



MINNESOTA JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

The background of the lower half of the image is a black and white photograph of the United States Supreme Court building. The image shows the grand entrance with its massive columns and the pediment above them. The words 'UNITED STATES COURT' are visible on the pediment. The image is slightly tilted and has a high-contrast, somewhat grainy appearance.

2022 Annual Awards Celebration

**Celebrating 40 Years:
1982-2022**



MINNESOTA JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

2022 Annual Awards Celebration

Celebrating 40 Years:
1982-2022

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

THE MINNESOTA JUSTICE FOUNDATION THANKS
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Robin M. Maher and David C. Fathi in memory of Maria Maher

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ROBIN MAHER



Robin M. Maher graduated cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School and began her legal career at a Minneapolis law firm where she worked on her first death penalty case as a volunteer lawyer.

In 2001, she became Director of the American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project in Washington D.C., where she worked nationally to improve the quality and availability of defense representation in death penalty cases. After leaving the ABA, Ms. Maher worked in the federal public defender system representing death-sentenced prisoners and consulted with capital trial teams in the U.S. and Guantanamo.

For more than twenty years she has also trained judges and lawyers throughout the United States and internationally on the professional and ethical obligations of counsel and the importance of a zealous defense effort. She currently works at the Office for Access to Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, and teaches at the George Washington University Law School. She is delighted to return to Minnesota, a place she still considers home, for this event.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

4:30 p.m. - **Cocktail Hour with Music by Larry McDonough and Carol Bergquist**

5:30 p.m. - **Welcome**

Jack Sullivan

President, MJF Board of Directors

Anna Beadle

MJF Executive Director

Presentation of Minnesota Justice Foundation Outstanding Service Awards

Raelene Caswell

Standpoint

Advocate Award

Bradford Colbert

Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Direct Legal Service Award

Kurt W. Porter

Severson Porter Law

Private Practice Lawyer Award

Marilys Solano

Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Madelyn Cox-Guerra

University of Minnesota Law School

Kevin Green

University of St. Thomas School of Law

Law Student Awards

Recent Graduate Special Recognition:

Marra Clay

Yemaya Hanna

Ashley Meeder

Sophia Nocera

Keynote Address

Introduction by Jack Sullivan, President, MJF Board of Directors

Robin Maher: **"The Stories We Tell: Humanity and Hope in the Justice System"**

Recognition of Gold Sponsor Pro Bono

Welcome to the Minnesota Justice Foundation's 2022 Annual Awards Celebration!

MJF HAS SELECTED six awardees from a pool of outstanding candidates with strong commitments to pro bono, public interest, and access to justice for all.

Since 1982, the Minnesota Justice Foundation has worked with law students, lawyers and other members of the legal community, and hundreds of public interest and public service organizations. Our awardees represent the values of a legal community that understands the importance of access to justice for all and strives to shrink the justice gap.

MJF is grateful for the continued support of law students, the three Minnesota law schools, the legal community, our partner organizations, staff and board members past and present, and our donors. Your support has made the last 40 years of our work possible!

Thank you for coming and enjoy the event!

Minnesota Justice Foundation Annual Awards Celebration Committee

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2022 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Raelene Caswell

Standpoint

Advocate Award

Raelene Caswell (she/her) began her work as an advocate in 2009, and currently serves as the housing advocate with Standpoint. In this role, she works alongside the housing attorney to assist tenants who are victim/survivors of domestic and sexual violence in navigating housing issues, including breaking a lease due to fear of violence, asserting Violence Against Women Act housing protections, and communicating with landlords, as well as providing training to advocates across the state. With the team of advocates, Raelene also provides legal advocacy through Standpoint's Action Line on housing, Orders for Protection and Restraining orders, and other safety-related concerns.

Raelene also enjoys providing supervision and mentorship for Standpoint's general interns, helping them learn about the role of the advocate within the legal system. She also works with the Alexandra House, responds to victim/survivors in the hospital, and provides support on the crisis line and shelter-based advocacy, often including housing support.

Raelene has worked with several agencies, including the Sexual Violence Center, Cornerstone, Women's Advocates, SafeJourney, Catholic Charities, and Freedom House to provide dignified services to those seeking safety. This work includes housing stabilization, crisis intervention, shelter-based advocacy, crisis line supports, hospital-based advocacy, and program development.

In addition, Raelene is particularly passionate about preventing burnout and promoting the wellness and resiliency of advocates in the field. She received her bachelor's in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies and History from Gustavus Adolphus College, and holds a Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership from Metropolitan State. In her free time, Raelene enjoys reading, Irish dancing and ballet, and spending time with her friends, family, and cat.

2022 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Bradford Colbert

Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Direct Legal Service Award

Bradford Colbert is the Director of the Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners (LAMP) Clinic at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. The LAMP Clinic represents people who are incarcerated on civil legal issues. LAMP cases range from default dissolutions to complicated class actions. In addition to directing the LAMP Clinic, Professor Colbert teaches Criminal Law and Constitutional Criminal Procedure at the law school. Professor Colbert is a former appellate public defender; in that role, he argued *Minnesota v. Carter* before the United States Supreme Court (and lost). Professor Colbert has been awarded the William E. McGee Public Defender Award of Excellence and the Minnesota Lawyer Attorney of the Year.

Kurt W. Porter

Severson Porter Law

Private Practice Lawyer Award

Kurt W. Porter is an attorney and partner with Severson Porter Law. Admitted to the Minnesota Bar in 2010, he focuses his practice on Real Estate, Business Law and Civil Litigation. Kurt is a Certified Real Estate Specialist; fewer than 3% of all registered attorneys in the State of Minnesota are certified specialists in their respective fields. He is a regular presenter for Minnesota CLE on issues related to real estate law, most recently focusing on the developing law relating to short term rentals. Kurt frequently provides pro bono services on matters concerning real estate law.

Kurt obtained his Bachelors of Science degree in mathematics, with minor degrees in statistics and English from the University of North Dakota. Thereafter, Kurt attended law school at the University of North Dakota School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctorate with distinction. After law school, Kurt worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Erik J. Askegaard, District Court Judge for the Ninth Judicial District.

Kurt serves on various organizations in the Brainerd Lakes Area, including Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project, Coordinating Council for Domestic Violence, and presently serves as the Secretary-Treasurer for the Crow Wing County/Aitkin County Bar Association and as Church

2022 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Council Vice-President for Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Additionally, for the past five years, Kurt has enjoyed volunteering as a mock trial judge with MSBA High School Mock Trial.

Kurt is married to his loving, very understanding and patient wife, Kate. They have three kids and a puppy, all of whom are equally capable of getting into trouble.

Marilys Solano

Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Law Student Award Winner

Marilys Solano is a first-generation Latina, born and raised in Miami, Florida. Her parents are both from Nicaragua. She completed her undergraduate degree at Florida International University and double-majored in International Business and Management. She is a third-year, blended learning student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. This year she is the Student Body Association's (SBA) Treasurer and the Vice President for the Latine Law Student Association (LLSA). Since May 2022, she has been working part-time as a Research Assistant with Professor Jill Bryant and Research Librarian Alisha Hennan as they follow the progeny of the corporate entities that profited from industrial slavery (or peonage).

During her undergraduate years Marilyns explored different philanthropic opportunities, but none resonated with her as much as being a guardian ad litem (GAL). A wonderful mentor knew how fond she was (and still is) of children and suggested she research the local GAL program. A guardian ad litem is a court-appointed representative who protects a child's best interests. They conduct monthly visitations and reports, attend court hearings, provide testimony, and participate in any other conference pertaining to the child. More importantly, they communicate and interact with the children and all the parties involved. A year later, Marilyns has learned, grown, and seen the impact her service provides for the children and their families.

Currently, she lives with her husband and dog in Grenada, where her husband attends medical school. Since their move, she learned that her opportunities as a GAL can continue through virtual case opportunities. Being a GAL has been one of the most rewarding experiences she has ever been a part of, and she is excited to continue impacting her community for the children.

2022 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Madelyn Cox-Guerra

University of Minnesota Law School

Law Student Award Winner

Madelyn Cox-Guerra (class of 2023) is a dedicated public interest advocate. Madelyn has a deep commitment to working for juvenile justice, with a special interest in advocating for noncitizen juveniles in the criminal justice system. She has clerked with the Irish Legal Aid Board, the Minnesota 4th Judicial District Family Court, the Housing Justice Center, the National Center for Youth Law, and is a student attorney director with the University of Minnesota's Detainee Rights Clinic. Throughout law school, Madelyn has volunteered with HOME Line, the National Lawyers Guild, and the Anoka County Public Defender's Office. Madelyn also demonstrates her commitment to justice by serving in leadership positions in several student organizations, including the Minnesota Justice Foundation, the Latinx Law Students Association, and the Journal of Law & Inequality. Madelyn is grateful and honored to receive the 2022 Outstanding Service Award.

Kevin Green

University of St. Thomas School of Law

Law Student Award Winner

Kevin Green is a 3L student at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, where he has been actively engaged in student leadership and scholarship. Kevin is the Student Body President and this year he has initiated the law school's first ever LLM/JD Welcome Dinner to honor the contributions of the LLM class. He is also an Associate Editor on the school's Journal of Law and Public Policy. As with many first-generation law school students, Kevin did not know what area of practice he wanted to pursue, but he took advantage of every opportunity St. Thomas had to offer to answer that question. He has externed with the Honorable Judge JaPaul Harris of Ramsey County, during his 1L year he worked as a Law Clerk with the Hennepin County Attorney Office, and he has externed with the Wright County Public Defender's Office through his course work with Shawn Webb's Misdemeanor Defense Externship at St. Thomas. Furthermore, Kevin spent his 1L and 2L summers as a Summer Associate

2022 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

with Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP here in Minneapolis.

As, what he likes to call himself, "a later in life learner," Kevin came to St. Thomas School of Law as a 14-year veteran of the United States Air Force and currently proudly serves as the Equal Opportunity Superintendent in the Minnesota Air National Guard, where he will complete his 20 years of dedicated service to our country in December 2026. Kevin received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from California State University, Fresno in 2020. He is a loving partner to his fiancée and a proud family of seven.

RECENT GRADUATE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Marra Clay

Marra Clay is a 2022 magna cum laude graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, where she received Intellectual Property & Technology Law concentration honors and served as the Lead Note & Comment Editor of Minnesota Law Review. Marra spent her 2L summer as a summer associate at Merchant & Gould P.C., where she had the opportunity to work on several pro bono cases. She represented an immigration client in a hearing before the Immigration Court. Marra found this experience influential, and is highly committed to continuing her pro bono immigration practice throughout her legal career. Additionally, Marra served as a member of the executive board for If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice throughout law school. She also volunteered as a Girl Scout Troop Leader in South Minneapolis to create community in her neighborhood during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to law school, Marra served as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Malaysia, where she held weekly English-speaking workshops and received U.S. Embassy Grants to fund school sustainability projects. Marra is a 2017 graduate of Whitman College, where she studied Chemistry and Environmental Studies and was the publisher of the student newspaper. During college, she volunteered with Science Outreach, Classroom Connections, and the Mentor Program to increase STEM education access in public schools. In 2010, she received the President's Volunteer Service Award. Marra is currently a judicial clerk for the Honorable John R. Tunheim at the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Yemaya Hanna

Yemaya Hanna has been an exceptional role model for other law students and attorneys through her early and enduring commitment to pro bono and volunteer service. As a law student at the University of Minnesota, she brought skilled leadership and compassion to her many roles. Yemaya worked as a certified student attorney and student director in the law school's Immigration and Human Rights Clinic. During her two years in the Clinic, Yemaya worked diligently for several clients and successfully secured asylum for a Guinean woman who faced persecution in her home country for her religious beliefs, women's rights advocacy, and public health work during the Ebola crisis. Yemaya and her clinic team worked with this client from start to finish by conducting countless client interviews, compiling her asylum application, connecting her with community resources, drafting the supporting brief, and accompanying the client to her final asylum interview. During her 1L

RECENT GRADUATE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

year, Yemaya traveled to the Texas-Mexico border and provided pro bono representation to immigrants who were subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols. Through this experience, Yemaya represented two young children in a hearing before an immigration judge. Yemaya also demonstrated her commitment to pro bono work during her time as a summer associate with Maslon LLP, by assisting with both a pro bono criminal case and an asylum immigration case.

In addition to providing free legal services directly to clients, Yemaya also has a passion for creating a more diverse future for the legal profession. Through volunteer and mentorship experiences, Yemaya continues to dedicate time to working directly with young middle school-aged students from backgrounds that are historically underrepresented in the legal profession. Through the Maslon firm's UPLIFT Legal Institute for Teens, Yemaya served as a volunteer mock trial coach for 8th graders. The UPLIFT program exposes young students to the legal profession through a year-long mock trial program which teaches them trial skills and connects them with professional role models. Similarly, during her 1L year, Yemaya volunteered with the Minnesota Justice Foundation's own Street Law Program. Through this program, Yemaya and several of her law school colleagues created weekly lessons for 8th grade students in the Minnesota AVID college readiness program. The lessons helped young students understand their legal rights, fostered conversations about the legal profession, and provided an environment where they could ask law students about the steps necessary to become attorneys. Additionally, during the 2020 election year, Yemaya and several law school colleagues created the MJF Voting Project which recruited law students to teach middle and high school students the importance of voting and civic engagement.

Ashley Meeder

Ashley Meeder came to law school with a background in teaching, nonprofit operations, and advocacy for immigrant communities. During her first year of law school, she volunteered with the University of Minnesota's Asylum Law Project and MJF's Street Law program. She joined Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid's Housing Unit as an MJF Fellow for her first summer and stayed on as a volunteer law clerk during her second year. In her work with MMLA, Ashley directly represented clients in eviction proceedings and housing cases involving severe repair problems.

During her second and third years of law school, Ashley was a student instructor for her school's Legal Research & Writing program, a managing

RECENT GRADUATE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

editor on the Minnesota Law Review, a student director with the Binger Center for New Americans' Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic (FILC), and an intern with the Advocates for Human Rights.

In her time with FILC, Ashley represented clients before administrative agencies, federal district courts, and the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth and Eighth Circuits. Together, Ashley and her FILC teammates helped noncitizens secure release from unconstitutionally prolonged detention, petition for appellate review of immigration removal orders, and seek humanitarian relief from removal.

Ashley spent two semesters with the Advocates for Human Rights as a Research, Education, and Advocacy Intern. In this role, she expanded her research and advocacy on immigration detention issues and reviewed proposed federal immigration policies. She also researched the historical roots of collateral consequences of interactions with the criminal legal system and analyzed their present-day racially disparate effects on access to safe and affordable housing.

Ashley is presently the 2022 Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellow at BPI, a Chicago-based law and policy center that fights structural racism and systemic oppression in Illinois. In her work with BPI, Ashley will continue to confront issues that unfairly burden marginalized communities.

Sophia Nocera

Sophia Nocera was nominated by her supervising attorney at the 10th Judicial District Public Defender's office (Wright County). Sophia guided their office through the creation and implementation of a virtual training program for law students. That program allowed their office to continue working with law clerks during the pandemic. Additionally, she led the agency in training and recruitment for this program, which is a vital part of the office's representation team. Other accomplishments include serving as co-counsel in a challenging jury trial. She was praised by the State and bench (as well as their agency) for her commitment and professional performance under difficult circumstances and she was outstanding in representing the Public Defender's office.

Sophia graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2022. She served as an Advisory Board member for the Student Conflict Resolution Center. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2019.

MJF WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS FOR THE 2022 SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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Southern Minnesota Regional
Legal Services: Immigration.....Olivia Fried

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota Maya Wells Hermerding

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Legal Services: Economic Justice..... Mana Kleiser

Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota Stephanie Kletscher

Central Minnesota Legal Services..... Delaney Nelson

Minnesota Disability Law Center..... Funsho Delé Nwabuzor

Legal Assistance of Dakota County Emma Peterson

Rainbow Health..... Kendall Prior

Southern Minnesota Regional
Legal Services: Metro Housing Unit..... Lexie Robinson

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Immigration/Tax..... Molly Schwandt

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We are honored to support the Minnesota Justice Foundation and its 40th Annual Awards Celebration.

Congratulations to tonight's
honorees. We applaud you on
your outstanding service.

ROBINS  KAPLAN_{LLP}



The Minnesota Justice Foundation
and their 40 years of outstanding
pro bono service.

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Congratulations to all of
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This is an advertisement. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be made based solely upon advertisements. Lathrop GPM LLP, 80 South 8th Street, 500 IDS Center, Minneapolis, MN 55402. For more information, contact Caitlin Gehlen at 612.632.3000.

zealous advocates

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Our system of justice demands access to representation.
We thank MJF for creating opportunities for law students to
perform public interest and pro bono legal services.
We are zealous advocates of MJF!

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People First. Justice Foremost.

Maslon is proud to support the Minnesota Justice Foundation and its
mission to create opportunities for law students to provide pro bono legal
services to under-represented Minnesotans.

Congrats to Maslon attorney Yemaya Hanna, a 2022 University of Minnesota
Law graduate. We applaud your special recognition for service as a student
and share your commitment to both the community and the profession.

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WELL DONE!

Mitchell Hamline congratulates all of the 2022 MJF Outstanding Service Award Winners, including

Brad Colbert '85

Professor of Law
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Outstanding Service Award recipient

Your work through the Minnesota Justice Foundation makes a positive difference in the lives of people in need. Thank you for your commitment to pursuing equal justice for all Minnesotans.

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Congratulations to each of tonight's honorees!

Best & Flanagan is honored to support the tens of thousands of hours of pro bono legal work performed each year through MJF by dedicated volunteer law students.

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A Shared Commitment to Justice

We are honored to support the Minnesota Justice Foundation.

Congratulations to MJF on 40 years of service to our legal community!

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Congratulations

MADELYN COX-GUERRA '23

Recipient of the 2022
Minnesota Justice Foundation's
Law Student Award for
Outstanding Service



MINNESOTA LAW
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



MINNESOTA JUSTICE FOUNDATION
2022 AWARDS CELEBRATION

CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN GREEN '23

Law Student Volunteer Award

School of Law  UNIVERSITY OF
St. Thomas

Happy 40th
Anniversary,
MJF!



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and thank them for linking
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with law students and attorneys.

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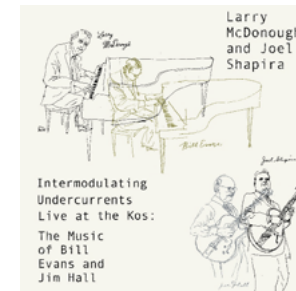
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Congratulations to the 2022 MJF award recipients.
Your work is amazing and you inspire all of us to do more.

Larry McDonough
2008 MJF Distinguished Service Award Recipient



"Liz Story might have studied with Bill Evans but McDonough studied Evans. That's why his remembrance of Evans is passionate like he has a he is risen kind of remembrance. No wonder McDonough is recognized as a foremost Evans interpreter, Evans was his lodestar. He plays like he is his own man all the way but you know where he's coming from. Basically a non record recording of a 40th anniversary remembrance concert of Evans passing, this is as close to the real thing as you can come. Killer stuff that makes you wish you were there." Chris Spector, Midwest Record <http://midwestrecord.com/MWR1800.html>



"Joel Shapira is a multifaceted guitarist with a singular sound and vision. Along with pianist Larry McDonough, they have exceeded the dream of many a guitar/piano duo by not only offering a tribute to our heroes Evans and Hall, but they have created an artifact of great beauty. Joel and Larry were not afraid to speak with their own voices while honoring two classic albums/performances by two of the greatest names in jazz history, thereby elevating their own names in the jazz firmament as well as our joy in listening." Jack DeSalvo, New York City Jazz Guitarist and Producer <https://www.jackdesalvo.com/>

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The **Minnesota Justice Foundation** (MJF) was founded in 1982 by University of Minnesota law students concerned about the decreasing availability of legal services for low-income Minnesotans. MJF has grown over the past 40 years to five staff members, a board of directors composed of community members, law students and lawyers working in public interest, public service, and private practice settings, offices in Minnesota's three law schools (Mitchell Hamline School of Law, University of St. Thomas School of Law, and University of Minnesota Law School), and three active student chapters; as well as partnerships with private attorneys and law firms, bar associations, civil legal services providers, and other public interest and public service law offices.

The Minnesota Justice Foundation creates opportunities for law students to engage in public interest and pro bono legal services. MJF provides professional experience and training to students while increasing the capacity of legal services organizations that serve the public interest. By strengthening law students' habits of volunteering, MJF builds a culture of service that students carry forward in their legal careers.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas, Articles of Incorporation, duly signed and acknowledged under oath, have been recorded in the office of the Secretary of State, on the 1st day of November, A. D. 1982, for the incorporation of

Minnesota Justice Foundation

under and in accordance with the provisions of the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 317,

Now, Therefore, by virtue of the powers and duties vested in me by law, as Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota, I do hereby certify that the said

Minnesota Justice Foundation

is a legally organized Corporation under the laws of this State.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota hereunto affixed this first day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-two

Jean Anderson
Secretary of State.

SC-00019-02



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