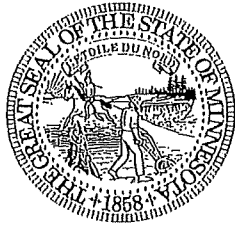


STATE OF MINNESOTA



TIM WALZ
GOVERNOR

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OCT 30 2019

President of the Senate

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Sean M. Quinn

405 Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
County of Ramsey
Congressional District 4

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

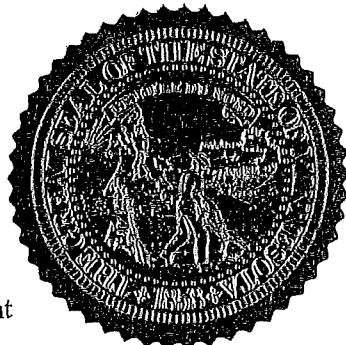
MINNESOTA WORKER'S COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS

Effective: October 28, 2019

Term Expires: January 6, 2025

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, October 28, 2019.



Governor

Secretary of State

Reappointment

MENU



OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE STEVE SIMON

SEARCH



Boards & Commissions

Hello, carl.dennis@state.mn.us ▾

[Sign off](#)

• Required Information

APPLICANT: SEAN QUINN

[EDIT UPLOADS](#)

All information provided to this system is public.

Requests for additional public information about this applicant can be submitted by email to Open Appointments

Address Info

180 Kellogg Blvd. East 1410
St. Paul MN 55101
sean.m.quinn@state.mn.us
(218) 343-9694

County: **Ramsey**
MN House District: **65B**
US House District: **4**

This application is for:

Judge

Workers' Compensation Court Of Appeals

Application Date: **11/16/2018**

Post Date: **11/9/2018**

1st Application Review Date: **11/30/2018**

For Information about application post, review and appointment dates see Minnesota Statutes

ATTACHMENTS

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

Document Type

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Freeform Document Type

Text

SEAN MICHAEL QUINN

OFFICE

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

HOME

180 Kellogg Blvd. East
Apt. 1410
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(cell) 218-343-9694

sean.m.quinn@state.mn.us

EXPERIENCE

- *Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA)* - St. Paul, Minnesota
Judge
2018-Present

One of five judges on the WCCA tasked with reviewing all workers' compensation appeals from the Office of Administrative Hearings. We typically work in panels of 3, although sometimes in an *en banc* panel of 5, reviewing the lower court files, the appellate briefs, participating in oral arguments, and writing the decisions. We have a group of staff attorneys who assist in preparing the files ahead of oral argument, reviewing and editing decisions during the drafting process, and in flyspecking the decisions for citation accuracy. It is a collaborative effort whereby each judge who works on a given appeal has a voice in the final product.

- *Falsani, Balmer, Peterson & Quinn* - Duluth, Minnesota
Partner
1992-2018

Partner in an AV Rated civil litigation law firm. The firm had anywhere from 5 to 8 lawyers at any given time throughout my 26 years with the firm. I started as an associate in 1992. I became partner in 1998. I represented thousands of people in personal injury, workers' compensation, Social Security disability, and long-term disability matters through mediations, arbitrations, jury trials, court trials, and appeals. I had a very full and busy practice with about 200-250 clients with active cases, at any given moment.

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EDUCATION

- **University of Minnesota Law School** - Minneapolis, Minnesota
J.D. cum laude, 1989

Honors: Dean's List: all 6 semesters
A.B.A. Moot Court: Oral Argument Finalist
Research Director
Faegre & Benson Scholarship
Royal A. Stone Scholarship

Activities: Civil Practice Clinic
President of Law Forum
Chair: Law Council Building Committee
Co-chair: Class of 1989 Graduation Committee
Co-chair: Orientation Committee Incoming 1990 Class

- **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.

Activities: Teaching Assistant: Architectural Woodshop
Teaching Assistant: Computer Skills Workshop
Staff Sports Writer for The Tartan
Intramural Sports Governing Board

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONS (based on peer review, not on paid fee)

- **"Volunteer Lawyer of the Year"** (Volunteer Attorney Program)
2010
The Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP) recognizes one lawyer each year for outstanding *pro bono* services provided to the community.
- **"Volunteer Law Firm of the Year"** (VAP) – obviously my entire firm was recognized
2006; 2007; 2011; 2013
VAP recognizes one law firm each year for outstanding *pro bono* services provided to the community.

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➤ “Ask an Attorney” (AAA). This is the triage program for new VAP clients. I volunteered 3-4 times a year to meet with individuals to assess their legal problem and direct the client to resolution, either through their own means or through further long-term representation from a volunteer lawyer.

- **Community Education (Duluth)**

From 2008 through 2018, I taught free classes on Social Security Disability. There were 2-3 classes a year. For a few years, I taught the same course 1-2 per year in Forest Lake. The classes focused on helping people understand the system, rules, regulations, and how to go about proceeding ahead with a claim.

- **“Lawyers on the Line” (WDSE-TV)**

A half-hour call-in show on local public television. I appeared as a panelist numerous times, from 1998 through 2018, on topics of Civil Litigation, Social Security Disability, Workers Compensation, Personal Injury, and Ethics. I also moderated the program several times on just about any legal topic.

- **Homeless Connect**

Volunteer providing free legal advice to homeless individuals.

- **University of Minnesota – Duluth**

Mock Trial Team - Attorney Coach
1994-2002

I coached and served as legal advisor to groups of ~~undergraduates~~ ^{undergraduates}, mostly to prepare them for the various roles as advocates or witnesses in mock trial competitions.

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- **Mediator/Arbitrator**

American Arbitration Association (No-Fault Automobile Insurance Arbitration Panel) 1998-2018.

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

I have spoken at many CLEs on topics of my expertise. The most significant CLE has been the Workers’ Compensation Deskbook, considered by practitioners to be the “bible” of Minnesota workers’ compensation law. I have authored two different chapters of the Deskbook, most recently the chapter on Permanent Total Disability.

- 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*: 4th 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)

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- 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)

COMMUNITY SERVICE – NON-PROFESSIONAL

- **Duluth East Recreational Soccer**
 - 2010: Head Coach U-15 (Girls)
 - 2009: Head Coach U-13 (Girls)
 - 2008: Assistant Coach U-15 (Boys)

- **Chester Park Recreational Soccer**
 - 2008: Co-Head Coach of U-13 (Girls)
 - 2007: Co-Head Coach of U-12 (Girls) – *AYSA Champions*
 - 2006: Head Coach of U-13 (Boys)
 - 2005: Head Coach of U-12 (Boys)
 - 2004: Head Coach of U-12 (Boys)
 - 2003: Assistant Coach of U-10 (Boys); Assistant Coach of U-8 (Co-ed)
 - 2002: Head Coach of U-10 (Boys); Head Coach of U-8 (Co-ed)
 - 2001: Head Coach of U-8 (Co-ed); Head Coach of U-6 (Co-ed)
 - 2000: Head Coach of U-8 (Co-ed); Head Coach of U-6 (Co-ed)
 - 1999: Head Coach of U-6 Team (Co-ed)

- **Central Little League**
 - 2007: Assistant Manager of Seniors (13) (Boys)
 - 2004: Assistant Manager of Majors (10-12) (Co-ed)
 - 2003: Assistant Manager of Minors (9-10) (Boys)
 - 2002: Manager of U-10 (Boys)
 - 2000: Manager of U-8 (Co-ed)
 - 1999: Manager of U-8 (Co-ed)

- **Congdon Park Softball**
 - 2006: Manager of U-11 (Girls)
 - 2005: Manager of U-11 (Co-ed)
 - 2004: Assistant Manager of U-9 (Co-ed)

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President of the Senate

November 16, 2018

Office of Governor-Elect Tim Walz
State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

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President of the Senate

Re: Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA)

Dear Governor-Elect Walz:

Congratulations on your election to our state's highest office - a well-deserved honor after a very positive, empowering campaign.

Please consider this cover letter as part of my application to retain my seat on the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals. I have submitted my updated resume.

As you may recall, during your campaign, my then-law firm invited you to speak at our annual WC seminar in Duluth. The seminar was held around March 15, about a week after I was selected (and about a month before I took the bench) by Governor Dayton for the WCCA position. This selection was made after a thorough and complete review by the Judicial Selection Commission. At the seminar, I was speaking at the podium when you entered the room, and we chatted briefly before you addressed the audience. We discussed that my appointment to the bench came with a risk. I was asked to complete the six year term of Judge Manuel Cervantes, who retired due to medical issues. His term was set to expire on January 7, 2019, so I was essentially appointed to a nine month job, with no guarantees for a subsequent full six year term in light of the pending race for governor. Governor Dayton is precluded by law from re-appointing me in January. That choice is up to you, the new governor. The risk I took included quitting my successful law practice at my firm and selling my house in Duluth, a home I had lived in since 1993. The risk was also taken by my fiancé, who had to quit her job as a research psychologist at the University of Minnesota-Duluth in order to move to St. Paul with me. It took eight U-Haul trucks and learning a new city, but we have enjoyed every moment. We are already feeling very welcome and part of the Lowertown community. I am a huge fan of the light-rail system which brings me to work and takes me home every day.

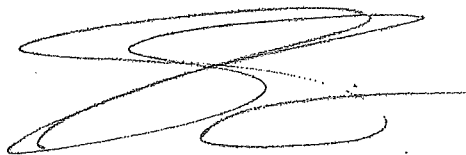
My resume sets out many of the details of my career before taking the bench. I have a long history of success in the practice of law, public service (through pro bono activities, professional services, and within the legal and Duluth communities), peer

My Grandpa Tom Quinn was a union welder at Westinghouse in Pittsburgh. His union activities led to his appearance before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). He refused to answer the infamous question "are you now, or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party" on 1st and 5th Amendment grounds. He was charged with and then convicted of Contempt of Congress for this refusal. His case went to the Federal District Court where he was convicted, to the Federal Appeals Court, where his case was remanded for a new trial, and then to the Supreme Court. In a 7-2 vote, his conviction was overturned. Quinn v. U.S., 349 U.S. 155, 75 S.Ct. 668 (1955). There is much more to the story of course. The point is that this true life tale inspired my love of law. What I learned is the power of the law to protect the "little guy" against monied and powerful interests. My Grandpa won because the law won. Reason, fairness, and justice prevailed over intolerance and fear. Law effects change and creates equality. Appellate judges work with the law every day. It is what I have always wanted to do.

The day I graduated law school, my mother looked at me and said, "So, you are some big shot lawyer now." I demurred but was happy that my mom was proud of me. Then she said, "Just remember who you are." I have never forgotten that lesson, so simply said, yet so powerful and still burned in my memory. Every one of my clients, every lawyer I sat across the table from, every judge that I appeared in front of, every witness I examined, got the same kindness and courtesy from me that I hope to get from them. This sense has continued during my short time on the court in my relationships with those who work here and those who appear in front of us. I can relate to my "regular people" because I have never considered myself to be anything other than a "regular person" myself.

I have the skills, the desire, the passion, the work ethic, and the legal ethics. All I can do is promise to continue to work hard, work diligently, and show choosing me to continue at my job was justified.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.



Sean M. Quinn

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