

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals**  
Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
(651) 539-1210  
Fax: (651) 539-1212

For TTY/TDD users only:  
via MN Relay Service  
dial 1-800-627-3529

March 25, 2024

Senator Jennifer A. McEwen  
Chair of the Labor Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
3217 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair McEwen and Committee Members:

Please accept this cover letter with its dual function: First, to submit a short profile of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, and second; to introduce the five judges seeking confirmation to their appointed positions by the state Senate.

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA) is an executive branch court under Minnesota Statute Chapter 175A created by the legislature in 1981. The WCCA consists of 5 judges, all of whom are appointed by the sitting governor for 6-year terms, and whose appointment is to be confirmed by the Senate.

The mission of the WCCA is to provide accessible, fair, and timely appellate review of disputed workers' compensation claims in all matters of fact and law from the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), the Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) and Union Workers' Compensation Arbitration. We also decide petitions to reopen settlements and awards of benefits. Any party who is dissatisfied with our decision may seek final review by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The WCCA consists of five judges who sit as panels of three or five in every decision under this court. We have a proven track record of being open to all points of view, recognizing any bias or prejudice, and making informed and fair decisions.

Attached for your review are the resumes for each judge. We believe we bring to the WCCA the unique combination of experience and a dedication to public service. We seek the Minnesota state senate's confirmation to continue this important work.

Respectfully,

Chief Judge Milun  
Judge Sundquist  
Judge Quinn  
Judge Christenson  
Judge Carlson

# PATRICIA J. MILUN

2452 Morson Circle, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 · 651.247.0710 · [pmilun@comcast.net](mailto:pmilun@comcast.net)

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Over the past 30 years, I have enjoyed serving the people of Minnesota. I care about the quality of our justice system and equal access to the courts. I am the first person in our state to serve Minnesota as a settlement judge and chief settlement judge at the Department of Labor and Industry; a compensation judge and administration law judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings; and an appellate chief judge at the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals. I bring to the WCCA the unique combination of experience and a dedication to public service.

## EXPERIENCE

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### **Chief Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals**

*2011 to present*

- Proven track record of being open to all points of view, recognizing any bias or prejudice, and making informed and fair decisions.
- Hear cases and write decisions intended to promote consistency and public knowledge about the application of Minnesota workers' compensation laws.
- Leading the court digital transformation as part of a uniform data management system that integrates our e-filing technology within the agencies and courts.
- Maintained WCCA principles of equality and fairness during Covid-19 by remaining open for filing motions, arguing before the WCCA judges, and writing decisions.
- Responsible for WCCA Covid-19 response that shifted our public services from traditional paper-based operations and proceedings to new technology at unprecedented speed and scale.

### **Workers' Compensation and Administration Law Judge · 1998-2011**

*State of Minnesota, Office of Administrative Hearings*

- On disputed issues in workers compensation cases I conducted record hearings and made findings of fact and applied the applicable law. I issued final decisions on the merits. Final decisions may be appealed to the Workers Compensation Court of Appeals.
- Since 2004 complaints under the Fair Campaign Practice and Campaign Finance Act are heard at the Office of the Administrative Hearings. I sat as one of the Administrative Law Judges in a three-judge panel for evidentiary hearings under that Act.

### **Chief Workers' Compensation Settlement Judge | 1994**

*State of Minnesota, Department of Labor and Industry*

As Chief Judge for the Settlement Division of the Workers' Compensation Court, I had supervisory responsibility for twelve judges. In addition to the overall supervision and administration of the Court, my responsibilities included the preparation of the budget for the unit and the tracking of key legislation.

**Workers' Compensation Judge | 1993-1998**  
*State of Minnesota, Department of Labor and Industry*

This position existed to evaluate workers' compensation claims; to conduct settlement and administrative conferences, hearings and to make judicial determinations and issue orders involving procedure and substantive issues in the workers' compensation claims.

**Workers' Compensation Trial Attorney | 1987-1992**  
*Larsen, Heck, Klimek & Powell*

In this "captive counsel" law firm for Employers' Insurance of Wausau, I was responsible for a case load of over one-hundred litigation workers' compensation cases. In handling these cases, I was responsible for the pleadings, discovery, investigation, medical work-up, negotiations, settlement conferences, pretrial, trial, and appellate work on each file.

## **EDUCATION**

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**William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota**  
Degree Conferred: Juris Doctor, 1985  
Activities: Law Review

**College of St. Benedict's, St. Joseph, Minnesota**  
Degree Conferred: B.A., 1981  
Major: Political Science  
SJU Honors Student

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND LICENSES**

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- Admitted to practice law in the State of Minnesota
- Formerly admitted to practice law before the federal courts
- Co-chairperson Workers' Compensation Section of the Hennepin County Bar Association, 1995-1998
- Past Memberships
  - Minnesota State Bar Association
  - Dakota County Bar Association
  - Ramsey County Bar Association
  - Minnesota Women Lawyers
  - Hennepin County Bar Association
- Guest Speaker
  - Law and Politics
  - Reinsurance Association
  - Continuing Legal Education Programs

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

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*Present*

- University of St. Thomas School of Law Mentor Externship Program, 2015 -
- Summer Internship Program for undergraduate at the U of Minnesota and St. Thomas, 2016 -
- Minnesota State University, Mankato, Customer Experience Certificate Program Advisory Panel, 2021-
- Meals on Wheels Volunteer, 2021 -

- Created “Judge for a Day” interactive program for Girl Scouts of America local troops, 2016-
- Presenter at the MN Department of Labor and Industry Workers’ Compensation Summit, 2017, 2022-
- Roundtable guest at WCAC (Work Compensation Advisory Council), 2016 -
- Direct Mentor for University of Minnesota Undergrad Internship Program, 2016 –

*Previous*

- Board of Trustee at the Convent of the Visitation School, 2011 - 2016
- Volunteer/ Mentor for Everybody Wins Program, 2011 - 2016
- Speaker at Workers’ Compensation Summit: Electronic Medical Records, 2015
- Speaker at the National Association of Hearing Officers, 2013
- Panelist at Workers’ Compensation Summit, 2013
- University of St. Thomas law school Moot Court Judge, 2013
- Judge in the ABA Law Student Division Region 7 Negotiation Competition, 2013
- Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy & Civic Engagement Mentor Program, 2012, 2013

Past Member, Hennepin County Bar Association

Co-chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Hennepin County Bar Association, 1995 - 1998

Guest Speaker at:

- Law and Politics
- Reinsurance Association
- Continuing Legal Education Programs

## ACTIVITIES

Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy & Civic Engagement mentor program 2012, 2013

Speaker at the National Association of Hearing Officers 2013

University of St. Thomas law school Moot Court Judge 2013

Judge in the ABA Law Student Division Region 7 Negotiation Competition 2013

Board of Trustee at the Convent of the Visitation School 2011 to 2016

Volunteer/Mentor for Everybody Wins Program 2011 to 2016

Panelist at the 2013 Workers' Compensation Summit

Speaker at the 2015 Workers' Compensation Summit: Electronic Medical Records

University of St. Thomas School of Law Mentor Externship Program 2015 to present

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JAN 13 2017

FILED IN 158 OF 158

# DEBORAH SUNDQUIST

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14 Forestdale Road, Minneapolis MN 55410 | 651.278.4691 | deb.sundquist@state.mn.us

Governor Tim Walz

November 10, 2020

130 State Capitol

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

St. Paul MN 55155

Re: Judge Position on the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Dear Governor,

I have had the honor of serving the people of Minnesota as a judge on the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals since 2015. I submit my application to you seeking appointment for a second term.

Before becoming a judge, I practiced law for 26 years. As an attorney primarily representing Minnesota employers, I litigated every conceivable kind of workers' compensation case. This training gave me understanding of how our court's decisions would impact employers throughout Minnesota. As the daughter of a union mechanic for Northwest Airlines, I learned compassion for those affected by strikes, layoffs, and job loss due to circumstances beyond their control. This taught me to understand how our court's decisions would impact Minnesota workers. My education, some of it spent in Cairo, Egypt, gave me pause and gratitude for our government's ability to work for its citizens, and an understanding of the richness of other cultures. My service as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves taught me how to lead by serving others. Together, my experiences give me the necessary balance to weigh each issue and the knowledge to get it right.

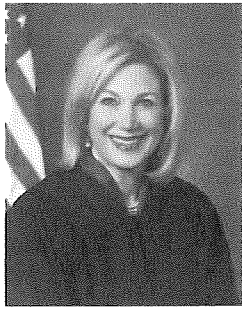
I am energetic, kind, and have a strong work ethic. I will continue to deliver well-reasoned decisions and to contribute to Minnesota's community if selected to serve Minnesota as a judge on the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.

Reference letters will be included under separate cover. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

*Deborah K. Sundquist*

Deborah K. Sundquist



**DEBORAH SUNDQUIST**  
JUDGE  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
COURT OF APPEALS

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Work: 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul MN  
55155

Home: 14 Forestdale Road,  
Minneapolis MN 55410

T 651-278-4691

E [deb.sundquist@state.mn.us](mailto:deb.sundquist@state.mn.us)

**EXPERIENCE**

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS**

MARCH 2015 TO PRESENT.

JUDGE. One of five judges on an executive branch Minnesota appellate court hearing cases and writing decisions impacting Minnesotans under the Workers' Compensation Act.

**AAFEDT, FORDE, GRAY, MONSON & HAGER, P.A.**

JUNE 1999 TO MARCH 2015

ATTORNEY/SHAREHOLDER. Litigator of workers' compensation issues representing Minnesota employers. Management on firm marketing, hiring, and financial committees. Mentored attorneys and law clerks. Trained employers and insurance companies on handling of claims. Lecturer for multiple CLEs. Co-chair selected for Workers' Compensation Institute. Co-chair of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers' Association Workers' Compensation section.

**CIGNA INSURANCE COMPANY**

1994 TO 1999

SENIOR ATTORNEY. In-house counsel litigator for CIGNA insureds. Litigated cases before the Office of Administrative Hearings on Workers' Compensation matters. Argued before the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and Minnesota Supreme Court.

**MEAGHER GEER, PLLP**

1990 TO 1994

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY. Litigated civil and workers' compensation issues representing insurers, employers and employees. Successfully tried cases and argued appellate cases before the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and the Minnesota Supreme Court. Named Associate of the Year.

**U.S. ARMY RESERVES**

1990 TO 1993

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL. Trained at Fort Lee, Virginia and obtained weapons qualification. Represented U.S. in administrative removal proceedings, trained and educated soldiers on legal issues relevant in military service, processed soldiers for overseas mobilization during Operation Desert Storm and the Gulf War.

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DEBORAH SUNDQUIST  
JUDGE  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
COURT OF APPEALS

**SUNDQUIST LAW OFFICE**

1988 TO 1990

**ATTORNEY.** Represented plaintiff and employee clients in civil and workers' compensation litigation. Researched relevant case law, assisted in marketing development for law firm.

**EDUCATION****WILLIAM MITCHELL COLLEGE OF LAW**

JURIS DOCTOR. 1988.

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

BACHELOR OF ARTS. POLITICAL SCIENCE. MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES MINOR. 1985.

**LEADERSHIP**

**CHAIR.** Minnesota Defense Lawyers' Association. WC Section.

**CO-CHAIR.** Workers' Compensation Institute.

**LECTURER AND AUTHOR.** Minnesota CLEs from 2000 to present.

**AUTHOR.** Chapter. Minnesota Workers' Comp. Desk Book.

**SUPER LAWYER.** Named Minnesota Super Lawyer, Top 100 Minnesota Women Lawyers, and Top 40 Workers' Compensation Lawyers.

**JUDGE.** Mock trial competition. Minnesota High School League.

**MENTOR.** St. Paul Schools At-Risk Youth Program.

**MENTOR.** Interns for WCCA.

**MEMBER.** National Association of Women Judges.

**VOLUNTEER.** Everybody Wins! Minnesota. Reading to children.

**LEADER.** Roseville Lutheran Church Confirmation.

**LETTERS OF REFERENCE AVAILABLE**



## SEAN MICHAEL QUINN

### OFFICE

Minnesota Judicial Center  
Suite 405  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
651-539-1205

[sean.m.quinn@state.mn.us](mailto:sean.m.quinn@state.mn.us)

### EXPERIENCE

- ***Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA)*** - St. Paul, Minnesota  
Judge  
2018-Present
- ***Mitchell Hamline Law School*** – St. Paul, Minnesota  
Adjunct Professor (Lawyering: Advice and Persuasion)  
2019-20 School Year
- ***Falsani, Balmer, Peterson & Quinn*** - Duluth, Minnesota  
Partner  
1992-2018
- ***Meshbeshier, Birrell & Dunlap*** - Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Associate  
1991
- ***Foley & Mansfield*** - Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Associate  
1990
- ***Minnesota Court of Appeals*** - St. Paul, Minnesota  
Judicial Law Clerk (Staff Attorneys Office and The Honorable Marianne Short)  
1989-1990

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

- Minnesota (all courts) - 1989
- United States District Court, District of Minnesota - 1990
- United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit – 1991

## **EDUCATION**

- ***University of Minnesota Law School*** - Minneapolis, Minnesota  
J.D. cum laude, 1989  
Honors: Dean's List: all 6 semesters  
Activities: Civil Practice Clinic  
President of Law Forum
- ***Carnegie Mellon University*** - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
B.S. in Applied History, 1986  
Minor: Architecture  
Internship: Historian/Researcher - Pittsburgh Brewing Company  
Wrote 125-year Anniversary historical overview of brewery.

## **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONS** (based on peer review, not on paying a fee)

- **“Volunteer Lawyer of the Year”** (Volunteer Attorney Program)  
2010
- **“Volunteer Law Firm of the Year”** (VAP) – obviously my entire firm was recognized.  
2006; 2007; 2011; 2013
- **“North Star Lawyer”** (Minnesota State Bar Association)  
2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017
- **“Super Lawyer”** (Super Lawyers)  
2005; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018
- **“Rising Star”** (Super Lawyers)  
2001; 2002

- **BV Rating (Martindale Hubbell)**  
1998-2018
- **Best Lawyers in America**  
2017

## **VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICE - PROFESSIONAL**

- **Lawyers in the Classroom (Humboldt High School – 2019)**
- **Volunteer Attorney Program (Duluth)**
  - Chair: Board of Directors (2012-2017).
  - Regular participant in VAP (1994-2018).
  - “Ask an Attorney” (2012-18)
- **Community Education (Duluth; Forest Lake – 2008-18)**
- **“Lawyers on the Line” (WDSE-TV – 1998-2018)**
- **Homeless Connect (Duluth - 2012)**
- **University of Minnesota – Duluth (Mock Trial Team Attorney Coach 1994-2002)**
- **Mediator/Arbitrator (American Arbitration Association - No-Fault Automobile Insurance Arbitration Panel – 1998-2018)**
- **Seminar Author/Speaker/Lecturer (CLEs)**
  - 2024 *Hennepin County Bar Association: Judicial Perspectives – Insights for New Lawyers* (Panel conversation offering career advice and insights to new lawyers)
  - 2022 *West Metro CLE: Workers’ Compensation in Minnesota - From the Bench* (A WC trial judge and appellate judge explain the process of a WC claim)
  - 2021 *Minnesota CLE: Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Deskbook* (Appellate Review at the WCCA)
  - 2020 *MAJ: Workers’ Compensation* (A View from the WCCA’s Newest Member)

- 2018 *Minnesota CLE: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute* (Social Security 101 – A Primer for the Workers' Compensation Lawyer)
- 2018 *MAJ: Playing Well with Others: Coordinating, Protecting, and Maximizing Your Client's Benefits and Recoveries* (WC/SSI/SSDI)
- 2016 *MAJ: Short Shot* (Social Security 101 – A Primer for the Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation Lawyer)
- 2016 *MAJ: 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention* (Workers' Compensation 101 – A Primer for the Personal Injury Lawyer)
- 2015 *MAJ: 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Meeting (Planes, Trains and Automobiles [and Boats])* (Anticipating [and Preventing] Problems with Foundation and Admissibility of Non-Medical Expert Opinions)
- 2014 *Volunteer Attorney Program: Second Annual NE Minnesota Pro Bono Social and Panel* (Moderator of panel of 5 speakers)
- 2014 *Minnesota CLE: The Wearable Personal Health and Fitness Device Boom & What It Means in the Workers' Compensation Context* (I spoke with a fellow WC lawyer and a Medical Doctor)
- 2013 *Volunteer Attorney Program: NE Minnesota Pro Bono Social and Panel* (Moderator of panel of 4 speakers)
- 2013 *MAJ: The New Minnesota Workers' Compensation Laws* (I spoke on all the issues with 2 fellow panelists)
- 2013 *Minnesota CLE: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute* (Landmines in Drafting Stipulations for Settlement)
- 2012 *Minnesota CLE: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Deskbook* (Permanent Total Disability)
- 2012 *Minnesota CLE: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute* (Bothersome Medical Treatment Parameters Questions – and Their Answers)
- 2011 *Disability Rights: SSA Disability Hearings* (Application and Appeals Process; Practice Tips for Representing Clients at SSA Hearings)
- 2008 *Minnesota CLE: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Deskbook* (Finding and Using Background Information and Criminal Records – How to Help Rather Than Hurt Your Case)
- 2008 *MARP/IARP: Annual Summer Conference* (Bridging The Gap: Practical Litigation Information for the Rehabilitation Provider)
- 2007 *Minnesota CLE: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Deskbook* (Temporary Partial Disability Benefits)
- 2007 *Minnesota CLE: Workers' Compensation Institute* (Medical Treatment Parameters – Do They Even Matter?)

- 2007 *MTLA*: Workers' Compensation (Meeting the Permanent Partial Disability Threshold in Permanent Total Disability Cases)
- 2006 *MTLA*: Workers' Compensation (Idiopathic Injury Cases)
- 2004 *Minnesota CLE*: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute (Wage Quiz Show - The Tough Cases)
- 2004 *MTLA*: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Meeting (Summary of Third-Party Workers' Compensation Subrogation)
- 2003 *Minnesota CLE*: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute (104 Weeks Have Run - Now What?)
- 2003 *MTLA*: Workers' Compensation (Case Law Update)
- 2002 *Minnesota CLE*: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute (The 10 Toughest Permanency Rating Questions – and Their Answers)
- 2002 *Lorman*: Selected Topics in Minnesota Workers' Compensation (Practice and Procedure) & (Permanent Total Claims)
- 2002 *Lorman*: Preparing for the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Hearing: Practical Tips and Strategies (Workers' Compensation Procedures – Start to Finish)
- 2001 *Minnesota CLE*: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Deskbook (Temporary Partial Disability Benefits)
- 2001 *Lorman*: Selected Topics in Minnesota Workers' Compensation (Practice and Procedure) & (Permanent Total Claims)
- 2001 *Arthritis Support Group*: Social Security Seminar (Social Security Disability Benefits)
- 2000 *Minnesota CLE*: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute (Emerging Issues in Permanent Partial Disability)
- 2000 *Minnesota CLE*: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Deskbook (Case Law Update)
- 2000 *MILE*: Workers' Compensation (Subrogation)
- 2000 *Lorman*: Selected Topics in Minnesota Workers' Compensation (Permanent Total and Social Security Disability Issues)
- 1999 *MTLA*: Workers' Compensation (Coordination of Benefits)
- 1999 *MILE*: Workers' Compensation (Intervention and Coordination of Benefits)
- 1998 *Teamsters*: Basic Steward Training (One Attorney's Advice to Business Agents re: Workers' Compensation)
- 1998 *Minnesota CLE*: Minnesota Workers' Compensation Institute (Fun, Falls, and Automobiles)
- 1998 *HalfMoon LLC*: Discovery Skills for Paralegals (Practical Tips for Drafting and Responding to Discovery)

- **Seminar Author/Speaker/Lecturer (Firm Seminar)**

- 2018 *FBPQ*: Workers' Compensation (Panel: Employee Pitfalls – Don't Fall Into the Tiger Trap) (How Come I Am 31% Disabled, But Really only 11% Disabled, And Thus Not Disabled At All?) & (Panel: Restriction and Light Duty Return To Work)
- 2016 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Moderator of Panel: The Plant Closed. Now What?) & (SS, LTD, Pensions, and Other Non-WC Benefits for the Long-Term Disabled People)
- 2014 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (2013 New Legislation) & (Occupational Diseases including Hearing Loss)
- 2013 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Chronic System Problems and Potential Legislative Solutions) & (Social Security Disability)
- 2011 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Idiopathic Injuries: Where is my Idio? And how did I injure it?) & (3 ways to get SS Disability Benefits)
- 2010 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Coordination of Benefits)
- 2009 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Gillette Injuries) (Case Evaluations) & (SS, PT, PERA, LTD and other permanent benefits)
- 2008 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (The Social Security Backlog)
- 2007 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Idiopathic Injuries) & (What is Included in Wage?) & (Retirement Defense)
- 2006 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Permanent Partial Disability Claims for Unscheduled Injuries - Weber Injuries)
- 2004 *FBPQB*: Workers' Compensation (Permanent Total Disability and Social Security) & (Rehabilitation Panel)
- 2002 *FBPQ*: Workers' Compensation (Workers' Compensation Procedures)
- 2001 *FBPQ*: Workers' Compensation (Social Security and Workers' Compensation)
- 1999 *FBBP*: Workers' Compensation (No-Fault Claims) & (When is there Workers' Compensation Coverage for Injury)
- 1998 *FBBP*: Workers' Compensation – Workers' Rights Under Siege (Tips, Options, and Checklist Regarding Payment of Medical and Chiropractic Bills)
- 1997 *FBBP*: Workers' Compensation (Why My Uncle Settled His Case for Twice What I Got – Thank the Legislature for the 1992 and 1995 Cuts)
- 1996 *FBBP*: Workers' Compensation Rights and Remedies in the Post-1995 Era (Social Security Disability)

## **VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICE – NON-PROFESSIONAL**

- **Laura Jeffrey Academy – Board Member (2020-2023)**
  - Treasurer 2021-2023
- **Free Mom Hugs**
  - 2018 – present
- **Duluth East Recreational Soccer**
  - 2009-10: Head Coach (Girls)
  - 2008: Assistant Coach (Boys)
- **Chester Park Recreational Soccer**
  - 2007-08: Co-Head Coach (Girls)
  - 2004-06: Head Coach (Boys)
  - 2003: Assistant Coach (Boys; Co-ed)
  - 1999-2002: Head Coach (Boys; Co-ed)
- **Central Little League**
  - 2003-04; 2007: Assistant Manager (Boys; Co-ed)
  - 1999-2000; 2002: Manager (Boys; Co-ed)
- **Congdon Park Softball**
  - 2004-06: Manager (Girls; Co-ed)
- **Adopt-A-Highway**
  - 2006-12

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS – CURRENT**

- **Minnesota State Bar Association**
  - Appellate Practice Section
  - Civil Litigation Section
  - District 1 (Dakota County)
  - District 2 (Ramsey County)
  - District 11 (Greater Duluth)
  - SOLACE (Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel—All Concern Encouraged)

- **Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society**
- **American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota**

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS - PAST**

- **Minnesota Association for Justice (MAJ)**
  - Treasurer (2017-18)
  - Executive Committee (2017-18)
  - Board of Governors (2011-2018)
  - Co-Chair: Workers' Compensation Committee (2005-2018)
  - Member: Amicus Curiae Committee (2000-2018)
  - Member: Membership Committee
- **11<sup>th</sup> District Bar Association (Greater Duluth Area)**
  - Chair: Fee Arbitration Committee (2009-2016)
  - Member: Ethics Committee (2007-2013)
- **Duluth Trial Lawyers Association**
  - President: 2005-2011
- **National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives**



**THOMAS J. CHRISTENSON**  
Judge  
Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals  
50 Groveland Terrace, C-105  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403  
Telephone No.: (612) 704-4580  
Email: thomas.j.christenson@gmail.com

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## **SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Workers' Compensation**

- Participated in more than 150 workers' compensation hearings, Administrative Conferences, and mediations.
- Prepared briefs and attended oral argument before the Minnesota Supreme Court and Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.

### **Litigation**

- First chaired more than 25 jury and court trials.
- Litigated significant lawsuits in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota.
- Appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of North Dakota while representing North Dakota State University.
- Litigation practice in the areas of automobile liability, premises liability, insurance disputes, and construction defect.

### **Subrogation**

- Achieved a recovery in excess of one million dollars in a workers' compensation subrogation matter.

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

- Successful completion of William Mitchell College of Law Center for Conflict Management/Americord's "Mediation Skills for Business & Professional People."
- Participated as an arbitrator in more than 160 no fault matters.
- Lecturer for the American Arbitration Association at Continuing Legal Education seminars relating to Alternative Dispute Resolution.

## **WORK HISTORY**

### **Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA)**

**April 2022-Present**

Judge appointed to the WCCA; an independent agency of the executive branch created by Chapter 175A of the Minnesota Statutes. I am responsible for reviewing workers' compensation cases decided by the compensation judges of the Office of Administrative Hearings. As a judge, I review the evidentiary record created at the initial hearing, preside over oral arguments, conduct legal research, decide the legal and factual issues appealed by the parties, and issue written orders and decisions. The decisions are written in a clear and concise manner to inform the parties and the public of the bases for the WCCA's decisions and to create a body of law interpreting and applying Minnesota's workers' compensation statute and laws.

**Quinlivan & Hughes P.A.****St. Cloud/Rochester****1999-March 2022**

Shareholder with a litigation practice in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin in the areas of workers' compensation, insurance disputes, personal injury, and construction defect.

**Thomas J. Christenson Law Office****Plymouth****1998**

Workers' compensation, personal injury, and ADR practice. Use of arbitration and mediation to assist disputants reach satisfactory resolutions respectfully, without litigation, to the mutual satisfaction of all involved parties.

**CNA Insurance Companies****Minneapolis****1992-1998**

Director and managing trial attorney responsible for directing work in the Minneapolis CNA Staff Counsel Office. Accountable for oversight of all files in the office and personal file load of between 70 and 100 cases. Managed all aspects of the operation of the office such as preparing performance expectations and reviews; hiring; installation of equipment and software; training of staff; budgeting and recovery of expenses in excess of 1.5 million dollars per year; and ensuring all company policies and procedures are met.

**Arndt & Benton, P.A.****Minneapolis****1990-1992**

Attorney assigned to litigated files in the areas of workers' compensation, negligence, environmental litigation (asbestos), product liability, construction defect and automobile liability from inception to the resolution through mediation, arbitration, or trial. File load assigned including heavy exposure cases ranged from 50 to 80 workers' compensation and tort cases and upwards of 250 asbestos matters,

**Gunhus, Grinnell, Klinger, Swenson and Guy****Moorhead****1986-1989**

Attorney responsible for handling a wide variety of lawsuits. This included workers' compensation, property damage, commercial disputes, motor vehicle, product liability, and premises liability matters. Participated in jury and court trials throughout Minnesota and North Dakota.

**Robins, Zelle, Larson and Kaplan****St. Paul****1981-1985**

Paralegal and attorney assigned to handle and assist on litigation cases in the areas of product liability, mass tort (Dalkon Shield and CU7), premises liability, and automobile negligence. Drafted briefs, discovery requests and responses, participated in investigation, review/organization of hundreds of thousands of documents and tried first jury trial.

**EDUCATION**

- Juris Doctor, William Mitchell College of Law, 1981.
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Minnesota, 1977. Member Phi Beta Kappa
- Additional coursework in law office management, employee development, interpersonal relationships, computer training, cost management and negotiation.

**BAR ADMISSIONS**

State: Minnesota, 1981; North Dakota, 1987; Wisconsin, 1989.

Federal: United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, 1985; Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1985; United States District Court of North Dakota, 1987; United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, 1989; and United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, 1991.

**MEMBER**

Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association, and Ramsey County Bar Association.

**AWARDS & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Received William Mitchell Alumni Association Certificate of Merit.
- Head coach of baseball, soccer, mock trial, Odyssey of the Mind, and Destination Imagination teams.
- Appointed to Greater Minnesota panel of mediators for Minnesota Department of Human Rights.
- Past President of Groveland Terrace Homeowners Association.

**Kathryn Hipp Carlson**  
2222 Tamarack Dr. Medina, MN 55356  
[kathryn.h.carlson@state.mn.us](mailto:kathryn.h.carlson@state.mn.us) 612.941.4184

**Judge of the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals**

**Employment**

**Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals**

October 2023 - present

Judge

- Review appellate briefs, hearing exhibits and transcripts, attend oral argument, collaborate with judges, research legal topics
- Write appellate decisions in conformity with the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act

**Hipp Carlson Law, PLLC**

January 1997 – September 2023

Attorney

- Represent injured workers and employers in all aspects of workers' compensation litigation
- Advise clients regarding status of the law, risks of litigation, and settlement options
- Advocate for clients at the Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Administrative hearings, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and Minnesota Supreme Court
- Solicit narrative opinions from experts
- Serve as a mediator in workers' compensation matters
- Frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars on workers' compensation topics

**Gilmore, Aafedt, Forde, Anderson & Gray**

1992 - 1996

Attorney

- Represented the interest of employers and insurers in all aspects of the defense of workers' compensation claims
- Deposed witnesses and claimants
- Advocated for clients at administrative hearings and at settlement, pretrial, and discontinuance conferences
- Communicated with and advised clients regarding exposure, analysis and litigation practicalities
- Drafted appellate briefs and presented oral arguments at the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

**Education**

**University of Minnesota Law School**

J. D., cum laude 1993

**University of Minnesota**

B. A., Political Science 1990

**Professional Associations**

Hennepin County Bar Association – Co-chair of the Workers' Compensation Section Minnesota Bar Association

**Community Involvement**

Board of Directors – Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS) 1999 - present