



(612) 349-2565

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF PUBLIC DEFENSE**

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March 4, 2010

Governor Tim Pawlenty
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Bvd.
St Paul, MN 55155 120 State Capitol

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

Recently you received one or more letters regarding the appointment of the Chief Appellate Defender. Here is the process that was followed in that appointment.

First, the position was widely advertised. Substantial written applications were required. The State Board of Public Defense reviewed all of these and selected four finalists. Two were Appellate Office employees and two were not. Board members made themselves available to the four candidates for individual face-to-face meetings.

The Board requested and received a study of issues facing the Appellate Office and developed 15 standard interview questions for all the candidates. Each candidate was interviewed in an open meeting for approximately one hour. There was a brief recess, and a brief discussion.

Then a Board member who is a former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court moved to appoint the Chief Appellate Defender. The nomination was seconded by a Past President of the Minnesota State Bar Association. This candidate was appointed by a unanimous vote.

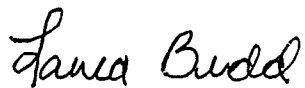
All four of the candidates were highly qualified. All of them had a copy of the study of the office. All of them were asked the same questions. The Board's process showed the seriousness, openness, and consistency that has characterized all their Chief Public Defender appointments for the last twenty years.

Perhaps it is human nature, reflected in the letters you received, to want a new manager to have a familiar face. In the end an outside candidate was appointed. Employees who wrote letters did not have the benefit of reading the applications, reading the essays the candidates wrote, reading the letters of recommendation that came with the applications (including a strong recommendation from the head of the best appellate defender office in the country).or meeting the candidates individually prior to the interviews. Board members did do those things, and participated in the interviews, and then made a

decision they believed was in the best interests of the Appellate Office and the public defender system as a whole.

If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me or our Chief Administrator Kevin Kajer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Budd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Budd
Chair, Board of Public Defense

Cc Supreme Court
Senator Richard Cohen
Senator Larry Pogemiller
Rep. Erin Murphy
Rep. Steve Simon
Rep. John Lesch