

Hennepin County Chief Judge James Swenson continues to focus his campaign on the very immediate and serious issues that face the Hennepin County Court System. His energies are focused on ensuring fair access to our justice system for all citizens of Hennepin County especially during this budget crisis.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Haeg has chosen to focus his energies on personal attacks that are misleading and intended to distract the voter from the very critical issues facing the Hennepin County Court System. Chief Judge Swenson will not engage in this negative and personal discourse which does nothing to help the voters of Hennepin County.

Numerous articles have noted the inaccuracies in Mr. Haeg's attacks against Judge Swenson. For example although he blames Judge Swenson for his transfer within the Court system, it was in fact a decision made by others and it was Mr. Haeg's decision to quit his job. The statistics on removal cited by Haeg by no means tell the entire story (he only included two years of information) and further he reports nothing on his own removal rate which was substantial. As others have noted, the County chose to settle its lawsuit with Ms. Fallek and the settlement is confidential. Haeg's speculation on what actually happened is solely that, speculation for his own benefit. Haeg's failure to give the whole picture to voters is telling about his motives.

Chief Judge Swenson will continue to run on his record. Unlike his challenger, he has been recognized for his significant contributions to the judicial system and to the people of Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota and the United States. Some of his accomplishments are:

1) Elected by the 61 other judges of Hennepin County to be the Chief Judge in 2008, at a time of extreme economic challenge. He was asked to use his talents to help maintain the judicial system in the County by seeking to secure and maintain the state funding required so that justice remains available to all the people of the County.

2) Received the Paul Chapman Award from the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice in 2007. This award was given “for significant contribution to the improvement of justice in America.”

3) Selected as the Minnesota State District Court Judge of the Year in 2006 “in recognition of his outstanding service to the improvement of the judiciary.”

4) Received the Anne Simonett Excellence in Service Award in 2004 as the Hennepin County District Court Employee of the Year “for extraordinary commitment to the citizens of Hennepin County” and for “establishing the Fourth Judicial District’s Family Court as a national standard of excellence.”

Chief Judge Swenson’s skills and abilities as a Judge were also recognized in the recent Hennepin County Bar Association bar poll where he was favored 78% to 22% over his challenger by the lawyers of Hennepin County. He is well respected by the Bar for his commitment to raising the standards of legal practice for the benefit of the citizens of this County.

The voters should not be misled by the attack ads now being run by Judge Swenson’s opponent. We do not want our judges elected on the basis of misleading campaign tactics, rather they must be elected based on their proven contributions to the citizens of the County in which they serve.

Chief Judge Swenson's accomplishments are the reason he should be re-elected to the Hennepin County Bench. His continued hard work on our behalf is needed if we are to continue the high level of justice the citizens of Hennepin County now enjoy.