

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Thomas J. Christenson

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:

JUDGE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS

Effective: April 27, 2022

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.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 February 24, 2022.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

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APR 25 2022

Replacing: The Honorable Gary M. Hall

President of the Senate

Filed February 24, 2022
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon

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THOMAS J. CHRISTENSON

APR 25 2022

ATTORNEY
50 Groveland Terrace, C-105
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
Telephone No.: (320) 333-2517
Email: thomas.j.christenson@gmail.com

President of the Senate

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

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

Directed work in the Minneapolis CNA Staff Counsel Office. Responsible 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.
Associate Attorney

Minneapolis

1990-1992

Assigned and 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
Associate Attorney

1986-1989

Work consisted of 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
Paralegal and Associate Attorney

St. Paul

1981-1985

Handle and assist on litigation matters in the areas of product liability, mass tort (Dalkon Shield and CU-7), 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.

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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.

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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 Association of Justice, Minnesota State Bar Association, Wisconsin State Bar Association, North Dakota State Bar Association, Seventh District Bar Association and Stearns\Benton 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.

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Judicial.Selection@state.mn.us

Ms. Erin Sindberg Porter
Chair of the Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capital
75 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Application of Thomas J. Christenson

Dear Ms. Sindberg Porter:

I am applying for the position of judge on the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals. In my 40 years of practice, I have represented injured employees and employers, and insurers in workers' compensation claims. For the last 22 years, I have been an attorney with Quinlivan & Hughes, PA, in St. Cloud. I have broad legal experience handling workers' compensation, personal injury, and construction defect claims. I also routinely handle cases in Wisconsin and North Dakota. My resume sets out the breadth of my legal experience and community activities.

What my resume does not reveal is my collegiality with opposing counsel, born from my respect for diversity and level-headedness. Over my years of practice, I have developed a reputation for integrity, knowledge of the law, and being even-tempered. These traits and my critical thinking, thorough research, careful analysis, and common sense will help me be an outstanding judge. My depth of experience and comprehensive legal background will be an asset to the W.C.C.A. and makes me an exceptional candidate for the vacancy on the court.

Though I have a Danish surname, my ethnic background is Hispanic, as I was adopted as an infant. My father, a bricklayer, instilled in me that hard work and attention to detail are traits one should bring to work each day. I have demonstrated these attributes as I became the first person in my family to attend and graduate from college and professional school. My practice in outstate Minnesota and the Twin Cities allowed me to meet a diverse and inclusive group of lawyers who taught me the art of advocacy. One of my mentors taught me the importance of listening before speaking, which I believe is an asset all judges should possess. In addition, I have developed a writing style that is understandable, concise, and direct, a strength that will assist me when authoring decisions.

Thank you for reviewing my application, resume, and cover letter. I believe that my letters of recommendation will provide you with further information on my qualifications to become a judge on the W.C.C.A. If you need additional information regarding my application, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting with you and discussing the opportunity to serve the State of Minnesota and its residents in this important and vital position.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Christenson
50 Groveland Terrace, C105
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Cell No. (320)-333-2517
Email: tchristenson@quinlivan.com

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Application for the position Judge Application Date:
11/16/2021 2:21:24 PM

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Workers' Compensation Court Of Appeals
Position: Judge

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Thomas James Christenson
Phone: (320) 333-2517
County: Hennepin
Mn House District: 61A
US House District: 5
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

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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
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Type

File Name

No additional documents found.

Veteran: No Answer

Part V: Signature

Signature: Thomas J. Christenson

Date: 11/16/2021 2:21:24 PM

AGENCY DETAILS
MEMBER DETAILS

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