



Qualifications & Interest Statement

This form is for use by Minnesota State Bar Association members interested in being elected as an MSBA nominee to serve on an outside board or for election to the MSBA Council. **Please print or type.**

Date: 4/20/09
Name of Board: MN State Bar Foundation
Your Name: Brenda S. Denton
Address: 320 Central Avenue North
Duluth, MN 55807
Telephone: 218-628-4022
Email Address: dentonlaw@q.com ; Website: bdentonlaw.com
Brief Resume/Qualifications (you may submit a 1-2 page resume):
Please see attached Curriculum Vitae.

Statement of Interest: I am very excited about the opportunity to serve on the State Bar Foundation Board and thank you for sending out the notice to bar members. I believe I am a perfect match for a board position given my past experiences and offerings to my local and legal community. Currently, I am co-chair of our local family law section of the 11th District Bar and I am also vice-chair of the Northeast Chapter of Minnesota Women Lawyers. Through my work as co-chair of the family law section, I gather and maintain current information about our local family law attorneys, maintain an email listserve, bring in representatives from our community member organizations to provide up to date information to our family law attorneys, and I also maintain a list of custody evaluators. My role in the latter has been to bring in guest speakers for our meetings, arrange for presenters at the MN State Bar Convention for CLE credit in Duluth, and to organize local women attorneys to provide volunteer services and/or donations to some area groups, such as the YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, Food Shelf, and Duluth Bethel program. One of my main goals as an attorney and being active in the local bar is to improve the practice of law in our community by building trust and mutual respect. I also actively participate in the state's mock trial program, and have done so for years. Sharing information with and educating my community about the practice of law is a very important part of being a lawyer for me.

In the past, I have worked for legal aid, both in Bemidji and Duluth and through that work, I conducted many trainings for community organizations covering a variety of topics, such as domestic violence, housing, and family issues. Through this work, I developed wonderful working relationships with persons from a variety of different organizations in our area and have continued to foster those relationships. Sharing information and facilitating people talking and working together is a core value of mine and always has been. Finally, I have served on several board positions in the past, such as my community club board, the Housing Access Center board, and the Duluth Sister Cities commission, all of which continue to allow me to interact with and learn about the many people and organizations who are the center and base of my community. I am very fortunate to have had the experiences that I have had and I would be very honored to be able to be a part of the process that may

provide important funding to organizations and groups who do very important and commendable work.

Have you ever been subject to public or private disciplinary action by the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board? Yes No **If YES**, attach an explanation.

Signature

Brenda S. Denton (ES)

Please return via mail or fax (612/333-4927) to:
Minnesota State Bar Association
600 Nicollet Mall - Suite 380
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Attention: Joni Fenner

Questions? Call 612-333-1183.

BRENDA S. DENTON
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Duluth, Minnesota 55807
Office: 218.628.4022
DentonLaw@q.com

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION:

Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, MN
Juris Doctor, December 1997

Honors: Appellant Advocate, Moot Court Oral Argument Honor Round, 1995
Dean's Honor Roll-Fall 1996, Fall 1997
Minnesota Justice Foundation's Outstanding Public Service Award, 1997

Activities: Hamline Women's Legal Caucus; Hebrew University Study Abroad Program;
Minnesota Justice Foundation; National Lawyer's Guild; Minnesota Women Lawyers
Association.

University of Minnesota, Duluth, Duluth, MN
Bachelor of Arts Degree, May 1988
Major: Political Science
Activities: Vice-President, International Club

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Solo Practitioner, Denton Law Office, Duluth, MN, present.

I started my own practice in July 2007 and practice primarily in the area of family law. I am also a guardian ad litem and custody evaluator.

Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota, Duluth, MN, 2001-2006.

Staff attorney providing legal services to low income clients on various issues, mainly in family law, public assistance, landlord/tenant and public housing, and unemployment compensation in various counties. Currently working under a VAWA grant to supervise the coordination and implementation of grant objectives by providing services to victims of domestic violence. Previously responsible for supervising the coordination and implementation of the agency's VAWA program under the guidelines of its VAWA grant of 2001 - 2003. Involved in extensive community outreach and collaboration with other service agencies.

Staff Attorney, Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota, Bemidji, MN, 1999-2001.

Staff attorney, provided legal services to low-income clients, mainly in the areas of family law, employment law, and landlord/tenant law. Provided legal advocacy to victims of domestic abuse. Also provided training and consultation to local shelters and advocates, law enforcement, clergy, medical staff, and other public service agencies providing assistance to families experiencing violence.

Judicial Law Clerk, for the Honorable James R. Wilson, Ninth Judicial District, 1998-1999.

Conducted legal research, memoranda, and briefs; attended court hearings on a daily basis; analyzed facts and legal positions; facilitated attorney conferences; community outreach; judicial support.

Student Director, Child Advocacy Clinic, Hamline Law School, 1997

Monitored clinic activities as liaison between the director and other students. Represented children in CHIPS matters, which required client contact and interviews to assess their needs, administrative contact, and court appearances.

Legal Intern, Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota, Bemidji, MN, Summer 1997.

Processed client intakes under supervision of staff attorney. Independently coordinated and facilitated community project involving the development of a family visitation center. Participated in providing information to local homeless youth regarding landlord/tenant issues and gathering personal documents.

Practicum Intern, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Minneapolis, MN, Fall 1996.

Prepared the first phase of Hennepin County's Juvenile Curfew Ordinance Evaluation report. Referred incoming callers to appropriate sources of assistance. Monitored various court proceedings.

Research Assistant, Professor David Cobin, Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, MN, 1995 – 1997.

Assisted in research and organization of Professor's research topics. Also provided administrative support for his role as Secretary to the International Jewish Law Association.

Child Support Service Clerk, Ramsey County Attorney's Office, St. Paul, MN 1996

Drafted child support orders, organized documents to be submitted to the Court, prepared notices to all parties concerned, and processed personal service orders, both in state and out-of-state.

Volunteer, The National Lawyer's Guild, Miami, Florida, January 1996

Assisted Immigration Law attorneys in client interviews at the Haitian Catholic Refugee Center. Processed personal statements in request for political asylum.

Volunteer, WATCH, Minneapolis, MN, 1995-1996

Assisted staff in compiling criminal history files on felony level defendants in domestic abuse and sexual assault related crimes. Gathered criminal complaints, case histories, and defendant criminal histories. Entered and retrieved data using Windows and Hennepin County's SIP system.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Minnesota State Bar Association;
- Member, 11th District Bar Association/Family Law Committee Co-Chair
- Member, Professional Women's Group
- Member, Minnesota Women Lawyer's Group, Vice-chair Northeast Chapter

COMPETENCIES & INTERESTS

Anger Management Facilitation, Roseau, MN 1999

Completed training in anger management facilitation from Wilder Foundation. Responsible for development of facilitation program, intake process, and co-facilitation of anger management groups.

Civil Mediator, 1999 – present

Completed required training and received skills building information in mediation. Available for certification for statewide Qualified Neutrals Civil Facilitative Processes Roster.

Guardian Ad Litem, 2002 - present

Received Guardian Ad Litem training from the State of Minnesota. On roster of Guardian Ad Litem and employed as subcontractor Guardian Ad Litem in the St. Louis County area on CHIPS cases and family law matters.

Custody Evaluator, 2002 - present

Completed Custody Evaluator training and received certification. Available for employment to do custody evaluations in St. Louis/Carlton County area.

Thai Ability: conversational fluency.

Volunteer Affiliations:

U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Uttaradit, Thailand, 1990-1992; **Homeline**, Hopkins, MN, January 1997 – December 1997; **Domestic Abuse Service Center**, Minneapolis, MN, March-May 1997; **Morgan Park Community Club**, Duluth, MN, November 2004 – 2006, Vice-President; **Duluth Sister Cities Commission**, Duluth, MN, Fall 2005 - 2007, commission member; **Duluth Housing Access Center**, Duluth, MN, September 2006 – 2007, board member; **11th District Bar-Family Law Committee Co-Chair**, Duluth, MN, March 2006 – present; **Duluth Bethany Crisis Shelter**, Duluth, MN, assist in annual fundraiser; **UMD Mock Trial Team**, Duluth, MN, volunteered to assist college students in preparation for their mock trial competition.