



MINNESOTA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD



Stephen D. Swanson was first appointed to fill a vacancy in the Board in July of 2017 by Governor Dayton. Mr. Swanson was reappointed in August of 2020 by Governor Walz for a term ending in January of 2024. In July of 2024 Governor Walz reappointed Mr. Swanson for a term ending in January of 2028. He occupies an unrestricted Board position and supports the DFL party. Mr. Swanson was the Chair of the Board during 2021.

Mr. Swanson is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Law, and holds a Master of Laws degree from New York University. Following a career as an attorney with Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Inc., Mr. Swanson served as a Hennepin County District Court Judge from July, 1989, to February, 2007, and as a Senior Judge from January, 2009, to April, 2014. Most recently, he served as a temporary administrative law judge with the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings from May, 2014, to May, 2017. Mr. Swanson has served as an international judge on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and worked in USAID-sponsored rule of law projects in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Lebanon. Mr. Swanson is presently an arbitrator for the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services on the Peace Officer Grievance Arbitration Roster.



STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Stephen Swanson

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

Campaign Finance Board

Effective: July 3, 2024

Expires: January 3, 2028

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.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 June 28, 2024.



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 June 28, 2024
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon

Application for the position Member Application Date: 11/6/2023 7:49:14 AM

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: Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Position: Member

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Stephen Swanson

Phone:

County: Hennepin

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Mn House District: 60B

US House District: 5

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document
Resume	application/msword

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

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Part V: Signature

Signature: Stephen D. Swanson

Date: 11/6/2023 7:49:14 AM

November 6, 2023

Timothy James Walz
Governor, State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

Please accept my application to continue to serve on the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board as a member supporting the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. You appointed me to the Board, effective July 19, 2021. My appointment expires January 1, 2024. I am a retired Hennepin County District Court Judge. I have submitted my curriculum vitae along with my application.

During my tenure on the Board, I have been privileged to work with the other members of the Board, and with the Board's Executive Director, Jeff Sigurdson, and his dedicated, skilled, and professional staff. I have endeavored to use my judicial skills to assist the Board in the resolution of the cases that have come before it. I have also worked closely with the other members of the Board and Mr. Sigurdson in the consideration of public policy initiatives and the drafting of proposed legislation and administrative rules.

In addition to my years of service as a district court judge, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to live in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Lebanon, through employment with United States Department of Justice and United States Agency for International Development rule-of-law projects. I have also served as an international judge on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. My experience overseas has heightened my respect and appreciation for the democratic institutions and traditions that we enjoy in the United States and the State of Minnesota. Foremost among those democratic traditions is the tradition of open, free, and honest elections.

Minnesota's commitment to preserve that tradition is embodied, in significant part, in the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure law (Chapter 10A), which comprehensively governs campaign practices. The law also embraces the important public policy of making transparent to the voters potential conflicts of interest on the part of public officials by requiring public financial disclosure by those officials. It also requires those who seek to influence the legislative process as paid lobbyists to publicly disclose the identity of the individuals and organizations they represent, the issues they pursue, and the funds they expend on lobbying activities, including gifts to public officials. These public disclosures are essential to an open and honest electoral process.

Achievement of these important goals is dependent upon a Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board composed of members who are dedicated to the fair and effective implementation of the law without regard to overriding partisan interests. In my tenure on the Board, I have found dedication to this principle on the part of all the members of the Board. I have been honored to serve on the Board and wish to continue to do so. If appointed, I shall work diligently in a constructive way with the other Board members and the Executive Director and staff of the Board to fairly and effectively implement the law.

Thank you for your consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

s/Stephen D. Swanson
100 2nd ST SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

STEPHEN D. SWANSON

100 2nd St. S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-220-8783 (cell)
sdswansonlaw@gmail.com

November 2023

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

November 3, 2023 – present: Volunteer attorney, Volunteer Lawyers Network, Ltd., Minneapolis, Minnesota (representing recent Afghan arrivals applying for permanent residency status).

October 23, 2020 – present: Arbitrator, Peace Officer Grievance Arbitration Roster, Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services.

October 14, 2021 – present: International Institute of Minnesota (Volunteer: Assistant Instructor, Beginning English Class).

September 26, 2018 – July 10, 2020: Half-time housing staff attorney, Volunteer Lawyers Network, Ltd., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

June 8, 2016 – March 31, 2019: Short-Term Technical Assistance Consultant, Judicial Training Advisor, Assistance for the Development of Afghan Legal Access and Transparency, Kabul, Afghanistan, Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. (lived in the United States and travelled to Kabul periodically).

September 2017 – September 2023: The Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, Minnesota (volunteer attorney in asylum cases).

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020; August 5, 2020 – April 23, 2021; and July 19, 2021 – present: Member, Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (gubernatorial appointment).

June 20, 2014 – March 12, 2019, and August 13, 2020 – present: Conflict Resolution Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (volunteer hearing officer in Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher termination appeals).

May 19, 2014 – May 10, 2017: Temporary Administrative Law Judge, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (state professional services contract).

On an assigned-case basis, I conducted contested case administrative hearings for Minnesota State Departments and other government entities, and prepared findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommended disposition for review by the agency head.

January 2009 – April 7, 2014: Senior Judge of District Court, Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County, Minnesota (sitting by appointment of the Minnesota Supreme Court as a senior judge on a per diem basis).

May 25, 2011 – November 16, 2012: Judicial Training Advisor, USAID Effective Rule of Law Program, Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc., Pristina, Kosovo.

I supervised two staff persons in the judicial training component of the Program and several short-term technical assistance advisors, and reported directly to the chief of party (COP).

January 8 – February 8, 2011 (11 days): Expert for Improving Analytical Skills and Writing Strategic Policy Analyses, Judicial Sector Development Project II, East West Management Institute, Inc., Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I prepared a detailed proposed public policy analysis protocol and conducted a public policy analysis workshop over one- and one-half days for members and supporting staff of the Forum for Joint Policy, a forum composed of high level representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

July 30, 2010 – December 4, 2010: International Court Administration and Access to Justice Advisor, Program to Strengthen the Independence of the Judiciary and Citizen Access to Justice in Lebanon, National Center for State Courts, Beirut, Lebanon.

I supervised one staff person in the court administration component of the project through the close out of the project on December 9, 2010, and reported directly to the COP.

March 17 – April 13, 2010: Legal Aid Expert, National Center for State Courts.

In association with the Project to Strengthen the Independence of the Judiciary and Citizen Access to Justice in Lebanon, I spent 21 days in Lebanon developing, in conjunction with the Bar Associations of Beirut and Tripoli, quality enhancement protocols for use by the Associations in the administration of their legal aid programs, conducting an assessment of the need for a legal aid training curriculum, and preparing a proposed legal aid training curriculum for consideration by the Associations for use in their Training Institutes.

January 23 and 24, 2010: Instructor, Judicial Seminar on Case Law Jurisprudence in Armenia, Tsakhkadzor, Republic of Armenia, sponsored by the Office of Overseas Prosecution, Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT), United States Department of Justice.

With two other instructors, I participated as an instructor in a seminar for 30 Cassation, Appellate, and first instance criminal court judges focused on the preparation of verdicts and the development of binding case law by the Court of Cassation.

August 29 – September 19, and November 11, 2009: Legal Aid Representation and Training Expert, National Center for State Courts.

In association with the Project to Strengthen the Independence of the Judiciary and Citizen Access to Justice in Lebanon, I spent 18 days in Lebanon performing an assessment of the civil and criminal legal aid programs administered separately by the Bar Associations of Beirut and Tripoli, and prepared a report summarizing the results of the assessment, setting forth detailed findings, and making recommendations for specific actions to be taken by the Associations to improve the programs.

For Beirut Bar Association representatives participating in an NCSC study tour to the United States, I prepared a report summarizing the criminal and civil legal aid programs in Minnesota; presented the report to the study tour delegation at the offices of the NCSC on 11 November 2009; and participated with NCSC staff and the delegation in a workshop devoted to the development of an action plan for the adoption of recommendations made in the September report

February 2007 – December 2008: Senior Judicial Advisor, Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP), Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc., Kabul, Afghanistan.

I supervised five staff persons in the judicial training component of the Project, and reported directly to the COP.

February – April 2006: Judicial Consultant, International Center for Transitional Justice, United States.

In the role of a legal consultant to the Greensboro (North Carolina) Truth and Reconciliation Commission, performed research and prepared a written legal analysis of First Amendment issues presented by the events in Greensboro in November 1971.

November 8, 2004 – August 19, 2005: International Judge, Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Office of the High Representative, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While on a leave of absence from my position as a state district court judge, I served on the Special Panel for Organized Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption, Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to a Decision of Lord Paddy Ashdown, former High Representative, dated November 5, 2004.

I sat as a presiding judge and as a member of several three-judge panels in preliminary and trial proceedings in high-profile money laundering, organized crime, and official corruption cases.

October 5 – 7, 2004: Judicial Consultant, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I conducted training for OSCE legal advisors and trial monitors on the Criminal Procedure Code and attended a training session regarding the substantive law and trial monitoring techniques of war crimes prosecutions.

January 16, 2004 – April 30, 2004: Judicial Consultant, U.S. Department of Justice OPDAT Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Program, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While on a leave of absence from my position as a state district court judge, I prepared and taught five four-day training sessions for newly-appointed judges on the implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code, and also attended several conferences and meetings of judges and prosecutors in all parts of the country.

July 7, 1989 – February 2, 2007: Judge of District Court, Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County, State of Minnesota (state court of general jurisdiction).

Appointed by Governor Perpich, effective July 1989; elected to three six-year terms, effective January 1, 1991, 1997, and 2003.

Presided over hundreds of criminal jury and court trials, calendars, bail hearings, pleas, sentencing hearings, and probation revocations.

Served two terms in Fourth Judicial District Family Court (prepared findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders for judgment, and judgment and decrees following motion hearings and trials without a jury).

Managed several blocks of civil cases (held settlement conferences; presided over court and jury trials, and motion hearings; and prepared hundreds of orders and memorandums).

Served three terms as an elected member of Fourth Judicial District Judges Executive Committee (court's governing body).

Appointed Chair, Minnesota Supreme Court Guardian Ad Litem Task Force (1995-96) (chaired meetings, held public hearings, and drafted Supreme Court rule regarding the use of guardians ad litem in family and juvenile court proceedings).

Appointed Presiding Judge of Fourth Judicial District Criminal Division by Chief Judge (August 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006), with general responsibility for the administration of the Division, including voting membership on the Executive Committee.

In 2006, served as one of eight judges assigned a block of serious felony cases (approximately 300 cases per year per judge), to be handled following the first appearance through trial.

October 1988 – May 1989: Administrative Law Judge, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings, State of Minnesota.

Presided over contested-case and rule-making hearings for state agencies and local units of government, and prepared detailed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders.

September 1971 – September 1988: Attorney, Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Inc. (MMLA), Minneapolis, Minnesota.

July 1986 to September 1988: Managing Attorney, Southside Office, Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis (division of MMLA). Managed operations of neighborhood law office, representing clients, and supervising several staff attorneys, paralegals, and support staff.

January 1978 to July 1986: Managing Attorney, MMLA Legal Services Advocacy Project. Represented clients full time before the Minnesota Legislature and state administrative agencies, lobbying and drafting legislative bills and amendments and proposed administrative rules.

September 1971 to January 1978: Staff attorney, Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. Represented low-income clients in civil cases and administrative hearings.

Arbitrator, Fourth Judicial District Non-Binding Arbitration Program (1987). Conducted mediation and arbitration sessions in cases referred from district court.

September 1969 – June 1971: Volunteers In Service To America, Project On Urban Affairs and Poverty Law, New York University School of Law, New York, New York.

Worked with community organizations in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn on public education and employment issues while attending New York University part time.

EDUCATION: LL.M. 1971, New York University School of Law, New York, New York
J.D. 1969, University of Cincinnati College of Law, Cincinnati, Ohio
B.A. 1966, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

LANGUAGES: English (fluent); Spanish (intermediate)

GEOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Lebanon, and the United States

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

190 Centennial Bldg, 658 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55155-1603

<https://cfb.mn.gov/>



2025 Annual statement of economic interest

Public Official Information

Stephen D. Swanson

100 2nd ST SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

Phone: 612-220-8783

Email: sdswansonlaw@gmail.com

Occupation: Peace Officer Grievance Arbitrator;

Employer Name: MBO Partners

Business Address: 20405 Exchange Street
Suite 301

Ashburn VA 20147

Agency Information

Agency: Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Position: Member

Period Covered

The period covered by this statement is all time served as a public official in 2025.

Certification

I certify that the information contained in this statement is complete, true, and correct.

Stephen D. Swanson - submitted electronically on 1/15/2026

Stephen D. Swanson

Sources of Compensation

Report the name of any associated business from which you or your spouse received compensation for labor or personal services in excess of \$250 in any month during the reporting period.

.....Check each applicable category.....

Name of Source Director Officer Owner Member Partner Employer Employee
MBO Partners [] [] [] [] [] [] [x]

Compensation from lobbyist, lobbyist principal, or interested person, for services as an independent contractor or consultant

None reported

Business ownership

None reported

Independent contracting

None reported

Securities

Report all businesses whose securities are valued at more than \$10,000 that you or your spouse individually or jointly held at any time during the reporting period. DO NOT include number of shares or value of shares. For stocks, list the name of the stock - do not list the symbol.

Name of Securities Name of Securities
Absolute Convertible Arbitrage INSTL AKRE Focus ETF
American Balanced Fund Inc. Class 529 American FDS US GOVT MMKT FUND CL 529
AMR New World Fund CL F2 AMR Blue Chip Income and Growth
AMR Bond AMR Global Growth
AMR Growth and Income AMR International
Artisan Focus Fund International Artisan Global Unconstrained Advisor
Capital Income Builder Inc. Class 529 Capital World GRTH & INCM 529-A
Dodge & Cox Stock 1 Fidelity Advisor Equity Growth 1
Franklin Income Security Fund Franklin Mutual International Value Z
Health Care Select Sector SPDR Fund JNL/American New World
JNL/MCM Oil & Gas Sector JNL/Mellon CAP MGT S&P 400 MID CAP IND
JNL/Mellon Capital MGMT International Index JNL/Mellon Capital MGMT S&P 500 Index
JNL/Vanguard U.S. Stock Market Index JP Morgan Large Cap Growth 1
MFS International Equity 1 MFS Research Bond
Minnesota Health Savings Account Plan PIMCO Income Instl.
Putnam Large Cap Value Y Seafarer Overseas GR and Income INSTL
Smead Value 11 The Bond Fund of America Class 529-A
The Growth Fund of America Inc. Class 529-A The Investment Company of America
Vanguard FTSE Developed Markets ETF Vanguard S&P 500 ETF

Real Property

None reported [] Waiver granted for disclosure of secondary residence

Governement agency interests

None reported

Honoraria

None reported

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing Interests

None reported