

DISTRICT COURT OF MINNESOTA
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

KRISTIN C. LARSON
JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT



CHAMBERS
ANOKA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
2100 THIRD AVENUE
ANOKA, MN 55303-2489
(763) 760-6700
FAX (763) 712-3247

July 11, 2022

Dear Members of the Anoka County Bar,

We write to encourage you to volunteer to assist low-income Anoka County residents in housing court. Anoka County -- along with the rest of the state -- is seeing an historic surge in eviction filings due to the end of the eviction moratorium and its phase-out protections. The surge is also due to the end of increased rental assistance through Rent Help MN and other Covid-19 specific rental assistance programs.

This surge in eviction cases is expected to continue throughout the summer and into the fall. This means that approximately 35 families will be going through housing court each week in Anoka County. The majority of these families are low income and unable to afford a lawyer. When a family's home is in jeopardy, the stakes are high, and we know that parties fare better in the legal system when they are represented.

In February of 2020, Anoka County District Court welcomed an expansion of services provided to families in housing court through a partnership between the 10th Judicial District, Central Minnesota Legal Services (CMLS), Judicare of Anoka County, Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN), Mediation and Restorative Services (MARS) and Anoka County Emergency Assistance. These services continue to be available to low-income tenants and landlords.

In order to meet the increased demand due to increased eviction filings, assistance is requested from the private bar in the following ways:

- 1) Volunteer attorneys:** VLN needs legal volunteers willing to staff these housing advice clinics Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30-12:00 and Monday afternoons from 1:30-4:30. You do not need a background in landlord/tenant law. **All necessary training will be provided.** For more information, please contact Muria Kruger at muria@vlmn.org or 612-752-6647.
- 2) Volunteer mediators:** MARS is seeking mediators who are willing to provide services on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30-12:00 and Monday afternoons from 1:30-4:30. All volunteers must be Rule 114 Qualified Neutrals. A background in landlord/tenant mediation is not

required. For more information, please contact Dana Amundson at dana@mediationservice.org or 763-422-8878.

We hope that you will consider participating in these pro bono housing court services during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Kristin C. Larson
Chair, Anoka County District Bench

The Hon. Karin L. McCarthy
Chair, Anoka County Housing Court