POWERHOUSE MEDIATION

Hon. Charlene Hatcher (Ret.)

Mediator · Arbitrator · Special Master

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Judge Charlene Hatcher (Ret.) served on Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District Court from 2016 to 2025 and led Hennepin County Family Court as its presiding judge from 2020 to 2025. Before taking the bench, she was Hennepin County's Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney and negotiated on the County Attorney's behalf. She brings that experience to family and civil dispute resolution.

NEUTRAL SERVICES

Family mediation · Civil mediation · Civil arbitration · Special master assignments

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

Presiding Judge, Family Court Division

July 2020 - May 2025

Led 19 judicial officers and oversaw judicial training, division policies, and court operations. Presided over complex family matters, contempt proceedings, and protection order cases.

Assistant Presiding Judge, Family Court Division

January 2019 - June 2020

Supported division leadership and helped develop procedures to improve the court's response to domestic violence in family matters.

District Court Judge, Family Court Division

February 2018 - December 2018

Heard family court, protection order, and contempt matters.

District Court Judge, Criminal Division

July 2016 - January 2018

Presided over criminal proceedings, including bench and jury trials.

SELECTED JUDICIAL & ADR APPOINTMENTS

- Minnesota Alternative Dispute Resolution Ethics Board, 2021 - May 2025
- Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards, 2020 - May 2025
- Minnesota Judicial Branch Committee for Equality and Justice. Co-chaired the Committee for Access and Fairness, 2020 - May 2025.

Hon. Charlene Hatcher (Ret.)

HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney

November 2011 - June 2016

Advised the County Attorney, negotiated on the office's behalf, and oversaw its five civil divisions.

Managing Attorney, Human Services Division

April 1997 - October 2011

Led the civil commitment and general counsel teams and managed the Child Support Division from 1997 to 2010.

Assistant Hennepin County Attorney, Civil Division

November 1983 - March 1997

Advised and represented the County Board, county administration, Hennepin County Medical Center, and other county departments in civil and legislative matters.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

H.B. Fuller Company · Associate Counsel and Litigation Consultant, 1992-1993

Advised on commercial, employment, property, product liability, and environmental matters and supervised outside litigation counsel.

Minnesota Attorney General's Office · Special Assistant Attorney General, 1988-1992

Represented Minnesota agencies in public finance and corrections matters. Negotiated contracts and real estate transactions for the Department of Administration.

Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi · Business Litigation Associate, 1987-1988

Worked on securities, antitrust, commercial, and other civil litigation matters.

EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSION

- J.D., William Mitchell College of Law, 1987 · Editor, William Mitchell Law Review
- Baccalaureate of Applied Studies, Business Administration, University of Minnesota, 1984
- Associate of Arts, Paralegal Studies, University of Minnesota, 1983
- Admitted to practice in Minnesota

MENTORSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Volunteer law student mentor through the University of St. Thomas School of Law and the University of Minnesota Law School, 2018 - May 2025.
- Monthly volunteer presenter, Goodwill-Easter Seals FATHER Project, 2023 - May 2025.