



News Release

December 14, 2012

Contact: Mark Metz 952-361-1400

Chief Deputy Carver County Attorney Appointed Judge by Governor Dayton

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that Chief Deputy County Attorney Michael D. Wentzell was appointed District Court Judge by Governor Mark Dayton. He will be chambered in Chaska, Carver County.

Following a private law practice, Wentzell first came to the Carver County Attorney's Office in 2000. For ten years, Wentzell served as a prosecutor in the criminal division. Following the election of Mark Metz, Wentzell was appointed as Chief Deputy County Attorney.

Wentzell commented, "I am honored and humbled by this appointment. I look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Carver County and the First Judicial District in my new role as Judge. Carver County is a special place to live and practice law. There is a tremendous environment of cooperation and collaboration between all of the justice partners. I am thankful for the support of the Carver County Attorney's Office, the District Court Judges, Court Administration, law enforcement, the defense bar, County Commissioners and Administration, and all of my other friends and colleagues at the Carver County Government Center."

Metz stated, "In my opinion, the Governor could not have chosen a more solid person as judge--an honest, compassionate and humble person, a highly skilled attorney, someone with impeccably good judgment, common sense and impartiality, and someone with a tremendous sense of justice. The County Attorney's Office is proud of Mike for his contributions and we know he will be an outstanding judge."

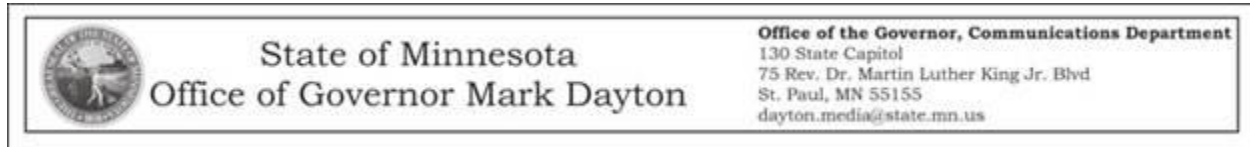
A copy of the Governor's announcement is found below.

From: Dayton Media

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 2:30 PM

To: Dayton Media

Subject: News Release: Governor Dayton appoints Michael D. Wentzell to fill First Judicial District vacancy



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

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Governor Dayton appoints Michael D. Wentzell to fill First Judicial District vacancy

ST. PAUL, MN – Today, Governor Mark Dayton announced the appointment of Mr. Michael D. Wentzell as District Court Judge in Minnesota’s First Judicial District. Mr. Wentzell will be replacing the Honorable Philip T. Kanning, who retired earlier this year. The judgeship will be chambered at Chaska in Carver County.

“Michael Wentzell is an accomplished attorney and an exemplary public servant,” said Governor Mark Dayton. “Mr. Wentzell’s commitment to justice, ethics, and service make him the ideal candidate to serve the First District. I am confident he will carry out the responsibilities of this new role with honor and distinction.”

Michael D. Wentzell – Mr. Wentzell serves as Chief Deputy Carver County Attorney, where he oversees office operations in relation to directing criminal, civil, and juvenile legal services. He previously worked as an Assistant Carver County Attorney and as an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Collins, Buckley, Sauntry, & Haugh, where he engaged in the general practice of law, including extensive work in family law. Mr. Wentzell received his B.A. with highest honors from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and received his J.D. with honors from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Additionally, Mr. Wentzell is actively involved with the Sexual Assault Interagency Council, Carver County Justice Advisory Council, Chaska Rotary Club, and is a former Professional Responsibility Ethics Investigator.

Minnesota’s First Judicial District consists of Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, LeSueur, McLeod, Scott, and Sibley Counties.

More information on the Commission on Judicial Selection, as well as vacancies it is currently considering, can be found at <http://mn.gov/governor/appointments/judicial-appointments/>

A headshot of Mr. Michael D. Wentzell is attached.