March 2014.

You Know How to Whistle, The Hennepin Lawyer (President's Column), January 2014.

Come Together, The Hennepin Lawyer (President's Column), November 2013.

Ninety-Five, The Hennepin Lawyer (President's Column), September 2013.

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LAW OFFICE OF
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800 NICOLLET MALL, SUITE 2600 • MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

ERIC T. COOPERSTEIN
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952-261-2843 (C)
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NICHOLAS M. RYAN
612-752-1902 (W)
612-867-7069 (C)
nmr@ethicsmaven.com

November 7, 2022

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MAR 20 2023

Mr. John DeCramer, Chair
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Board
400 Wabasha Street North, Suite 400
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

President of the Senate

Re: Application for seat on Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Board

Dear Mr. DeCramer:

Please accept this letter and the attached resume as my application for one of the two open at-large seats on the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Board.

My experience with housing issues dates back to the beginning of my legal career at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, from 1990 to 1995, where I primarily represented tenants in housing cases. My work was mostly in North and South Minneapolis but I also spent a year on a Community Action for Suburban Hennepin (C.A.S.H.) block-funding grant to represent tenants in the Hennepin County suburbs. I was familiar at that time with a wide range of subsidized housing programs, including public housing, several type of Section 8 programs, and Section 236 housing developments. I was also a young attorney on the team that brought the *Hollman v. Cisneros* public housing desegregation case in Minneapolis. Part of our preparation for that lawsuit was several months of educating ourselves on the history of housing segregation in the Twin Cities.

Following my years at Legal Aid, I worked at the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, an agency of the Minnesota Supreme Court that investigates and prosecutes lawyers for ethical misconduct. From there I shifted to a leadership role in assisting the court-appointed Monitor in *Pigford v. Cisneros*, a nationwide class action brought by black farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture for racial discrimination in farm loan programs. A substantial focus of our work was considering the petitions of thousands of black farmers for review of their claims for

benefits under a consent decree. As the *Pigford* case began to wind up in 2006 and 2007, I decided to start a law practice narrowly focused on representing and advising lawyers in ethics matters.


I have substantial experience in board work. I have been on the board of Minnesota Lawyers Mutual, a mono-line lawyers liability insurer, for six years and have been chairing the Investment Committee for the past year. The company has an investment portfolio of over \$200M, mostly in municipal fixed-income investments. I have held several board leadership positions, including three years as president of the First Universalist Church Board of Trustees (six years total as a board member) and president of the Hennepin County Bar Association (2013-2014), with a total of seven years of service on the Finance Committee and Board of Directors. I have served on well over a dozen committees for various bar associations (Hennepin County and Minnesota State Bar Associations, American Bar Association, Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers) and nonprofits. I believe I make a good board member because 1) I show up, 2) I read the financials and other materials; 3) I do not have a narrow personal agenda; and 4) I am not afraid to ask hard questions.

In recent years I have tried to rebalance my volunteer work from serving mostly on boards and committees to including direct service to low-income people by volunteering for five years at VITA tax clinics in North Minneapolis. I took a year off in 2022 because of the pandemic and plan to return this winter. VITA gives me an opportunity to interact with a diverse group of tax preparers (age, gender, race, nationality, work background) as well as a diverse clientele of people seeking tax filing assistance. VITA work also provides direct insight into how poor and low income families get along financially.

I find I am drawn to the MHFA Board because I see it as a way to get back to my “roots” in housing. Over the past year or two I have pulled back from most of my board and committee involvement (except for MLM) to make space for something new. I don’t have a particular agenda to bring to the Board, except that there is a longtime crisis in housing in the country and in Minnesota that disproportionately impacts communities of color. I would like to have a small hand in addressing that.

I would look forward to discussing with you further how I might contribute to the MHFA’s work. I appreciate your consideration of my application.

Sincerely,



Eric T. Cooperstein

Enc. (resume)

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MAR 20 2023

President of the Senate

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Housing Finance Agency

Position: Public Member

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Mr. Eric Cooperstein Eric Cooperstein

Phone: (952) 261-2843

County: Hennepin

Mn House District: 50A

US House District: 5

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Veteran: No Answer

Part V: Signature

Signature: Eric Cooperstein
Date: 11/7/2022 10:14:25 PM

EVO PDF Tools Demo

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