
PRESS RELEASE

MN Board on Judicial Standards
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC REPRIMAND ISSUED TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DALE A. WOLF

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards, after personal notification by Carlton County District Court Judge Dale A. Wolf of a possible violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, has imposed a public reprimand on the Judge. The discipline was imposed upon the Judge for writing a letter published in the Duluth News-Tribune and published on September 20, 1996 which addressed community reaction surrounding the murder of Paul Antonich and the arrest of 5 Native Americans charged with the crime. Although the Judge's letter was an effort to speak out against the dynamics that feed racism and to lessen division in the region, it contained comments about a pending criminal case and is a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Commenting on a pending case is a violation of Canon 3A(8) of the Code of Judicial Conduct and Rule 4(a)(6), Rules of the Board on Judicial Standards which provides:

Canon 3A(8) Code of Judicial Conduct

A judge shall abstain from public comment about a pending or impending proceeding in any court, and shall require similar abstention on the part of court personnel subject to the judge's direction.

Rule 4(a)(6) Rules of the Board on Judicial Standards

Conduct that constitutes a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or Professional Responsibility.