

REPORT . . . LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD

By

Mike Hoover, Administrative Director
Minnesota Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility

Reprinted from *Bench & Bar of Minnesota* (September 1981)

Gerald E. Magnuson Resigns as Chairman of Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board

The Chairman of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, Gerald E. Magnuson of Minneapolis, has resigned as Chairman effective September 30, 1981.

Jerry was one of the first members appointed to the Board at the time of its creation in February, 1971. He served six full years as a Board member and was appointed Chairman of the Board on February 1, 1977. Prior to his appointment to the Board he was involved in lawyer discipline and professional responsibility matters at the bar association level.

Jerry was actively involved in establishment of the Board and in the improvement of the Minnesota lawyer discipline system. Lay participation in the lawyer discipline system, the 1977 Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and the ongoing process of updating and modernizing our procedures and operation are due in large part to his leadership.

All Board members are volunteers who serve without remuneration. Board and committee meetings, panel hearings, and keeping informed of professional responsibility developments require many days of time for each Board member each year. As Chairman, Jerry has devoted hundreds of hours of additional time advising and assisting the Supreme Court and the Director, and leading the Board.

I am personally grateful to Jerry for his almost unlimited accessibility to discuss problems, and for his wise counsel. His steady and experienced leadership will be missed and he leaves with our gratitude and best wishes.

Janet Dolan Appointed Assistant Director

The Supreme Court has appointed Janet Dolan to succeed Bruce Martin as Assistant Director effective July 1, 1981. Bruce resigned to join a real estate development company in an executive and legal capacity.

Janet is a 1976 graduate of William Mitchell College of Law. After her admission she clerked for Judge Miles B. Zimmerman in Mankato, and later was a staff attorney for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services in Mankato where she carried a very heavy caseload.

In September, 1980, Janet joined our staff. As an attorney she not only carried a full caseload involving investigation and prosecution of disciplinary matters, but also assumed significant administrative responsibilities in the office. Janet is an excellent lawyer and a fine person, and I am confident she will make a significant contribution to the lawyer discipline system as Assistant Director.

Director's Staff Expanded

I have periodically informed you of the relentless increase in the disciplinary workload. During its visit the American Bar Association Evaluation Team agreed with the observations of the Court, the Board and the Director that a substantial staff increase is necessary to effectively and promptly respond to a caseload which now approaches 1,000 new matters annually. Recent staff changes have increased from 4 to 6 the number of lawyers employed in the Director's office (including the Director and Assistant Director). Richard C. Baker, Staff Attorney since November, 1978, has resigned to enter private practice in St. Paul. Rich joined us shortly after his graduation from the University of Illinois Law School. We are grateful to him for his competent and loyal service and wish him the best in the future.

The following individuals have been hired as staff attorneys:

1. Sonya Steven, a 1975 Cum laude graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, began work on September 1, 1981. From 1975 through 1978 she was engaged in private practice in Grand Rapids and served as Itasca County Attorney from 1979 through 1981.
2. William J. Wernz also joined us on September 1, 1981. Bill is a 1977 Summa cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School. Since 1977 he has been engaged in private practice in Bloomington, and has substantial experience in administrative law and civil litigation.
3. Thomas B. Aaby will join the staff on October 1, 1981. Tom is a 1977 Cum laude graduate of William Mitchell College of Law. Since his graduation he has worked in legal assistance programs in Missouri and in Albert Lea. For the last year he has been engaged in the private practice of law in Rochester.
4. Richard J. Harden, a law clerk since February, 1980, will remain with us in an attorney position upon his admission to the Bar. Dick is a St. Paul native, a 1978 Summa cum laude graduate of the College of St. Thomas, and a 1981 Cum laude graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School.