Lorraine Babcock

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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Summary

District court judge since 2017, rotating through felony, juvenile and family law calendars, after 11 years as an assistant public defender. Presides over jury trials and treatment court and applies the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines with written findings that hold up on appeal.

Skills

- Criminal Procedure
- Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines
- Rules of Evidence
- Jury Trials
- Bench Trials
- Treatment Court
- Juvenile Law
- Family Law
- Case Management
- Legal Writing

Experience

District Court Judge 01/2017 - Present

State District Court Minneapolis, MN

General-jurisdiction trial court; appointed in 2017 and elected in 2018 and 2024.

- Preside over felony, juvenile and family law calendars, with about **3,000** hearings and 30 jury trials a year.
- Impose sentences under the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines, writing departure findings upheld in 41 of 43 appeals.
- Lead a 60-participant adult treatment court whose graduates reoffended at half the county rate over 3 years.
- Reduced juvenile case age by 28% after reorganizing the calendar and tightening case management rules.

Assistant Public Defender 09/2005 - 12/2016

County Public Defender's Office Minneapolis, MN

Felony and juvenile trial units.

- Represented **2,500+** adult and juvenile clients in felony, misdemeanor and juvenile law matters.
- Tried 48 jury trials and bench trials to verdict, including 11 serious violent felony cases.
- Wrote suppression motions arguing criminal procedure and rules of evidence issues, winning 30 contested hearings.
- Trained 20 new public defenders on trial skills and legal writing.

Education

Juris Doctor (J.D.) 05/2005

University of Minnesota Law School Minneapolis, MN

Law

Certificates

Admission to the Minnesota Bar

Minnesota Supreme Court

10/2005