

1. What is your full name?

Natalie Elise Hudson

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

Website: www.justicehudson.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeHudson2016/>

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

Arizona State University, 1975-1979, B.A. English

University of Minnesota Law School, 1979-1982, J.D.

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

- 2015 – Present: Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
- 2002 – 2015: Judge, Minnesota Court of Appeals
- 1994 – 2002: Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Appellate Division (1997-2002), handled felony and gross misdemeanor appeals for county attorneys' offices in greater Minnesota, including drafting of briefs and oral arguments; Health Licensing Division (1994-1997).
- 1992 – 1994: City Attorney, City of St. Paul, chief legal officer for the City
- 1989 – 1992: Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Hamline University School of Law. Policy development and implementation; administrative assistance to Dean; led academic support programs; student counseling
- 1986 – 1988: Associate, Employment Law and General Civil Litigation groups, Robins, Zelle, Larson & Kaplan (now Robins Kaplan). Employment defense work; handled all facets of litigation and administrative complaints
- 1982 – 1986: Staff Attorney, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc. Represented indigent clients in Housing Law matters. Trial and administrative work.

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

No.

6. What was the nature of your practice? Indicate areas of practice in which you concentrated.

I practiced law for nearly 20 years before my appointment to the Court of Appeals in 2002. I was an associate in the Civil Litigation section at the Robins law firm. I then practiced in the public sector as a staff attorney at Legal Aid; as the St. Paul City Attorney; and as the Dean of Student Affairs at Hamline Law School. In the eight years before my appointment to the Court of Appeals, I concentrated on criminal appeals, serving as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Appellate Division and the Health Licensing Division.

7. What percentage of your practice was litigation?

I did both criminal and civil litigation in the Employment Law section at the Robins firm. I oversaw litigation as the St. Paul City Attorney. I was engaged in criminal appeals litigation at the Attorney General's Office.

8. Why do you want to be an appellate judge?

I am seeking election because I believe in public service and working to ensure equal access to justice for all. I have demonstrated my commitment to public service by serving as an appellate judge for almost 14 years – 13 with the Court of Appeals and the last eight months with the Supreme Court. I enjoy wrestling with difficult legal issues and working with my colleagues to reach the correct legal result, and to resolve each controversy in an open, transparent manner while treating all parties fairly and respectfully. Finally, the Supreme Court is responsible for establishing legal policy statewide, resolving our most pressing constitutional issues, and setting precedent in complex civil and criminal controversies. Having authored hundreds of opinions on the Court of Appeals and several in my early months on the Supreme Court, I believe I have made a substantial contribution to the development of Minnesota Law.

9. What qualities do you believe are most important in an appellate judge? Explain how you have demonstrated that you possess those qualities.

The most important qualities are a strong intellect, excellent writing and analytical skills, a deep curiosity about the law, a strong work ethic, the ability to work collegially and collaboratively with others, an even temperament, and a willingness to listen. I have demonstrated these qualities time and again in my

tenure as an appellate judge/justice. Having authored hundreds of opinions in nearly every area of law, I have a body of work that is well respected in the legal community, both for its legal accuracy as well as its accessibility to all citizens – not just the parties involved. Thus, I have demonstrated the requisite intellect and analytical skills as well as the ability to work collaboratively. I listen attentively to all viewpoints before reaching my own independent assessment of each case. I authored both dissents and concurrences at the Court of Appeals, but I have always done so in a respectful manner. Finally, colleagues and litigants have consistently observed that I am fair, even-tempered, and respectful to all parties. Minnesotans expect and deserve no less.

10. Why do you believe you are the best candidate for the appellate judge seat?

I am the best candidate because I have a broad and deep legal background, including many years as a lawyer doing appellate work. That, combined with nearly 14 years as an appellate judge makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court, and sets me apart from the other candidates. In addition, as a Court of Appeals judge, I dealt with many of the legal and policy issues I now must address as a justice on the Supreme Court. Having authored hundreds of opinions on the Court of Appeals, I understand the opinion drafting process and the attention to language and detail that is required in every opinion. I continue to do that exact work as an Associate Justice. Justices are also ambassadors of the law in our communities. I enjoy interacting with the citizens of Minnesota and I value each opportunity to educate Minnesotans about their judicial system. Thus, I regularly speak at schools, colleges, service clubs and other community groups about the judicial system and their role in it. I value the sacred trust I have been given as a judge. If I am privileged to continue in my role as an Associate Justice, I will continue to give every case my full attention and strive to resolve each case in a thoughtful manner and according to the rule of law.