

Commission on Judicial Selection Recommends Third Judicial District Candidates to Governor Dayton

ST. PAUL, MN – The Commission on Judicial Selection announced today it is recommending three candidates to Governor Mark Dayton for consideration to fill the current vacancy in Minnesota’s Third Judicial District. This vacancy occurred upon the retirement of the Honorable Thomas M. Neuville, and will be chambered at Faribault in Rice County.

Adam Dowd: Mr. Dowd is a solo practitioner at Adam Dowd, Attorney at Law, LLC where his practice focuses on civil litigation. Additionally, he serves as an Adjunct Professor of Business Law at St. Olaf College. Previously, Mr. Dowd was a partner at the law firm of Schmitz, Ophaug, Dowd & Blumhoefer, LLP, City Attorney for the City of Dundas, and an Associate Attorney with the Cody Law Office in St. Paul. Mr. Dowd is the Chair of the Fifth District Ethics Committee, member of the Northfield Lions Club, and former President of the Rice County Dispute Resolution Program.

Jeffrey Johnson: Mr. Johnson is the Third Judicial District Chief Public Defender, where he is responsible for the effective delivery of public defender services to eleven counties. Previously, he was the interim Managing Attorney and an Assistant Public Defender in the Third Judicial District Public Defender’s Office, the president of Jeffrey M. Johnson, P.A., and a partner at Schurhammer & Johnson, P.A. Mr. Johnson serves on the steering committees for the Steele-Waseca and Olmsted Treatment Courts, as well as the advisory boards for Rice County Community Corrections and Dual Recovery.

Christopher Neisen: Mr. Neisen is a managing partner with Wornson, Goggins, Neisen, Morris & Brever, P.C. where he is a general practitioner and a Rule 114 Neutral. Additionally, he was recently appointed a Deputy Scott County Examiner of Titles. Previously, Mr. Neisen was a First Judicial District Child Support Magistrate, partner at O’Neill, Traxler, Zard, Neisen & Morris, Ltd., and a city prosecutor for the City of New Prague. Mr. Neisen is a Minnesota State High School League Basketball Official and a Director of the Matt Shetka Golf Foundation and Le Sueur County Pheasants Forever.

Minnesota’s Third Judicial District consists of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona Counties.

An announcement of the appointment will be made following an interview process over the next few weeks.