



Justice Rosalie Wahl
Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
St. Paul, Minnesota

Justice Rosalie Wahl, known as the “founding mother” of Minnesota women attorneys, made history in 1977 as the first woman appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court. This year the Minnesota Supreme Court made history when the appointment of a fourth woman justice made it the only state supreme court with a female majority.

Justice Wahl’s path to the bar and bench was unconventional. She began law school after sixteen years of homemaking when she was in her forties and had four children. Her fifth child was born during law school where she was one of only two women in her class. After graduation she served as a state public defender, adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, and clinical professor of law at her alma mater, William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul before being appointed to the Supreme Court.

Justice Wahl was a co-founder of Minnesota Women Lawyers, and is known throughout her state and the country for supporting women lawyers and encouraging women’s judicial appointments. Justice Wahl chaired the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Fairness in the Courts and now chairs the Gender Fairness Implementation Committee and the newly formed Racial Bias Task Force. She is the Supreme Court’s liaison to the Minnesota State Board of Law Examiners and past chair of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar and that section’s Accreditation Committee. She is the recipient of many awards honoring her extensive public service and commitment to advancing the status of women.