

**Minnesota State Bar Association**  
**Questionnaire for Judicial Candidates in Statewide Contested Races**

*1. What is your full name?*

Matthew R. Hanson

*2. Does your campaign have a website or Facebook page? If so, please list it*

[https://x.com/Mr\\_Hanson\\_MN](https://x.com/Mr_Hanson_MN)

<https://www.mhansonlaw.com/2024-election>

*3. List the colleges and law schools you have attended, including your dates of attendance and degrees awarded.*

Concordia University, Saint Paul;  
University of Minnesota, Twin Citives  
William Mitchell College of Law / Mitchell Hamline School of Law

*4. List where you have been employed since graduation from law school, including dates employed, your position and the nature of your employment responsibilities.*

Thomson Reuters  
Securian Trust Company, N.A.  
Halpern Cottrell Green  
MHansonLaw

*5. Have you ever been convicted of a crime or publicly disciplined by a lawyer or judicial standards board? If so, feel free to provide an explanation.*

As an attorney in good standing, I have no public or private discipline by the board.

In the folly of my youth, I was arrested in Wisconsin with a small amount of cannabis on my way to a Carlos Santana concert in Nashville, Tennessee. I spent time in Sauk County Jail, Baraboo, Wisconsin. The food wasn't great; would not recommend.

*6. What is/was the general nature of your practice? Indicate any areas of practice in which you concentrate or concentrated. (Response limited to 150 words.)*

Wealth Management/ Estates & Trusts / Commercial Litigation / Arbitration

7. *What percentage of your practice is/was litigation?*

Less than 100%.

8. *Why do you want to be a Supreme Court Justice? (Response limited to 150 words.)*

I am running to give Minnesotans a choice in their judicial elections. I ran locally for district court judge in 2022 for the same reason. Democracy requires choice.

In Minnesota we elect our judges. (Minn. Const. art. VI, sec. 7) As attorneys we swear an oath to support both the MN and US Constitution. The people of Minnesota have the ultimate political authority to elect their judges. If every judge in the state runs unopposed, and judges retire mid-term, the people of Minnesota lose their right to elect their judges. As members of the Minnesota Bar, I believe we have an obligation to the people of Minnesota to stand in judicial elections. We must not abdicate judicial selection solely to the Governor. My hope is that by winning this election, it will encourage other qualified attorneys to take the risk and run for judicial office.

9. *What qualities do you believe are most important in an appellate judge? Explain how you have demonstrated that you possess those qualities. (Response limited to 250 words.)*

I am not running for appellate judge. However the qualities required for any judge are found in the MN Judicial Code of Conduct. An independent, fair, and impartial judiciary is indispensable to our system of justice. The United States legal system is based upon the principle that an independent, impartial, and competent judiciary, composed of men and women of integrity, will interpret and apply the law that governs our society. Thus, the judiciary plays a central role in preserving the principles of justice and the rule of law. A Judge Shall Uphold and Promote the Independence, Integrity, and Impartiality of the Judiciary, and Shall Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety.

By giving voters a choice I will promote the independence of the judiciary and allow the people of Minnesota, in whom all political power is inherent, to elect their judges.

10. *Why do you believe you are the best candidate for the appellate judge seat? (Response limited to 250 words.)*

I believe that I am the best candidate for seat 6 because of my independence from the executive branch. When Governor Walz appointed his General Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff to the bench, it became apparent bias and allegiance to the governor would be an issue. Associate Judge Karl C. Procaccini himself said, "Certainly, any case where I acted as a lawyer for a client that comes before the Supreme Court would be one that I need to recuse." Unlike other Judges on the MN Supreme Court, the appointing governor himself is the former client.

I am a 5th generation born and raised Minnesotan who learned Minnesota law in a Minnesota law school. I am the local choice in this election. Associate Judge Procaccini was born and raised in Connecticut and graduated from an out-of-state law school. I believe judges of the Minnesota Supreme Court should have substantial connections to the state and people they serve.