

Legal Frontiers: Challenges and Opportunities in the Rural Midwest ***Mitchell Hamline Law Review* Volume 52 Symposium** Friday, October 3, 2025



MITCHELL HAMLINE
LAW REVIEW

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THE HONORABLE JUSTICE ANNE K. MCKEIG MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT

On her appointment to the Minnesota Supreme Court, Justice Anne K. McKeig became the first American Indian woman in the United States to serve on a state's highest court. A descendant of the White Earth Nation, her appointment also created a women's majority on the court.

Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice McKeig served as a District Court Judge in Hennepin County, including as Presiding Judge in Family Court. She is a member of the American Law Institute, a trustee of St. Catherine University, a board member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and a national advisor on issues of child welfare, tribal sovereignty, intimate partner violence, and other juvenile and family law topics.

Earlier in her career, Justice McKeig served more than sixteen years as an Assistant Hennepin County Attorney, specializing in child protection and adoption cases under the Indian Child Welfare Act. She co-authored *Child Abuse and the Law*, a law school curriculum used nationwide, and has taught as an adjunct professor at both Mitchell Hamline School of Law and the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

Justice McKeig is a native of northern Minnesota, where she grew up on the Leech Lake Reservation.

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WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

8:30 AM Taylor Anderson, Editor-in-Chief, *Mitchell Hamline Law Review*, Volume 52
Angelique EagleWoman, Director, Native American Law & Sovereignty Institute, Professor of Law

LEGAL DIMENSIONS OF RURAL HEALTHCARE

8:45 AM Sue Grafstrom, Board Chair, Center for Rural Policy and Development
Carrie Henning-Smith, Co-Director, Rural Health Research Center, UMN School of Public Health
Alyssa Meller, Chief Operating Officer, National Rural Health Resource Center
Meighan Parker, Assistant Professor, University of Georgia School of Law
Moderated by Jill Krueger, Director of Climate & Health, Network for Public Health Law

KEYNOTE REMARKS

10:00 AM The Honorable Anne K. McKeig, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
Introduced by Camille Davidson, President and Dean, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

11:00 AM BREAK

AGRICULTURE AND THE LAW IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

11:15 AM Kathryn Draeger, Statewide Director of Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, UMN
Elizabeth Odette, Assistant Attorney General, Minnesota Attorney General's Office
Senator Aric Putnam, Chair, Minnesota Senate Agriculture Committee
Moderated by Sigrid Jewett, Symposium Editor, *Mitchell Hamline Law Review*, Volume 52

12:20 PM LUNCH

Please join us downstairs in the Conservatory for a lunch featuring locally sourced ingredients.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE RURAL MIDWEST

1:10 PM Rachel Armstrong, Founder and Executive Director, Farm Commons
Sarah Brenes, Executive Director, Binger Center for New Americans, UMN School of Law
Layne Sutherland, Chief Public Defender, Minnesota's Ninth Judicial District
Moderated by Kim Vu-Dinh, Director, Economic Inclusion Clinic and Louis L. Ainsworth Distinguished Professor in Business Law, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

CLOSING

2:10 PM Taylor Anderson, Editor-in-Chief, *Mitchell Hamline Law Review*, Volume 52