

FILED JULY 29 2024



STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

George Soule

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

Member - Congressional District 5

Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System

Effective: August 2, 2024

Expires: June 30, 2030

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.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 July 29, 2024.



Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

New Seat

President of the Senate

Application for the position Member At-large Application Date: 5/23/2024 3:45:16 PM

Note: If your application needs to be amended, including updates to any uploaded documents, contact open.appointments@state.mn.us. Please provide your name, board, position you've applied to, and any other documentation you'd like included in your application along with a brief summary of your request.

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Board Of Trustees Of The Minnesota State Colleges And Universities System

Position: Member At-large

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: George William Soule

Phone: (612) 251-5518

County: Hennepin

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Mn House District: 61B

US House District: 5

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
Letter of Recommendation	Soule references.pdf

Part V: Signature

Signature: George W Soule

Date: 5/23/2024 3:45:16 PM

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

President of the Senate

REFERENCES FOR GEORGE W. SOULE – MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Roger Moe
Board Chair
rogermoe@gvtel.com
(612) 803-9976

Jay Cowles
Trustee and Former Board Chair
jay@knudsendowles.com
(612) 670-0191

Michael Vekich
Former Board Chair
vekich@vekich.com
(612) 709-6262

Dawn Erlandson
Trustee
dawnerlandson@gmail.com
(612) 670-3158

Kathy Sheran
Trustee
kathys@smrrental.com
507) 380-5043

Jim Grabowska
Trustee
jim.grabowska@gmail.com
(507) 381-2649

Devinder Malhotra
Chancellor Emeritus
devindermalhotra47@gmail.com
(330) 819-1868

Natalie Hudson
Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
Natalie.Hudson@courts.state.mn.us

Anne McKeig
Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
justicemckeig@gmail.com

Dennis Olson
Commissioner, Office of Higher Education
Dennis.W.Olson@state.mn.us

Mike Erlandson
mikeerlandson@gmail.com
(612) 865-0050

Louise Matson
Executive Director, Division of Indian Work
lmatson@diw-mn.org
(612) 804-8100

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2024
President of the Senate

May 2024

GEORGE W. SOULE

Office Address:

Soule & Stull LLC
7201 Metro Boulevard, Suite 200
Edina, Minnesota 55439

Work: (612) 353-6491
Cell: (612) 251-5518
E-mail: gsoule@soulestull.com

Home Address:

4241 E. Lake Harriet Pkwy.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

SOULE & STULL LLC, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Founding Partner, Civil Trial Lawyer, 2014-

BOWMAN AND BROOKE LLP, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Founding Partner, Civil Trial Lawyer, 1985-2014
Managing Partner (Minneapolis office), 1996-1998, 2002-2004, 2007-10

TRIBAL COURT JUDGE

White Earth Court of Appeals, 2012-
Prairie Island Indian Community Court of Appeals, 2016-
Fond du Lac Band Court of Appeals, 2017-
Lower Sioux Indian Community, 2017 –
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Court of Appeals, 2021 –

GRAY, PLANT, MOOTY, MOOTY & BENNETT, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Associate, Litigation Department, 1979-1985

Admitted to practice before Minnesota state courts, 1979, federal district court, 1980;
Wisconsin state courts, 1985, federal district court, 1988; North Dakota federal district court, 1989

Tried cases in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,
Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Texas, Nebraska, Colorado, Arizona,
California, Montana, Washington

Qualified neutral under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

President of the Senate

EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, Massachusetts

J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1979

Editor, Harvard Law Review, Volume 92

MOORHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY, Moorhead, Minnesota

B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1976, with Majors in Political Science and Economics

WRITINGS (PARTIAL LIST)

Campaign Handbook for Minnesota Judicial Elections, 1st through 11th Ed., 2004-2024

“Democracy Goes to Court: Litigating voting rights and election administration in Minnesota in 2020” (co-author), Bench & Bar of Minnesota, March 2021

Minnesota Pretrial Civil Litigation, a LexisNexis Practice Guide, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Editions, George Soule, Editor

“The Key to Trying a Product Liability Case Effectively: Listening Well” (on-line) (co-author), LJN’s Product Liability Law & Strategy, August 2015

“See You in Court Arbitration – The Treatment of Arbitration Agreements in Minnesota Courts” (co-author), Bench & Bar of Minnesota, March/June 2015

“Criminal cases in Minnesota’s Indian Country,” Minnesota Lawyer, September 19, 2014

“Proof and Defense of Causation in Failure-to-Warn Claims” (co-author), LJN’s Product Liability Law & Strategy, September 2014

“Making the Judge Happy,” LJN’s Product Liability Law & Strategy, April 2014

"Advice to Dayton, Judicial Selection Commission," Minnesota Lawyer, April 18, 2011

“Judicial Elections 2010 - Minnesotans Stay the Course,” Bench & Bar of Minnesota (January 2011)

“Minnesota’s 2008 Judicial Elections: Calm before the Storm?” The Hennepin Lawyer, p. 4 (January 2009)

“Stop the Partisan Politics,” The National Law Journal, July 21, 2008

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

- “The Threats of Partisanship to Minnesota’s Judicial Elections,” 34 William Mitchell Law Review 701 (2008)
- “Judicial Elections in Minnesota: Past, Present, and Future,” The Hennepin Lawyer, p. 7 (January 2007)
- “Post-Sale Duties: A Minefield for Manufacturers,” In-House Defense Quarterly, p. 20 (Fall 2006) (co-author)
- “Case for my old classmate is based on his strong merits,” Star Tribune, August 5, 2005
- “Protecting an Independent and Qualified Judiciary,” Bench & Bar of Minnesota, April 2005
- “Minnesota Products Liability Law 1992-2003, Part II” (co-author), Minnesota Defense, p. 11 (Spring 2004)
- “Minnesota Products Liability Law 1992-2003, Part I” (co-author), Minnesota Defense, p. 11 (Winter 2004)
- “Don’t tinker with Minnesota’s system of picking judges,” Star Tribune, August 16, 2003
- “Judicial Appointments in the Ventura Administration,” The Hennepin Lawyer, November 1999
- “Judicial Appointments and Elections: Reaching for the Robe” (co-author), For the Record – 150 Years of Law & Lawyers in Minnesota, Minnesota State Bar Association (1999)
- “Partisanship Would Harm Judges’ Election Process,” Star Tribune, May 3, 1998
- “Partisan elections would threaten judicial independence,” Minnesota Lawyer, September 4, 1998
- “Failure to Warn in Minnesota, the New Restatement on Products Liability, and the Application of the Reasonable Care Standard” (co-author), 21 William Mitchell Law Review 389 (1995)
- Contributing Editor of Minnesota Law Section, Product Liability Desk Reference, 1992-2024 Editions
- “Trial Treatment of Partial Releases” (co-author), chapter of MDLA Release Deskbook (3rd Ed. 1993, 4th Ed. 1998, 5th Ed. 2006, 6th Ed. 2011)
- “Minnesota Products Liability Law: 1986-1992” (co-author), Minnesota Defense, p. 10 (Summer 1992)
- “Returning Negligence Principles to the Trial of Failure to Warn Claims in Minnesota,” Minnesota Defense, p. 2 (Spring 1988)

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

“Recent Developments in Minnesota Products Liability Law” (co-author), Minnesota Defense, p. 2 (Winter 1986)

“Toward an Equitable and Rational Allocation of Employee Injury Losses in Cases with Third Party Liability,” 1979 Insurance Counsel Journal 201; published as the second place winner in the International Association of Insurance Counsel's 1978 Legal Writing Contest; cited by the United States Supreme Court in Edmonds v. Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, 443 U.S. 256, 267 n.21 (1979)

PRESENTATIONS (PARTIAL LIST)

“Taking a Stance on Equity” (panel discussion), AGB Institute for Leadership & Governance in Higher Education, Washington, D.C., September 22, 2023

“A View from the Tribal Court Bench – Traditional Law, Writing Decisions Without Relying on State Law, Deciding Cases of First Impression” (co-presenter), 2023 Indian Law Conference, Minneapolis, May 5, 2023

“Preparing for Your Judicial Election Campaign,” Minneapolis, 2004-2024

“Constitutional Law: Voting and Election Law” (panel discussion), Minnesota CLE, December 11, 2020

“Best Practices in Preparing You and Your Clients for Mediation” (panel discussion), MSBA Civil Litigation Section, Minneapolis, February 27, 2020

“Voting Law & Today’s U.S. Supreme Court – What Are the Constraints on Political Gerrymandering?” (panel discussion), Big New U.S. Supreme Court Decisions, Minnesota CLE, Minneapolis, August 22, 2019

“Voting Law & Today’s U.S. Supreme Court – T-Shirts, Gerrymandering, and Voter Rolls,” Big New U.S. Supreme Court Decisions, Minnesota CLE, Minneapolis, August 20, 2018

“Judicial Campaign Conduct and Activities 2018,” Minnesota Judicial Campaign Law and Ethics Seminar, Board of Judicial Standards, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, June 22, 2018

“Judicial Appointments in the Trump Administration,” 2018 Indian Law Conference, Minnesota American Indian Bar Association and Minnesota CLE, Shakopee, MN, May 4, 2018

“Everyday Ethics Challenges for Paralegals in the Modern Legal World,” Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. Webinar, February 28, 2018

“Analyzing Voter Redistricting Amid Claims of Racial Gerrymandering,” The U.S. Supreme Court’s Big New Decisions, Minnesota CLE, Minneapolis, August 9, 2017

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

“Judicial Appointments and Elections in Minnesota,” Mitchell Hamline Law School Judicial Externship Class, St. Paul, October 25, 2016

“Defense of Failure to Warn” (with Melissa Stull), Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Product Liability Committee, Minneapolis, August 10, 2016

“Effective Arbitration Advocacy at the Hearing: Arbitrators Share What Works and What Doesn’t” (panel discussion), Best Practices for Advocates in Arbitrations, Minnesota CLE, Minneapolis, July 21, 2016

“Judicial Campaign Conduct and Activities” (co-presenter), Minnesota Judicial Campaign Law and Ethics Seminar, Board of Judicial Standards, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, June 14, 2016

“Shaping Minnesota’s Appellate Judiciary” (panel discussion), Minnesota State Bar Association Appellate Practice Section, St. Paul, September 29, 2015

“Making the Judge Happy: Tips for Presenting a More Effective Case at Trial,” Minnesota State Bar Association Civil Litigation Section, Minneapolis, January 5, 2015

“Becoming a Judge: How Do We Increase Diversity on the Bench?” 2012 Indian Law Conference, Minnesota American Indian Bar Association and Minnesota CLE, Welch, Minnesota, May 18, 2012

“Best Practices for Handling Offensive Language, Behavior and Attitudes within the Legal Profession” (panel discussion), Ramsey County Bar Association Diversity Committee, St. Paul, May 17, 2012

“Judicial Elections in Minnesota,” Minnesota Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections, St. Paul, March 2, 2011

“The Quie Commission Report – The Next Steps” (panelist), Hennepin County Bar Association, Minneapolis, October 30, 2007

“Overcoming Mid-Size and Small Firm Challenges,” 2nd National Forum on Law Firm Diversity, American Conference Institute, San Francisco, September 26, 2006

“Overview of Election Law and Ethics for Judicial Candidates,” Judicial Campaign Law & Ethics, Minnesota CLE, St. Paul, August 2, 2006

“Partisan Judicial Elections: A Threat to Judicial Independence in Minnesota,” Judicial Independence v. Partisan Politics, Minnesota State Bar Association Convention, Brainerd, Minnesota, June 22, 2006

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

“Separation of Powers: Looking at the Role of the Judiciary in the Constitutional System of Checks and Balances” (panelist), Hennepin County Bar Association, Minneapolis, May 18, 2006

“Partisan Judicial Elections: A Threat to Judicial Independence in Minnesota,” Minnesota Commission for the Preservation of an Impartial Judiciary, Minneapolis, March 27, 2006

“The Confirmation of Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.,” Warren Burger Inn of Court, St. Paul, March 15, 2006

“Diversity Initiatives in the Minnesota Legal Market” (panel discussion), 31st Annual Federal Practice Seminar, Federal Bar Association, Minneapolis, June 14, 2005

JUDICIAL CAMPAIGNS

Campaign Committee, Citizens for Justice Anne McKeig, 2024

Campaign Committee, Judge Chuck Webber, 2022

Campaign Committee, Minnesotans for Justice Paul Thissen, 2020

Campaign Committee, Citizens to Re-Elect Judge Joseph Carter, 2020

Chair, Citizens for Justice Anne McKeig, 2017-2018

Committee Member, Citizens for Justice Chutich Committee, 2018

Committee Member, People for Judge Jesson, 2018

Campaign Committee, Citizens for Justice Hudson, 2016

Campaign Committee, Barry Anderson for Minnesota Supreme Court, 2012

Campaign Committee, David Stras for Minnesota Supreme Court, 2011-12

Co-Chair, Dietzen Volunteer Committee (Minnesota Supreme Court), 2010

Co-Chair, Citizens for Justice Helen Meyer, 2010

Co-Chair, Dietzen Volunteer Committee (Minnesota Court of Appeals), 2006

Co-Chair, Citizens for Justice Helen Meyer, 2003-2004

Co-Chair, Citizens for Justice Paul Anderson, 2002, 2008

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

Steering Committee, Committees to Retain Minnesota Supreme Court Justices Paul H. Anderson and Edward C. Stringer, 1996

Co-Chair, Citizens for Chief Justice Sandy Keith, 1992

LEGAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Minnesota State Bar Association

- Chair, Implementation Committee, Judicial Elections Task Force, 1998
- Planning Committee, Law Day Judicial Elections Forum, MSBA/League of Women Voters, May 1998
- Member, Judicial Selection Conference Committee, 2001
- Co-Chair, Judicial Elections Task Force, 1997
- Governing Council, Civil Litigation Section, 1989-1999 (Co-Chair, Pro Bono Project, 1989-1991; Co-Chair, Civil Discovery Task Force, 1991-1992; Treasurer, 1992-1993; Vice-Chair, 1993-1994; Chair, 1994-1995)
- Member, Judicial Merit Selection Committee, 1987
- Counsel to Minnesota State Bar Association in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. Kelly* in Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and United States Supreme Court
- Member, Task Force on Diversity in the Profession, 2005-2006

Minnesota American Indian Bar Association, Member, 1992-2024, Member, Board of Directors, 2003-2008, President, 2004-2006, Treasurer, 2007-2008

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Associate, 2003- , Secretary, 2011, Treasurer, 2012, Vice-President, 2013, President, 2014, Past President, 2015, National Board Representative, 2017 – 2019

American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow, 2005-

International Society of Barristers, Fellow, 2015-

Visiting Lecturer of Law, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan, August and September 1992

Minnesota Commission on Judicial Selection, Chair, 1999-2003, Vice-Chair, 1992-1999

Governor's Committee for Minnesota Court of Appeals Appointment, 1991 (First District vacancy) (Co-Chair); 1992 (Chief Judge vacancy) (Co-Chair); 1995 (Statewide vacancy);

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

President of the Senate

2000 (Statewide vacancies) (Chair); 2002 (Second District vacancy) (Chair); 2002 (Statewide vacancy) (Chair)

Chair, Governor's Committee for Minnesota Supreme Court appointments, 2002

Member, Minnesota Commission for the Preservation of an Impartial Judiciary, 2006-07

Mentor, University of St. Thomas Law School, 2003-present

Volunteer Attorney, Family Law Project, Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, 1991-2008

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, 2021- ; Chair, 2023

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees, 2017- ; Chair, Chancellor Search Committee, 2016-2017; Co-Convenor, Minnesota State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform, 2020-2021; Chair, Audit Committee, 2019-2021; Chair, Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, 2021- ; Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2022- ; Vice Chair, 2022- ; Co-Chair, Chancellor Search Committee, 2023

Board of Directors, Division of Indian Work, 2014- ; Board Chair, 2019-2020

Board of Directors, Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society, 2021-

Board of Directors, Infinity Project, 2009-2019

Board of Directors, Hennepin County Sheriff Foundation, Member 2008-2014, Chair 2010-2013

Member, Board of Directors, Moorhead State University Alumni Foundation, 1998-2004, 2014-2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award, Minnesota State Bar Association, June 2022

Minnesota Lawyer Icon, 2018

The Best Lawyers in America, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Distinguished Alumni Award, Minnesota State University Moorhead, October 2005

Advocate's Award, Civil Litigation Section, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2003

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

Attorney of the Year 1999, 2012, 2019 *Minnesota Lawyer*

Selected "Super Lawyer," 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 (selected as one of top 100 lawyers statewide), 2002 (selected as one of top 40 Personal Injury Lawyers), 2003 (top 100), 2004 (top 100), 2005 (top 100), 2006 (top 100), 2007, 2008 (top 100), 2009 (top 100), 2010 (top 100), 2011 (top 100), 2012 (top 100), 2013, 2014, 2015 (top 100), 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Professionalism Award, Hennepin County Bar Association, 1997

Howard Lysne 1993 Business and Economics Alumni Achievement Award, Moorhead State University

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

President of the Senate

SOULE STULL

George W. Soule
Direct: (612) 353-6491
Email: gsoule@soulestull.com

May 7, 2024

Governor Tim Walz
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
Office of the Governor & Lt. Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

President of the Senate

Re: Application for re-appointment to Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Dear Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan:

I am writing to let you know that I will apply for re-appointment to the Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. I provide the following information as you consider my application.

Governor Dayton appointed me to the Board in February 2017; I served one year of the unexpired term of Margaret Anderson Kelliher, who resigned from the Board. Governor Dayton appointed me to a full term in July 2018.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Board the last seven years and have been an active member since my appointment. I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee. I have also chaired the Audit Committee, and in 2023, I was Co-Chair of the Chancellor Search Committee.

After the murder of George Floyd and civil unrest in the Twin Cities, Minnesota State convened a Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform. The Task Force consisted of 36 diverse Minnesota State and community members. I served as Co-Convener, along with Minnesota Commissioner of Higher Education Dennis Olson and Senior Vice Chancellor Satasha Green-Stephen. Our Task Force examined and advised on issues, initiatives, programming, and priorities relative to an anti-racist law enforcement education. We issued our report in February 2021 and have worked with stakeholders to implement its recommendations.

I am a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe; my mother grew up on the Reservation. I serve as a Justice on the White Earth Tribal Court of Appeals, and I travel to the Reservation often to hear appeals. I also serve as a Court of Appeals Judge for four other Minnesota Tribes: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Prairie Island Indian Community, and Lower Sioux Indian Community. I have been active in the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association since the early 1990s and served as its President in 2004-2006. I was a Member of the Board of the Division of Indian Work in Minneapolis from 2014-2023, was Board Chair in 2019-2020, and continue to be an involved participant and supporter of DIW.

As a proud alumnus of Minnesota State University Moorhead, I am active in supporting the University and its students. I served for several years as a member of the Foundation Board. My wife and I started and financially support a scholarship program for American Indian students at MSUM (and the American Indian Center there bears my name).

I am by training and experience a trial lawyer. I am a founding partner of a Twin Cities civil litigation law firm and have practiced in Minnesota since graduating from Harvard Law School in 1979. I have tried over 60 civil cases in 19 states, managed litigation nationwide for clients, worked as managing partner of law firms, and served as a mentor to law students and young lawyers and as an advocate for diversity in the profession and judiciary.

Serving the community has been one of my passions my entire career. I have held several Minnesota leadership positions and served on non-profit boards. Most notably, I served on the Minnesota Commission on Judicial Selection for 11 years, including as Commission Chair under Governor Ventura. I also chaired the Civil Litigation Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the Hennepin County Sheriff Foundation.

If re-appointed, I would continue to work to put students first in our stewardship of state colleges and universities. I strongly support the System's Equity 2030 goal to close educational equity gaps at every Minnesota State college and university. We also have much work ahead to develop the System's NextGen technology program and to continue to make higher education available and affordable to all Minnesotans. I would like students to have the same opportunities that I had because of my state university education.

Thank you for considering my application for re-appointment to this important position.

Respectfully yours,

George W. Soule

George W. Soule

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2024

President of the State Bar