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UMM alumnus among six finalists for district trial court judge

Summary:

(October 12, 2005)-University of Minnesota, Morris alumnus, Kenneth J. Kohler, is among the six finalists accepted by Governor Tim Pawlenty for two new Seventh Judicial District trial court bench judgeships following the recommendations of the Commission on Judicial Selection.

These judgeships are new positions created by the 2005 Minnesota Legislature, which took effect on July 1, 2005. The Minnesota Supreme Court certified the chambers of one of the positions for the city of Moorhead, in Clay County, and the chambers of the other position for the city of Milaca, in Mille Lacs County.

Kohler, of Moorhead, is the chief assistant Clay County attorney in Moorhead, a position he has held since 2002. He was the Nobles County attorney as well as an attorney and partner with the law firm Mork, H. Darling, Hagemann and Kohler in Worthington from 1984 to 2002, and an assistant Redwood County attorney in Redwood Falls from 1982 to 1984. Kohler also served as a judge advocate general with the Minnesota National Guard from 1984 to 1996. Kohler earned his juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1982 and his bachelor of arts degree from UMM in 1979.

Other finalists for the Clay County position are Steven J. Cahill and Timothy J. McLarnan. The finalists for the Mille Lacs County position are Steven A. Anderson, Daniel A. Benson, and Frederick L. Grunke.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the Governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge.

The commission consists of 13 members: nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received a total of 16 applications for these two judicial positions.

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