

## **2018 Eldon G. Kaul Distinguished Service Award Nomination**

### **Narrative in Support of Judge David Minge's Nomination**

Judge David Minge's legal career and involvement in environmental issues has spanned over five decades. His long time commitment to environmental issues and his public service has significantly impacted environmental and natural resources law and its practitioners in Minnesota.

Judge Minge practiced law in metro and outstate Minnesota, serving for some of this time as a consultant to the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives. Beginning in 1992, Judge Minge represented Minnesota's Second District in Congress. During his two Congressional terms, Judge Minge served on the Agriculture Committee, the Budget Committee, the Joint Economic Committee, and the Science Committee. While in Congress, Judge Minge championed the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a partnership between states and the federal government to achieve improved water quality and environmental protection. The Minnesota River was the second Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in the country, and offered farmers an economically competitive option to remove land from cultivation and voluntarily enroll the land in a conservation easement. Aimed at improving river water quality and restoring wildlife habitat, this program was the largest private lands conversation effort in the state.

After his terms in Congress, Judge Minge served on the Minnesota Court of Appeals from 2002 through 2012.

Judge Minge continues to contribute to the education of aspiring lawyers. He first taught public law at the University of Wyoming College of Law, taught on a Fulbright lectureship at the University of Helsinki, and currently offers a seminar on agriculture and the environment at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Judge Minge has devoted a significant amount of time throughout his career and since his retirement from the Court of Appeals to engaging in environmental issues. During his years practicing in outstate Minnesota, Judge Minge co-founded the Minnesota State Bar Association Agricultural Law Section and helped establish the Clean Up the River Environment board in Montevideo. Judge Minge served as facilitator for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Advisory Committee when the now-operational program was still in the pilot development phase. He has served on the board of the Minnesota Trails Initiative, Parks & Trails Council, Minnesota Land Trust, and Friends of the Minnesota Valley. Judge Minge has also served as a representative to the Metropolitan Parks Foundation and on the Minnesota State Bicycle Advisory Committee. His environmental awareness includes long-time promotion of riding bikes, and Judge Minge's traditional Labor Day campaign ride through his district inspired

the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota to continue the tradition of an organized ride, the Bike Minnesota with Parks & Trails ride.