

Office on the Economic Status of Women

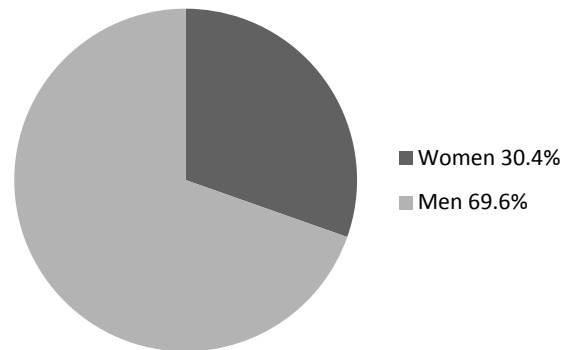
OESW Fact Sheet

Women in the Judiciary in Minnesota

Women serving in District Courts

- Of 289 judges currently serving in Minnesota District Courts, 88 are women (30.4%)
- All of Minnesota's ten judicial districts have at least one woman serving as judge.
- Kathleen R. Gearin is currently the only female Chief District Judge in Minnesota. She has held the position of Chief Judge in district two, serving Ramsey County, since 2008.

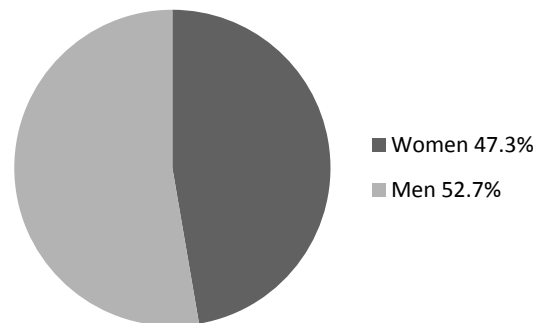
District Court Judges in Minnesota
by Gender: 2010



Women serving on the Court of Appeals

- Of 19 judges currently serving on the Minnesota Court of Appeals, nine are women (47.3%)
- Since its inception in 1983, 15 women (34.9%) have served on the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Only one woman, Anne V. Simonett, has been Chief Justice of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. She served in that role from 1994 to 1995.

Appellate Court Judges in Minnesota
by Gender: 2010



Women serving on the Supreme Court

- Of seven judges currently sitting on the Minnesota Supreme Court, two are women (28.6%).
- Eight women have served as judge on the Minnesota Supreme Court since its inception in 1858.
- Two women have served as Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Kathleen Blatz served from 1998 to 2006, and the current Chief Justice, Lorie Gildea was appointed on May 13, 2010.

Women in the history of the Minnesota Judicial Branch

- The first woman was admitted to the Minnesota bar in 1878, 20 years after Minnesota became a state. Martha Angle Dorsett received her law degree from Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, and successfully lobbied the Minnesota State Legislature to pass a bill in 1877 allowing women to practice law. She practiced law for 10 years.
- The first woman to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court, Rosalie Wahl, was appointed in 1977 by Governor Rudy Perpich. She received her law degree from William Mitchell School of Law, Saint Paul, Minnesota. She served on the Supreme Court until 1994.
- Kathleen Blatz was the first woman to serve as the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. She was first appointed to the Supreme Court in 1996, was made Chief Justice in 1998 and served in that role until 2006.
- The current Chief Justice, Lorie Gildea, was first appointed to the Supreme Court in 2006. Prior to being appointed to the Supreme Court, Gildea served as a judge in the Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County.

Source: www.courts.state.mn accessed 5/21/10