
PRESS RELEASE

Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC REPRIMAND ISSUED TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOHN T. FINLEY

The Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards has imposed a public reprimand on Ramsey County District Court Judge John T. Finley for actions he took before he became a judge. The discipline was imposed upon the judge for voting as a Ramsey County Commissioner in 1995 and 1996 to approve property tax abatements for one of his legal clients and for a corporation in which he owned a 50% interest.

The Board also has required Judge Finley to pay to the general fund one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to reimburse the Board for costs of investigation.

The Board has required Judge Finley to complete 20 hours of continuing legal education on legal ethics within one year.

Voting as a government official on matters in which the official participated in private practice or employment is a violation of Rule 1.11(c) of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct which provides:

" . . . a lawyer serving as a public officer or employee shall not: (1) participate in a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially in private practice or non-governmental employment . . ."
