

Joint Judiciary Committee and Elections Committee
Wednesday, February 8, 2006
10:00 a.m. – Room G15 Capitol

In Attendance

Senator Betzold
Senator Chaudhary
Senator Hann
Senator Higgins
Senator Hottinger
Senator Limmer
Senator Marty
Senator Neuville
Senator Ortman
Senator Pariseau
Senator Scheid
Senator Skoglund
Senator Wiger

Senator Betzold called the meeting to order at 10:05 p.m.
Quorum was present

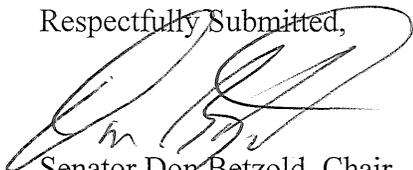
The Senate committees on the Judiciary and Elections meet jointly to study the impact and process of partisan judicial elections.

Witnesses

- Tom Vasaly-MN Attorney General's office
- Kris Eiden-MN Attorney General's office
- Peter Wattson-Senate Counsel
- Kathy Pontius-Senate Council
- George Soule-Attorney and author (PowerPoint presentation)
- Susan Holden-President of MN State Bar Association
- Will Fluegel-President of MN Trial Lawyers Association
- Greg Bulinski, MN Defense Lawyers Association
- John Stanoch-Former District Court Judge
- Tom Swain-Former Chief of Staff for Governor Elmer Anderson
- Duane Benson-Executive Director of MN Early Learning Foundation
- Janet Gendler-MN League of Woman Voters

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

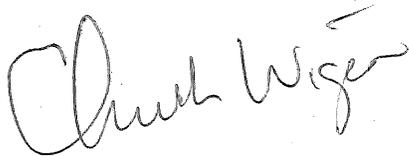
Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Don Betzold, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee



Liz McLoone, Legislative Assistant
Senate Judiciary Committee



Senator Chuck Wiger
Senate Elections Committee



Lisa Sarne, Legislative Assistant
Senate Elections Committee

**Joint Judiciary Committee and Elections Committee
Chairs: Senator Don Betzold and Senator Chuck Wiger
10 a.m. Room 15 Capitol**

Agenda: Election process for judges.

Tom Vasaly and Kris Eiden, Minnesota Attorney General's office, background on White case.

Peter Wattson and Kathy Pontius, Senate Counsel. Background on other state's systems and Minnesota legislative history.

George Soule, Attorney and author of *Campaign Handbook for Minnesota Judicial Elections*, 2004. Background on partisan elections in other states.

Susan Holden, President, Minnesota State Bar Association

Will Fluegel, Presidents of Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association
Greg Bulinski, Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association

John Stanoch, Former District Court Judge, current Vice President of Qwest Communications, Inc.

Tom Swain, Janet Gendler, and Duane Benson to provide further background information.