



November 2020
Report from District 10
Honorable Cheryl A. Rios

Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota

Kansas:

- Kansas Judges and women attorneys are participating in the KWAAT Racial Equity Committee Habit Building Challenge. The challenge invites you to take one action each day for 21 days to help further understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity.
- Kansas Judges and women attorneys have also participated in the National Conference of Women's Bar Association presentation, *Still Broken: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct in the Legal Profession*.
- Kansas Judges and women attorneys were asked to join a panel discussion honoring the Life and Legacy of Justice Ginsburg presented by The Washburn Law Faculty and the Women's Legal Forum.
- Kansas Judges and women attorneys joined a webinar hosted by the National Conference of Women's Bar Association, *Leading Beyond the Discomfort: How to lead through the discomfort that comes from discussing race relations and racism*.

Nebraska:

No report.

Minnesota:

- Earlier this fall our governor appointed three great women to the Hennepin County bench. Hennepin County is the most populous county in Minnesota and serves Minneapolis and the surrounding areas:

Governor Tim Walz announced the appointments of Julie Allyn, Maximillia Utley, and Terri Yellowhammer as District Court Judges in Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District. All three seats will be chambered in Minneapolis.

Ms. Allyn's appointment will fill a vacancy that occurred upon the retirement of Judge Ronald L. Abrams.

"With her extensive legal experience and commitment to justice, it is my honor to appoint Ms. Allyn to the bench," said Governor Walz. "Ms. Allyn, who has successfully

handled many state and federal criminal matters, has demonstrated a strong aptitude as a prosecutor. She will make an excellent addition to the Fourth Judicial District.”

“Ms. Allyn has served with distinction as a top-quality prosecutor at both the state and federal levels.” said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. “Her depth of experience and commitment to maintaining integrity within our justice system will make her an excellent Judge.”

Ms. Utley’s appointment will fill a vacancy that occurred upon the appointment of Judge Theodora Gaïtas to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

“Ms. Utley has a reputation for excellence and compassion,” said Governor Walz. “She has demonstrated an outstanding capacity to fight for the rights of all Minnesotans inside and outside of the courtroom. Her work addressing systemic disparities in the justice system and her engagement in social justice issues will serve her well as a judge.”

“Ms. Utley approaches the bench with an open mind and genuine interest in building bridges with the community she serves,” said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. “Her legal skills, work ethic, and strong commitment to the public will make her a great judge.”

Ms. Yellowhammer’s appointment will fill a vacancy that occurred upon the retirement of Judge Fred Karasov.

“I am proud to appoint Ms. Yellowhammer. She is a tireless public servant, having spent her career fighting systemic inequities,” said Governor Walz. “Her experience as a tribal judge and her steadfast focus on increasing collaboration between underrepresented communities and the criminal justice system will give her a unique perspective in her new role.”

“Ms. Yellowhammer has the experience and heart that will serve the bench well,” said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. “Her work as a tribal court judge and as an advocate for Native children and families brings a much needed perspective to the 4th judicial circuit. I’m thrilled by her appointment.”

South Dakota:

No report.

North Dakota:

No report.