

Shared Leadership Skills in the Courts and in Sports

Join us for an insightful roundtable with Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie Hudson, Chief Judge Sarah Warner of Kansas Court of Appeals, and Minnesota Vikings Chief Legal Officer Karin Nelsen, as moderated by Laurel Klein Searles, of Kansas Office of Judicial Administration. They will explore the essential leadership skills that they share in common as a chief justice, chief appellate judge, and as chief counsel for the Minnesota Vikings. The skills include strategic judgment and decision-making, with a particular focus on the importance of accountability, a growth mindset, and a keen awareness of their leadership role in the community. In this program, you will hear the following discussion points:

- Discuss how to lead in a high-pressure, public environment
- Ways to develop clear and consistent communication within your organization
- Discuss the importance of leaders building strong collaborative working environments

Panelists:



Hon. Natalie Hudson

Natalie E. Hudson was appointed Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court by Governor Tim Walz in October 2023; and re-elected as Chief Justice in November 2024. She first joined the Supreme Court in 2015, appointed by Governor Mark Dayton, and was re-elected in 2016, and 2022. Hudson previously served on the Minnesota Court of Appeals for 13 years, appointed by Governor Jesse Ventura in 2002. Before becoming a judge, she worked in legal services, private practice and academia, including roles at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi, and Hamline University

School of Law. She also served as St. Paul City Attorney and later worked for the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General. Hudson earned her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University, and her law degree from the University of Minnesota.

Minnesota law requires judges to retire at 70, and she has announced her retirement effective September 30, 2026.

Karin Nelsen

Hon. Sarah Warner

Laurel Klein Searles (Moderator)