



## *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

*Executive Branch of Tribal Government  
Office of the Chief Executive*

*Via E-mail*

May 18, 2026

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly  
Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Representative  
Wendy Merrill, District II Representative  
Harry Davis, District III Representative

Re: Nomination Letter for James Rennieke to Serve as Associate Judge for the Court of Central Jurisdiction.

Aaniin.

Pursuant to 5 MLBS § 7, I hereby nominate James Jay Rennieke, Esq. to serve as Associate Judge for the Court of Central Jurisdiction for a four-year term expiring August 30, 2028. In accordance with Band law, this nomination is respectfully submitted to Band Assembly for confirmation or rejection within thirty (30) days.

Mr. Rennieke earned his Juris Doctor degree from Hamline University School of Law in 1982. He has been admitted to practice law in the State of Minnesota since 1982 and the State of Wisconsin since 1998. Mr. Rennieke is also admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court, the Lac Du Flambeau Tribal Court, and the St. Croix Band of Chippewa Tribal Court.

Mr. Rennieke currently serves as Judicial Attorney for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a position he has held since March 2025. In this role, he works within the Band's judicial system and is familiar with Band statutes, court procedures, and the responsibilities of the Court of Central Jurisdiction. His prior experience includes serving as District Attorney in Burnett County and Rusk County, Wisconsin, as well as Assistant District Attorney in Douglas and Polk Counties. Mr. Rennieke has also served as a Wisconsin Assistant State Public Defender and maintained a private practice focused on litigation and appellate work.

Over the course of forty-two (42) years of legal practice, Mr. Rennieke has built a career centered on courtroom advocacy, trial preparation, and legal analysis. He has trained prosecutors and defense attorneys in trial practice and was certified to represent individuals charged with the most serious felony offenses. His appellate experience includes advancing a case to the United States Supreme Court. In addition, he has been appointed by the Governor of Wisconsin on two separate occasions to statewide positions under different administrations.

The Court of Central Jurisdiction carries significant responsibility under Band law, including the authority described to issue writs, judgments, and orders necessary to preserve justice and protect

**Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to Band Assembly**

**Re: Nomination of James Rennieke as Associate Judge**

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the rights of all persons under Band jurisdiction. I am a strong believer that Mr. Rennieke's extensive trial experience, prosecutorial and defense background, appellate work, and current service to the Band will help him to carry out his duties as a Tribal Court Associate Judge with diligence, impartiality, and respect for the rule of law.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Band Assembly confirm the nomination of James Jay Rennieke as Associate Judge of the Court of Central Jurisdiction.

Miigwech for your consideration,



Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive

CC:

Danielle Smith, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Band Assembly  
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel  
Jana Sam, Tribal Court Administrator

Enclosure:

James Rennieke Resume