

Minnesota State Bar Association
Questionnaire for Judicial Candidates in Statewide Contested Races

1. *What is your full name?*

Karl Christopher Procaccini

2. *Does your campaign have a website or Facebook page? If so, please list it.*

Website: www.karlforjustice.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/justice-karl-procaccini-for-minnesota-supreme-court/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Justice-Karl-Procaccini-for-Minnesota-Supreme-Court/61553896089481/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/karlforjustice/>

X: <https://twitter.com/KarlForJustice>

3. *List the colleges and law schools you have attended, including your dates of attendance and degrees awarded.*

Harvard College, Cambridge, MA
2001–2005, A.B. *magna cum laude* in Social Studies

The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
2006–2007, LL.M. in International and Comparative Law

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA
2007–2010, J.D. *magna cum laude*

4. *List where you have been employed since graduation from law school, including dates employed, your position and the nature of your employment responsibilities.*

Previous legal employment:

United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Minneapolis
2010–2011, Law Clerk for Judge Diana E. Murphy

I assisted Judge Murphy with preparations for oral arguments, drafting opinions, and other legal research and writing.

United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, Minneapolis

2011–2012, Law Clerk for Chief Judge Michael J. Davis

I assisted Chief Judge Davis with preparations for trials, motion hearings, and sentencing proceedings. I drafted orders and memoranda and assisted with other projects.

Greene Espel PLLP, Minneapolis

2012–2018, Member/Partner

My work in private practice included litigation in commercial, environmental, and intellectual property disputes. I represented individuals and businesses in state and federal courts. I also conducted compliance, corruption, and fraud investigations in the United States and in foreign jurisdictions. In addition, I maintained a substantial pro bono practice. I volunteered with the Advocates for Human Rights and the Federal Bar Association’s Pro Se Project, among other organizations, and I averaged over 100 pro bono hours per year for six consecutive years. Within the firm, I served on the Diversity & Recruiting, Personnel, and Community Committees.

Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Saint Paul

2019–2023, General Counsel & Deputy Chief of Staff

As the Governor and Lt. Governor’s General Counsel, I served as a senior advisor to Governor’s Office leadership and counseled on ethics, litigation, interagency disputes, and constitutional and statutory powers and duties. I also managed a team of legal and appointments professionals. The legal team was responsible for executive orders, pardons, extraditions, data practices, tribal land exchanges, tax-exempt bond approvals, and delegations. The appointments team was responsible for recruiting and recommending appointees to judicial seats, executive positions, and over 140 boards and commissions. Additionally, I served as the office’s liaison to the Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, agency general counsels, and executive branch courts. Finally, I chaired the State Board of Investment’s Proxy and Administrative Committees.

Law teaching:

William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul

2014, Assistant Adjunct Professor

University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis

2017–2024, Adjunct Professor; 2023, Visiting Assistant Professor

Mentoring the next generation of lawyers is important to me, and I have enjoyed teaching law students throughout my career. At William Mitchell College of Law, I co-taught

Business Regulation and Compliance. At the University of St. Thomas School of Law, I developed and taught *International Anti-Corruption Law*, and I also taught *Torts*.

Current position:

Minnesota Supreme Court, Saint Paul

2023–present, Associate Justice

I have been honored to serve our state as a Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Justices of the Supreme Court have a variety of duties. Most importantly, we hear and decide appeals from the Court of Appeals, the Minnesota Tax Court, the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, and, in some circumstances, directly from the District Courts. We also have original jurisdiction over some election-related cases.

In addition to hearing cases, Justices serve in a variety of administrative roles. I serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to two judicial districts (currently, the Second and Seventh Districts), visiting regularly with the judges in those districts. I am also the Supreme Court's liaison to our Advisory Committees for the General Rules of Practice and the Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure. Additionally, I serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to the Board of Law Examiners and am a member of the Judicial Branch's Artificial Intelligence Response Committee. Finally, I lead the Supreme Court's law clerk recruitment efforts.

5. *Have you ever been convicted of a crime or publicly disciplined by a lawyer or judicial standards board? If so, feel free to provide an explanation.*

No.

6. *What is/was the general nature of your practice? Indicate any areas of practice in which you concentrate or concentrated. (Response limited to 150 words.)*

In private practice, I represented a wide variety of individuals and companies—both as plaintiffs and defendants—in state and federal courts around the country. Most of my cases involved commercial litigation. I also worked on intellectual property, environmental, and product liability disputes. In addition, I maintained an investigations and compliance practice, focusing on international anti-corruption law. I averaged over 100 pro bono hours per year and was recognized as an MSBA North Star Lawyer for that pro bono service for six consecutive years.

During my time in government service, I advised the Governor, Lt. Governor, and other leaders on a wide variety of constitutional, statutory, and litigation-related issues. For my government service, I received the MSBA Public Law Section's Public Attorney Award of Excellence for In-House Agency Counsel and was twice recognized as a Minnesota Lawyer "Attorney of the Year."

7. *What percentage of your practice is/was litigation?*

While I was in private practice, the majority of my practice (approximately 50-75 percent, depending on the year) was litigation. During my service as a government lawyer, a similar percentage of my time was focused on planning for, initiating, responding to, resolving, and avoiding litigation.

8. *Why do you want to be an appellate judge? (Response limited to 150 words.)*

I am deeply honored to serve as an Associate Justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court. I seek to retain my seat so I can continue to serve the people of Minnesota by reaching fair and just decisions in every case that comes before us. Minnesota's appellate courts have a tradition of excellence and fairness, and I work hard every day to uphold our high standards. Doing so is critical to maintaining the public's trust and confidence in our judicial system.

I am particularly excited to continue to help our court navigate a time of extraordinary transition—a new Chief Justice and three new Associate Justices in less than a year. And I am also excited to help our judiciary seize the opportunities and respond to the challenges posed by advancing technology.

9. *What qualities do you believe are most important in an appellate judge? Explain how you have demonstrated that you possess those qualities. (Response limited to 250 words.)*

Fairness and equal justice. Our courts are legitimate and respected because they are fair to everyone appearing before them. From the moment I swore my oath to uphold the United States and Minnesota Constitutions, I have put aside my personal biases and interests. My commitment to that oath has been reflected in the opinions I have written and the decisions from which I have recused myself.

Empathy and collaboration. Judges often interact with people during some of the most difficult times in their lives. We must listen respectfully to everyone appearing before the court. My hundreds of hours of pro bono service while in private practice, followed by my years of public service, showed me the impact of empathy in the legal profession and the important role judges play in ensuring everyone's voice is heard. I bring the same commitment to my working relationships. Even when we disagree, the Supreme Court is a team that collaboratively serves the people of Minnesota. We each bring different views to the court, and we disagree without being disagreeable.

Hard work. Being a good justice means being prepared every day. I have worked hard in every job that I have had, and my work as an Associate Justice is no different. I spend countless hours preparing for every case and countless more on our opinions. I owe that to every Minnesotan.

10. *Why do you believe you are the best candidate for the appellate judge seat? (Response limited to 250 words.)*

I have the breadth and depth of legal experience necessary to do the job. My experiences in private practice, government service, and law teaching have all prepared me for my current role as a justice. The issues that come before the Minnesota Supreme Court have consequences for the whole state, not just the parties in a particular case. My breadth of experience positions me well to engage with the issues, understand the impact of the Court's decisions, and work hard to reach the right legal outcome.

I am also an experienced leader. In addition to deciding cases, Associate Justices support the Chief Justice in a variety of administrative roles. I have led bar organizations, including an MSBA Section, and served in leadership positions at my law firm when I was in private practice. In state government, I managed a team of nine legal and other professionals through some of Minnesota's most difficult times.

I care about making sure our judicial system does right by people. This work is never done, which is why it is my focus every day.

I am proud that eight former Justices and Chief Justices—appointed by governors of all political affiliations—serve as honorary co-chairs of my campaign to retain my seat. I am also grateful to have earned the confidence of a campaign committee comprising public defenders, prosecutors, private practitioners, and community leaders. A full list of my supporters is available on my website: www.karlforjustice.com/supporters