

## **Judicial Transparency Study Proposal 08.13**

### **1. Describe your project idea, including clearly defining the problems and specific policy questions to be addressed.**

Judicial transparency.

### **2. Why is this problem important?**

Trust in the lawyers and judges in Minnesota is eroding. Lawyers practicing in a particular County know which judges take on a lot of cases, and rarely get overturned on appeal. The general public can find it difficult to get this information.

### **3. How could the Citizens League make a unique contribution?**

Real estate assessed values used to be controlled by only a few people "in the know". The legislature was unable to act. Property owners felt unfairly treated. The Citizens League published an annual study showing the percent of market value actually assessed in each County. Now property owners have more confidence they are being treated fairly.

### **4. What are prospects that project would yield recommendations that could be implemented and have a major impact on the problem?**

The project would not tell the legislature to streamline laws so that law is easier to adjudicate. The project would simply provide a means to measure improvement.

### **5. Explain how this problem can be addressed by data, research, and reason? Identify probable sources for data and research.**

An annual statistical ranking of all of Minnesota's judges based on workload and appeal record would be very visible.

### **6. Explain how this proposal can be framed without partisan bias.**

Light is the best disinfectant.

### **7. Why would this project be attractive to members?**

Even if they win, who hasn't felt the Minnesota legal industry is somewhat unpredictable?

### **8. How would this project reach out to under-represented segments of the community?**

People without money cannot hire an attorney with either good connections or the time to sort through all the possible issues.

### **9. What is the potential for making this issue visible to a broader public? Why?**

An annual statistical ranking of all of Minnesota's judges based on workload and appeal record would be very visible.

### **10. What resources—funding, experts, etc. might be available to support this project?**

I'd be happy to donate my own time. And, if requested, I'd be happy to lead the project and seek anonymous donors from the bar.