



# *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

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

*Via E-mail*

February 19, 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 Michael Harralson to Serve as Associate Judge for the Court of Central Jurisdiction.

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Under 5 MLBS § 7, I hereby nominate Michael Harralson to serve as an 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 of receipt.

Mr. Harralson graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2006 and has been admitted to—and remained in good standing with—the State of Minnesota Bar since that time.

Mr. Harralson has a resume that more than prepares him for the role of Associate Judge. For example, he brings nearly twenty years of experience serving Tribal Nations in judicial capacities across Indian Country. Mr. Harralson has served as Chief Judge, Associate Judge, Associate Justice, Election Judge, and Special Magistrate for multiple tribal courts, including prior service here with the Mille Lacs Band. His judicial appointments include service with the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (White Earth Nation), Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, Prairie Island Indian Community, White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. In these roles, Mr. Harralson has presided over complex matters involving child welfare, probate, guardianships, employment disputes, housing, criminal cases, and appellate review. He has consistently demonstrated fairness, impartiality, and the ability to issue timely, well-reasoned decisions grounded in tribal law and procedure.

Mr. Harralson's experience also extends beyond the bench. He previously served the Mille Lacs Band as Deputy Solicitor General, representing the Band in tribal and state court proceedings, advising departments and commissioners, negotiating agreements, and appearing before Band Assembly regarding the development of laws and policies. Mr. Harralson also served for over a decade as a Human Services Judge with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, conducting administrative hearings and applying complex statutory and regulatory frameworks. That experience shows his judicial temperament, analytical ability, and leadership required of this position.

**Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to Band Assembly**  
**Re: Nomination of Michael Harralson as Associate Judge**  
**February 19, 2026**  
**Page 2 of 2**

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 the rights of all persons under Band jurisdiction. I am a strong believer that Mr. Harralson's extensive judicial background, familiarity with tribal governance, and prior service to the Mille Lacs Band will help him to uphold those responsibilities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Band Assembly confirm the nomination of Michael Harralson 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  
Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General

Enclosure:

Michael Harralson Resume

## MICHAEL P. HARRALSON

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### EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, MN: Juris Doctor, 2006

Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL: Bachelor of Arts, 2002, Major: Political Science, Certificate: Urban Studies

### BAR ADMISSION

State of Minnesota (2006)

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Lakes Legal, PLLC, Owner – Providing judicial services for Tribal Nations** February 2023-Present

**Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Judge Pro Tempore** April 2025-Present

**Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (White Earth Nation), Election Court of Appeals** April 2025-Present

**Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, District Court Judge** January 2025-Present

**Prairie Island Indian Community, Associate Judge** June 2024-Present

**White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Election Contest Judge** 2024 Election Cycle

**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Special Magistrate** February 2024-Present

**Lower Sioux Indian Community, Chief Judge** December 2023-Present

**Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Associate Supreme Court Justice** March 2023-Present

**Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Deputy Judge/Associate Justice** September 2022-Present

- Fairly and impartially hear and decide legal matters in Tribal trial courts
- Preside over hearings and trials related to child welfare, adult guardianship, traffic violations, probate, employment, housing, and other matters
- Evaluate evidence, determine credibility, and write timely and sound legal decisions
- Assist in development and enforcement of Court rules and procedures
- Chief Judge for the Lower Sioux Tribal Court: administer the operations of the Tribal Court and supervise Court employees
- Leech Lake Tribal Court: presided over the joint jurisdiction Wellness Court with Cass County and Itasca County
- Associate Justice for Appellate Courts: determine whether to grant review of appeals, review briefs and the lower court record, listen to oral arguments, research issues and write decisions

**Minnesota Department of Human Services, Human Services Judge** February 2012 – September 2022

- Conducted administrative fair hearings, pursuant to Minnesota law, when applicants or recipients of various human services programs appealed adverse actions taken by local or state agencies
- Received evidence from the parties and oversaw the admission of such evidence during the hearing
- Took testimony from the parties and provided the parties with an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses of the opposing party
- Evaluated the evidence in the record and researched and applied applicable federal and state statutes, rules, and policies from the appropriate program area
- Wrote recommended decisions for disposition of appeals

**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Deputy Solicitor General** March 2011 – February 2012  
**Onamia, MN** July 2007 – July 2009

- Represented the Mille Lacs Band in tribal and state courts regarding ICWA matters and in tribal court regarding criminal prosecution, natural resources enforcement, child support enforcement, and guardianships and conservatorships
- Reviewed and negotiated contracts and agreements between the Mille Lacs Band and the State of Minnesota as well as various corporations
- Advised various Mille Lacs Band governmental departments and commissioners
- Appeared before the Mille Lacs Band Assembly regarding the creation of laws and policies

**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Director of Human Resources**  
Onamia, MN

July 2009 – March 2011

- Created the rules and procedures for and oversaw the Employee Grievance Committee
- Managed a staff of eight responsible for employee benefits, employee relations, safety and risk management, and recruitment among other duties
- Presented the Mille Lacs Band's case in State unemployment insurance hearings

**Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, ICWA Staff Attorney**  
St. Paul, MN

September 2006 – July 2007

- Represented American Indian parents in the child protection system in order to preserve their parental rights
- Prepared and questioned clients and witnesses during trial and hearings
- Communicated with clients, other attorneys, and case professionals to monitor client compliance with cases in order to prepare arguments, defenses, or settlements

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### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

Pascua Yaqui Tribe – University of Arizona Microcampus, *Course Instructor* (Native American Law and Policy; Native American Family and Domestic Relations Law; Tribal Courts Practice and Procedure; Tribal Criminal Law and Procedure, May 2025-present).

Mitchell Hamline School of Law, *Adjunct Faculty* (Administrative Law, Spring 2024)

University of St. Thomas School of Law, *Adjunct Faculty* (Mentor Externship, 2016-2018)

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### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/MEMBERSHIPS**

National American Indian Court Judges Association, *Member* (2024-present), *Board Member* (2024-present)

Minnesota Native American Bar Association, *Special Member* (2003-Present), *CLE Committee* (2024-present)

Minnesota State Emblems Redesign Commission, *Governor Appointee*, (2023)

Learning Law and Democracy, 'We the People' Competition, *Judge* (December 2007-Present)

University of St. Thomas School of Law Mentor Program, *Mentor* (2014-2020, 2023-Present)

ReNew Earth Running, *Founder/Chair/Executive Director* (December 2020-December 2024).

Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, *Commissioner* (January 2013-December 2015), *Chair* (December 2013-December 2015), *Standards and Procedures Committee Co-chair* (January 2013-December 2013)

Indian Child Welfare Law Center, *Board of Directors* (2006-2012), *Secretary* (2010-2012)

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### **AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS**

Trail Runner Magazine, *Running to Renew* (Spring 2022)

RAD Boulder Award (January 2022)

Minnesota Department of Human Services Achievement Award (May 2016)

Second Place (2005), National NALSA Writing Competition, *That's Bull: From Pope Innocent IV to Chief Justice John Marshall the Acceptance of Frivolous and Unconstitutional Law by the Supreme Court of the United States*