# STATE OF MINNESOTA



# TIM WALZ GOVERNOR



# Jenny Starr

600 Robert St N St. Paul, MN 55101 County of Ramsey Congressional District 4

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:

# CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

### OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Effective: September 3, 2019

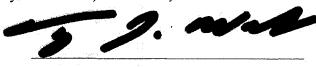
Term Expires: June 30, 2025

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, November 1, 2019.



Replacing: The Honorable William J. Marshall



Governor

Ptere Pinn

Secretary of State

201017a

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January 17, 2023

Chair Erin P. Murphy
State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
Minnesota Senate
3211 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Senate Confirmation, Chief Administrative Law Judge

# Dear Chair Murphy:

I extend my sincere appreciation to you and State and Committee Members for taking up the confirmation of my 2019 gubernatorial appointment as Minnesota's Chief Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings.

# Office of Administrative Hearings

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) renders justice through fair, timely, and impartial administrative hearings, and high-quality dispute resolution services. OAH is the largest of three specialized courts within the Executive Branch, with over 60 employees located in St. Paul and Duluth serving the entire state of Minnesota.

Workers' Compensation Judges preside over settlement and trial-level proceedings regarding disputed claims for workers' compensation benefits. Each year, 10,000 workers' compensation cases are filed at OAH, involving 7,500 workers and their employers, insurers, and medical providers.

Administrative Law Judges preside over challenges to state and local government action. Administrative Law Judges also review the need for and reasonableness of all rules proposed by state agencies. Since 1976, Administrative Law Judges have served over 250 state agencies and local units of government and heard cases involving over 200 unique areas of administrative law.

# **Proven Leadership**

I came to OAH in 2019 after six years of executive leadership at the Minnesota Department of Revenue and almost ten years of attorney advocacy.

I advocated for people with disabilities who had been denied public health benefits; for people experiencing poverty while seeking divorce, child custody determinations, and orders for protection; and for the fair application of Minnesota's tax laws, ensuring everyone pays and receives the right amount - no more, no less.

In each role, I paired thoughtful approaches to complex laws with compassion, a steadfast dedication to advancing access and equity, and the ability to successfully manage programs and people.

In my time as Minnesota's Chief Administrative Law Judge, I have continued to deliver:

- Increased representation of BIPOC-identified judges and employees from less than 7% in 2019 to 18% today.
- Increased the use of virtual hearing platforms from only 2% of hearings to over 90% at the height of the pandemic, keeping OAH open and operational without delay or backlog.
- Maintained continuous and regular communication with stakeholders, resulting in a 710% increase in email subscription service subscribers with a 60% engagement rate.
- Prioritized continuous improvement based on stakeholder feedback, including bilingual mediation services, process improvements to ensure interpreters meet the highest standards set by the Minnesota Supreme Court, and a new automated system for assisting workers' compensation litigants to finalize settlements, which resulted in average settlement turnaround time decreasing by 27%.
- Championed an ongoing project to replace the court's existing eComment system with an accessible, easily-navigated, web-based portal to collect and publish information and public comment on proposed rules. When delivered, this portal will increase outreach and engagement across Minnesota and simplify agency business processes in rulemaking across the executive branch.

I live in Saint Paul, Minnesota, with my wife, one dog, and one cat. I love to ski and volunteer as an adaptive ski instructor with Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute. In the past, I have also volunteered with organizations like the Lambda Legal Defense Fund and Minnesota Fringe Festival.

With the Senate's confirmation, I look forward to continuing to solve problems, serve people, and provide access to high-quality government services as Minnesota's Chief Administrative Law Judge.

Sincerely.

Jenny Starr

# **Jenny Starr**

# **EXPERIENCE**

# Office of Administrative Hearings, Saint Paul, MN

9/2019-present

Chief Administrative Law Judge. Directs all operations of the court, including the appointment of administrative law judges and workers' compensation judges. Dedicated recruiting and successful onboarding increased representation of BIPOC-identified judges and employees from less than 7% in 2019 to 18%. Ensures the court renders justice through fair, timely, and impartial administrative hearings across a bench comparable in size to Ramsey County District Court.

# Minnesota Department of Revenue, Saint Paul, MN

6/2014-9/2019

Assistant Commissioner. Provided executive leadership for the administration of corporate income, pass-through entity income, fiduciary and trust income, estate and gift, sales and use, insurance, cigarette, alcohol, tobacco, and petroleum taxes. Oversaw tax-related criminal investigations program and program for collecting tax and other-agency debt. Manage an operational budget of over \$80 million across five divisions and more than 700 employees.

## Minnesota Department of Revenue, Saint Paul, MN

12/2013-6/2014

**Senior Manager for Tax Policy**. Strategically planned, designed, developed, and pursued tax policy law changes to make the broad revenue system fair, simple, and competitive. Provided executive leadership and oversight for the department's legal staff, administrative appeals officers, tax research division, and property tax division. Oversaw an operational budget of more than \$10 million across three divisions and 100 employees.

# Minnesota Department of Revenue, Saint Paul, MN

10/2007-2/2013

**Attorney**. Provided legal advice in areas of corporate income tax, estate and gift taxes, pass-through entities, unrelated business income tax, and other administrative law areas. Drafted legislation and developed tax policy and legislative initiatives in collaboration with executive leadership.

### William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul, MN

9/2007-6/2014

Adjunct Professor. Planned, developed, and taught legal writing curriculum for students at risk of not completing three years of legal studies. Curriculum developed the analytical skills necessary to succeed in law school while also focusing on the relationships, self-care, and mentoring that supports students of color, women, students with disabilities, and students from lower-income families. Student evaluations rated teaching as "outstanding" in areas of respect, style, clarity, usefulness, and overall experience.

## Legal Assistance of Dakota County, Apple Valley, MN

8/2005-10/2007

**Attorney**. Provided free representation to low-income people in family law matters: marriage dissolution; child custody; child support; and orders for protection. Managed a countywide *pro bono* program, growing the number of active volunteers from 30 to over 75.

# Minnesota Court of Appeals, Saint Paul, MN

8/2003-8/2005

Law Clerk. Assisted The Honorables Harriet Lansing, Robert H. Schumacher, and James C. Harten in all aspects of appellate review, including research and writing of pre-argument memoranda, synthesizing voluminous trial records, and researching, editing, and evaluating legal analysis in drafts of written opinions.

# Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, CA

Summer 2002

**Law Clerk**. Reached successful outcomes through research, writing, and representation at administrative appeal hearings in disability benefits cases. Worked with diverse clients, including veterans, people living with HIV/AIDS, and people with disabilities, including mental illness.

# Equality Commission, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Summer 2001

**Law Clerk**. Consulted with Irish Travelers, researched international human rights laws establishing a fundamental right to culture, and drafted legislation to secure cultural rights for Irish Travelers in the Northern Ireland Bill of Rights.

# **EDUCATION**

# Intercultural Development Inventory, LLC

Certificate, 2019

# **Qualified Administrator**

Intercultural Development Inventory

# John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University Executive Education Certificate

Certificate, 2017

Comparative Tax Policy and Administration

# University of Minnesota Law School

J.D.,2003

#### Honors:

- cum laude
- Dorot Foundation Grant
- Howard Liebhaber Human Rights Award
- Minnesota Justice Foundation Public Interest Award
- Royal A. Stone Memorial Scholarship
- Uncommon Legacy Foundation Scholarship
- Walter H. Judd International Graduate & Professional Fellowship

#### Activities:

- Tax Clinic, Student Director
- South Texas Asylum Representation Project, Student Attorney
- Wagner Labor Law Moot Court, Member
- Lambda Law Students Association, President
- Lambda Legal Volunteer

1994

# University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts

# Major:

Women's Studies (with minors in Mathematics and Japanese)

#### Honors:

- summa cum laude
- President's Student Leadership and Service Award
- Honors Division Senior Thesis Grant
- Pat Hasselmo Scholarship
- Waller Scholarship

#### **Activities:**

- Minnesota Women's Center, Student Director
- Chrysalis Center for Women, L.A.W. Clinic Advocate

# **Mounds View High School**

#### Honors:

- National Honors Society
- Recognition for Photography, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- Lettered, Band
- Lettered, Theater

# **ENDEAVORS**

### **Public Speaking: Administrative Law**

- Holding Ourselves Accountable: Intercultural Competency in Courts, American Bar Association, Judicial Division (March 2021)
- Implicit Bias: A View from OAH, Workers' Compensation Institute (August 2020)
- Minnesota Success Stories, Central Panel Directors Conference (2020, 2022)
- OAH Update Attorney General Seminar (November 13, 2019)
- OAH Update, Minnesota Association for Justice (2020, 2021)
- OAH Update, Minnesota Employers Workers Compensation Alliance (September 2021)
- OAH Update, Minnesota Environmental Law Institute, Minnesota State Bar Association (April 2021)
- OAH Update, Minnesota Rulemaking Seminar (2019, 2020, 2022)
- OAH Update, State Agency General Counsel (January 24, 2020)
- OAH Update, Workers' Compensation Deskbook (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- OAH Update, Workers' Compensation Institute (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- State Central Panels: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Lessons Learned, American Bar Association, Judicial Division (November 2021)

# **Public Speaking: Tax**

- Advanced Employee Benefits Workshop (2009)
- Association of Minnesota Counties, Annual Policy Conference (2017)
- Council on State Taxation, Tax Seminar (2018, 2015)

# **Public Speaking: Tax (continued)**

- Minneapolis Pension Council, Minnesota State Source Tax Law Seminar (2008)
- Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence, Annual Meeting (2018)
- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Business Day at the Capitol (2014)
- Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants Annual Tax Conference (2018, 2017)
- Minnesota State Bar Association Annual Tax Institute (2018, 2017)
- Minnesota State Bar Association Tax Law Town Hall (2018, 2017, 2014)
- Minnesota State Bar Association Tax Section Judges Conference (2018)
- New Businesses and the Minnesota Department of Revenue (2016)

# Leadership

- Board of Directors, Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (2007-2009)
- Chair, Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (2009-2011)
- Executive Committee, National Conference of Administrative Law Judiciary, Judicial Division, American Bar Association (2020-present)
- Governing Board Delegate, Streamlined Sales Tax (2014-2019)
- Secretary, National LGBT Bar Association (2007-2009)

## Recognition

- Recipient, Dakota County HEROES Award (2006 for leadership in growing and maintaining a successful pro bono program serving low-income families in Dakota County)
- Recipient, Dakota County Spreading the Cheer Award (2006 for leadership in growing and maintaining a successful pro bono program serving low-income families in Dakota County)
- Recipient, State Government Innovation Top Award Winner (2019 for leadership in creating of Minnesota's Sales Tax Rate Map)

# Memberships

- American Bar Association (2020-present)
- Minnesota Lavender Bar Association (2003-present)
- Minnesota State Bar Association (2007-present)
- National LGBT Bar Association (2007-2011)
- Ramsey County Bar Association (2007-present)

# **Activities**

- Adaptive Ski Instructor, Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute (2022-present)
- Appellate Volunteer Attorney, Legal Assistance of Dakota County (2007-2014)
- Member, Galtier Community School Parent Teacher Organization (2013-2014)
- Member, Ski Away (2020-present)
- Mentor, GLBTQA Programs Office, University of Minnesota (2007-2009)
- Team Captain, League of Women Bowlers (2017-2020)
- Volunteer, Lambda Legal Defense Fund (2001-2011)
- Volunteer, Minnesota Fringe Festival (2000-2013)

## Licensure

- The Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota, admitted 2005
- The Supreme Court of the State of California, admitted 2005