

Eleventh/Range Bar District Associations
Questionnaire for Judicial Candidates in Local Contested Races

1. *What is your full name?*

Shawn B. Reed

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

Web: <https://www.reedforjudge.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560906813351>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reedforjudge/>

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

University of Minnesota, Duluth. Attended from 1989 through 1993. Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with majors in political science and criminology with a minor in philosophy.

William Mitchell College of Law. Attended from 1994 through 1997. Graduated cum laude with a juris doctor.

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

Maki & Overom. August 1997 through 2018. Shareholder.

Dryer, Reed, Peterson, Bray, Storaasli, and Knutson, 2018 through 2020. Shareholder.

Bray & Reed, Ltd. 2020 through current date. Shareholder.

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.*

No, to both parts of the question.

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.)*

When people ask about my profession, I tell them I am a trial attorney. I have been practicing for the past twenty-seven years, primarily focusing on trial work. My practice

covers criminal law, family law, complex civil cases, general civil matters, and appellate work. My criminal practice is unique because I serve as both a prosecuting attorney for local municipalities and a private criminal defense attorney. This allows me to analyze my cases from both sides. I have adopted that type of analysis to my civil cases as well. My family law practice includes post-decree, high-conflict custody cases. Related to the family law practice, I am on the Rule 114 Roster of Qualified Neutrals for family law facilitative/hybrid. Finally, I have served as an administrative hearing officer for years on behalf of municipalities and housing agencies.

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

90 percent.

8. *Why do you want to be a district court judge? (Response limited to 150 words.)*

I have had the privilege of appearing in court for twenty-seven years, representing my community and clients in various legal matters. I now seek the District Court Judge position to continue serving my community. Being in court daily has allowed me to witness its impact on parties, emphasizing the importance of a prepared bench. We cannot afford to have parties waiting, as justice delayed is justice denied. My extensive trial experience, working as a prosecuting attorney, criminal defense attorney, family law attorney, and civil law attorney, has prepared me well for this role. These are the types of cases that judges hear every day. Additionally, I have served as a hearing officer for municipal and housing matters, gaining experience in hearing evidence and making decisions.

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

Being "learned in the law" is important for a successful judge, but it is not enough. A good judge also needs patience, empathy, humility, the ability to multitask, and a sense of humor. Patience is essential because courts handle people and complex issues. Empathy is necessary because for many people, being in court is their worst day. Humility is fundamental because a judge's work is not about the judge but about the law and the people in court. Being able to multitask is crucial to avoid delays. Lastly, a sense of humor is important to avoid feeling overwhelmed by the work. I do my best to demonstrate these traits every day. My broad legal experience has helped me become "learned in the law," but I also know that I have to keep learning. Patience and empathy are closely linked, and I strive to show patience and empathy in all my interactions. I believe in treating others as I would like to be treated. As for humility, I focus on the case, the client, and the court, not myself. Multitasking is a daily requirement due to the broad nature of my practice and my court schedule. Lastly, you will often find me in

court between cases, smiling and engaging with attorneys, clients, court staff, and the Court.

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

I believe that I am the most suitable candidate for the open district court judge seat due to my extensive experience, preparedness, and commitment to fairness. My background in trial practice has given me a thorough understanding of the types of cases commonly handled by judges and has made me familiar with the daily operations of the court. I am confident in my ability to manage cases effectively and ensure their timely progress. In my role as an administrative hearing officer, I have served as a judge, applying the law to facts and making impartial decisions. Because of this experience, I am fully prepared to step into the role of the Sixth District's next district court judge from day one. I am committed to ensuring that justice is not delayed and that attorneys, parties, and the public can count on timely decisions. Above all, my greatest strength lies in my ability to demonstrate fairness in every interaction and communication. I believe that attorneys, parties, and the public need to be treated with respect and dignity without regard to their background or circumstances. Not everyone can win their case. But, if one experiences respect and dignity, one is more likely to have felt they have been heard.