

Application for the position Member

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Position: Member

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: George William Soule

Phone: (612) 251-5518

County: Hennepin

Mn House District: 61B

US House District: 5

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: True

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
No additional documents found.	

Veteran: No Answer

Part V: Signature

Signature: George W. Soule

Date: 2/15/2021 2:08:59 PM

4241 E. Lake Harriet Pkwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55409

February 15, 2021

Governor Tim Walz
Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dear Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan:

I am writing in application for appointment to the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. I believe that I am qualified to serve on the Board and would be a fair and effective Board member.

I submit my resume and offer the following information in support of my application.

- I have been involved in politics, campaigns and elections in Minnesota for over 50 years. As a 17-year old high school student in Moorhead, I was elected a Precinct Delegate at my first precinct caucus. When I attended Moorhead State University, my Republican committee colleagues selected me to serve as Chair of the Clay County Republican Party. I was also elected an Alternate Delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention. When I returned to Minnesota from law school in 1979, I served as Minnesota Coordinator of Congressman John Anderson's campaign for President. Since then, I have worked on countless campaigns for city, county, congressional, state and national candidates.
- In recent years, much of my political work has been to assist Minnesota judges running to retain their seats in elections. I have chaired several campaigns for Supreme Court justices. In each election year since 2004, I have presented a class to judges and their supporters on how to run a judicial campaign. Part of this class focuses on campaign finance laws and reporting. While I am not an expert on this topic, I have a good working knowledge of Minnesota's campaign finance laws.
- I am experienced in the role of campaign treasurers. I served as Treasurer in Tammy Lee's campaign for 5th District Congress (2006) and for City Council Member Linea Palmisano, 13th Ward, Minneapolis (2014-2021). While these campaigns were not regulated by the Board, I became familiar with screening contributions and reporting requirements.
- As a lawyer, I have represented candidates and political party units in campaign and election matters.
- As a proud Member of the White Earth Nation, I have served as Judge of the Tribal Court of Appeals since 2012. I also serve on the appellate courts for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake

Superior Chippewa, Prairie Island Indian Community, and Lower Sioux Indian Community. When a case is appealed, I confer with my fellow judges and we work together to decide the appeal according to the Tribe's laws. I have also worked collegially with board colleagues in many other contexts.

Politically, I would describe myself as an independent. I have not been a public official, held any political party office, or been elected to public office for which party designation is required in the last three years (and longer).

I have great respect for political candidates and public servants and the people who work on or support their campaigns. I believe strongly in First Amendment freedoms and a vigorous and healthy exchange of ideas in political campaigns and policymaking. And my entire career has been based on strong support for the rule of law.

I believe that I could be fair to all Minnesotans – regardless of party, philosophy, or background. In my decision-making duties, I would listen respectfully to the parties' presentations, keep an open mind in discussing the matters with Board staff and members, and decide the issues fairly and impartially according to the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,



George W. Soule

February 2021

GEORGE W. SOULE

Office Address:

Soule & Stull LLC
Eight West 43rd Street, Suite 200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

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 -

GRAY, PLANT, MOOTY, MOOTY & BENNETT, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Associate, Litigation Department, 1979-1985

Admitted to practice before Minnesota courts, 1979, Wisconsin courts, 1985, United States
District Court Minnesota 1980

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

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

SELECTED WRITINGS (CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS)

- Campaign Handbook for Minnesota Judicial Elections, 1st through 9th Eds., 2004-2020
- “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
- “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)
- “Protecting an Independent and Qualified Judiciary,” Bench & Bar of Minnesota, April 2005
- “Judicial Appointments in the Ventura Administration,” The Hennepin Lawyer, November 1999

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS)

- “Constitutional Law: Voting and Election Law” (panel discussion), Minnesota CLE, December 11, 2020
- “Preparing for Your Judicial Election Campaign,” 2004 - 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
- “Analyzing Voter Redistricting Amid Claims of Racial Gerrymandering,” The U.S. Supreme Court’s Big New Decisions, Minnesota CLE, Minneapolis, August 9, 2017
- “Judicial Appointments and Elections in Minnesota,” Mitchell Hamline Law School Judicial Externship Class, St. Paul, October 25, 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
- “Judicial Campaign Conduct and Activities” (with Susan Holden), Judicial Campaign Law, Minnesota CLE, St. Paul, June 16, 2014
- "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
- “Judicial Elections in Minnesota,” Minnesota Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections, St. Paul, March 2, 2011
- “Judicial Campaign Conduct and Activities,” Judicial Campaign Law and Ethics, Minnesota CLE, St. Paul, July 30, 2008
- “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
- “Partisan Judicial Elections: A Threat to Judicial Independence in Minnesota,” Minnesota Commission for the Preservation of an Impartial Judiciary, Minneapolis, March 27, 2006
- “The Future of Minnesota Judicial Elections” (panelist), Partisan Endorsements and an Independent Judiciary, University of St. Thomas Law School, Minneapolis, February 23, 2006

- “Quest for the Gavel – How Minnesota Selects Judges” (program chair), Minnesota State Bar Association and minority bar associations, Minneapolis, June 27, 2005
- “2004 Judicial Elections in Minnesota,” Minnesota District Judges Association Fall Conference, Brainerd, Minnesota, September 9, 2004
- “Judicial Elections in Minnesota after *Republican Party v. White*,” Minnesota District Judges Association Fall Conference, Brainerd, Minnesota, September 5, 2002
- “Partisanship in Judicial Elections,” Election Law, Minnesota Institute of Legal Education, Bloomington, Minnesota, May 1, 1998

POLITICAL

Minnesota Supreme Court Campaigns

- Justice Paul Thissen, 2020
- Justice Anne McKeig, 2018 (Co-Chair)
- Justice Margaret Chutich, 2018
- Justice Natalie Hudson, 2016
- Justice Barry Anderson, 2012
- Justice David Stras, 2012
- Justice Christopher Dietzen, 2010 (Co-Chair)
- Justice Helen Meyer, 2004, 2010 (Co-Chair)
- Justice Paul Anderson, 2002, 2008 (Co-Chair)
- Justice Paul Anderson, 1996
- Justice Edward Stringer, 1996
- Chief Justice Sandy Keith, 1992 (Co-Chair)

Other Judicial Campaigns

- Judge Joseph Carter, 2020
- Judge Lucinda Jesson, 2018
- Judge Christopher Dietzen, 2006 (Co-Chair)
- Judge James Moore, 2014
- Judge Lloyd Zimmerman, 2002

Federal

- Tammy Lee for Congress, 2006 (Campaign Treasurer)
- Senator Dave Durenberger, 1982, 1988
- John Anderson for President, 1979-1980 (Minnesota Coordinator)

Minnesota

- Tim Penny for Governor, 2002
- Tom Horner for Governor, 2010
- Doug Kelley for Governor, 1989-1990 (Issues Director)

Minneapolis

- Council Member Linea Palmisano, 2013, 2017 (Campaign Treasurer, 2014-2021)
- Council Member Meg Tuthill, 2009, 2013
- Council Member Lisa McDonald, 1997
- McDonald 2005 Committee, 2005
- McDonald for Minneapolis, 2001

Hennepin County

- Sheriff Rich Stanek, 2010, 2014, 2018
- Tom Heffelfinger for Hennepin County Attorney, 1986

Alternate Delegate, Republican National Convention, 1976

Chairman, Clay County Independent-Republicans, 1975-1976

LEGAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Minnesota State Bar Association

- Member, Judicial Selection Conference Committee, 2001
- Co-Chair, Judicial Elections Task Force, 1997
- Governing Council, Civil Litigation Section, 1989-1999 (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-
- Member, Board of Directors, 2003-2008
- President, 2004-2006
- Treasurer, 2007-2008

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)

- Associate, 2003-
- Minnesota Chapter, Secretary 2011, Treasurer 2012, Vice-President 2013, President 2014, 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

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 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

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

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

Member, Board of Directors, Infinity Project, 2009-2019

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

Member, Minnesota Compensation Council, Minnesota Supreme Court appointee, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001

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

HONORS AND AWARDS

Minnesota Lawyer Icon, 2018

The Best Lawyers in America, 2010-2021

Burton Award for Legal Writing, 2007

Distinguished Alumni Award, Minnesota State University Moorhead, October 2005

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

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

Selected "Super Lawyer," 1998-2021

Professionalism Award, Hennepin County Bar Association, 1997