

Public Notice Detail

The Minnesota Supreme Court Announces Three Public Member Vacancies on the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board

Posted: Monday, November 25, 2019

Three public members are being sought to fill vacancies on the 23-member Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board.

The all-volunteer Board is made up of 14 attorneys and 9 public members. The Board is responsible for the oversight and administration of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility. The Office is part of the Judicial Branch and is administered by a Director and a staff of 31.

The Board meets four times per year to consider issues involving the lawyer discipline system, including rule changes and policy implementation. Board members also preside over hearings concerning allegations of unprofessional conduct on the part of lawyers. Panels meet approximately three to four times per year. In addition, Board members consider appeals of dismissed complaints.

The vacancies are for three-year terms beginning on February 1, 2020. No member may serve more than two three-year terms. The Minnesota Supreme Court will make the appointments.

Compensation is limited to reimbursement for costs. Applicants interested in appointment must submit a letter of interest and resume so as to **be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2019**. Please submit application materials to AnnMarie S. O'Neill, Clerk of Appellate Courts, via **one** of the following options, either e-mail to mjcappellateclerkofcourt@courts.state.mn.us or by mail to 305 Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155.

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**Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board (LPRB) Roles and
Responsibilities-Public Members**

The LPRB helps the Minnesota Supreme Court oversee the lawyer ethics and discipline system in Minnesota. The Board is composed of public members and lawyers. Public members play a critical role in bringing their perspectives and experiences to important issues such as the delivery of legal services and the quality of legal services. Because attorneys are self-regulated (by the Court, not an outside entity overseeing attorney regulation), it is important for public confidence in the system that the interests of the public are represented.

As a board member, you will:

- Receive training on attorney ethics and the related rules;
- Learn how the discipline system works to address lawyer misconduct;
- Review complainant appeals if someone is dissatisfied with how their complaint was handled;
- Sit on a panel that reviews charges of professional misconduct to determine if probable cause exists for public discipline against a lawyer (sort of like a grand jury system);
- As a panel member, make recommendations to the Court on whether attorneys who have been previously disciplined and are petitioning for reinstatement should be reinstated;
- As a panel member, review private discipline issued to attorneys;
- Provide your thoughts on potential changes to the ethics rules, bringing forward the perspective of the public.

The time commitment varies but is generally 3-5 hours per month, plus 4 meetings per year.

Lawyers must abide by strict ethics rules, and are disciplined if they do not. You can be a part of a system that works hard to protect the public and legal profession from attorneys who do not follow the rules.