

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC REPRIMAND ISSUED TO NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOHN M. ROUE

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards (Board) issued a public reprimand to Ninth Judicial District Judge John M. Roue. The public reprimand was issued because the case of *State v. Schnichels*, a case assigned to Judge Roue, was not decided within the period of time permitted by law. *M.S. 546.27* requires case decisions of this type to be issued within 90 days of the date submitted. *Canon 3A (1)* requires judges to hear and decide cases “promptly” and “efficiently.” The Board concluded that these actions were contrary to the *Minnesota Code on Judicial Conduct*, *Canons 1*, *Canon 2A* and *Canon 3A(1)*, as well as the *Rules of the Board on Judicial Standards*, (“*R.Bd.Jud.Std.*”), *Rules 4(a) (5) and (6)*, as set forth below:

Canon 1

A Judge Should Uphold the Integrity and Independence of the Judiciary

An independent and honorable judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining and enforcing standards of conduct, and personally observe those standards in order to preserve the integrity and independence of the judiciary. The provisions of this Code should be construed and applied to further that objective.

Canon 2

A Judge Shall Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All of the Judge's Activities

- A. *A judge shall respect and comply with the law and act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.*

Canon 3 A (1)

A Judge Shall Perform the Duties of the Office Impartially and Diligently.

- A. *Adjudicative Responsibilities.*

(1) A judge shall hear and decide promptly, efficiently and fairly matters assigned to the judge except those in which disqualification is required.

***Rule 4, Rules of the Board on Judicial Standards
Grounds for Discipline***

- (a) Grounds for Discipline Shall Include:*

- (5) Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office in to disrepute. . .*
- (6) Conduct that constitutes a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or Professional Responsibility.*