

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS

Tiffini Flynn Forslund; Justina
Person; Bonnie Dominguez; and
Roxanne Draughn,

Plaintiffs/Appellants,

v.

State of Minnesota; Mark Dayton, in
his official capacity as the Governor
of the State of Minnesota; the
Minnesota Department of Education;
Brenda Cassellius, in her official
capacity as the Commissioner of
Education; St. Paul Public Schools,
Independent School District 625;
Anoka-Hennepin School District 11;
Duluth Public Schools, Independent
School District 709; West St. Paul-
Mendota Heights-Eagan Area
Schools, Independent School District
197,

Defendants/Respondents

APPLICATION OF NATIONAL
COUNCIL ON TEACHER
QUALITY AND TNTP, INC. TO
PARTICIPATE AS *AMICI CURIAE*
AND REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO
FILE BRIEF

TRIAL COURT CASE NO. 62-CV-
16-2161

APPELLATE COURT CASE NO.:

A17-0033

**TO: THE MINNESOTA COURT OF APPEAL AND TO COUNSEL FOR ALL
PARTIES ABOVE-NAMED**

Applicants, the National Council on Teacher Quality ("NCTQ") and TNTP, Inc.
("TNTP"), respectfully request that the Minnesota Court of Appeals grant leave to participate in
this case, as *amici curiae*, pursuant to Rule 129 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate
Procedure. Applicants will support the brief of the Appellants.

I. STATEMENT OF APPLICANTS' INTEREST

Applicants' interest is public because it is about a child's fundamental right to a quality
education. Every child deserves an education that will prepare them for success in college and
life and state policies should support that important outcome. NCTQ is a nonpartisan research

and policy organization led by the vision that every child deserves effective teachers and every teacher deserves the opportunity to become effective. NCTQ recognizes that for far too many children and teachers, this vision is not the reality because all too often the policies and practices of those institutions with the greatest authority and influence over teachers and schools fall short. To that end, NCTQ focuses on the changes institutions such as teacher preparation programs, school districts, state governments, and teachers unions must make to return the teaching profession to strong health, delivering to every child the education needed to ensure a bright and successful future. NCTQ's Board of Directors and Advisory Board are composed of Democrats, Republicans and Independents, all of whom believe that policy changes are overdue in the recruitment and retention of teachers.

TNTP is a national nonprofit organization founded by teachers, committed to ending the injustice of educational inequality by providing excellent teachers to the students who need them most and by advancing policies and practices that ensure effective teaching in every classroom. TNTP believes our nation's public schools can offer *all* children an excellent education. TNTP works at every level of the public education system to attract and train talented teachers and school leaders, ensure rigorous and engaging classrooms, and create environments that prioritize great teaching and accelerate student learning. TNTP's work in this area is not limited to the theoretical; we are also one of the leading practitioners of implementing best practices to assess and improve teacher quality. Since 1997, TNTP has partnered with more than 200 public school districts, charter school networks and state departments of education. TNTP has advised state leaders on policies and systems for assessing teacher effectiveness, improving instructional quality and educator employment policies affecting student access to effective teachers. TNTP has also recruited or trained more than 50,000 teachers, redefined critical education issues

through acclaimed studies like *The Widget Effect* (2009) and *The Mirage* (2015), and launched one of the nation's premiere awards for excellent teaching, the Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice. Today, TNTP is active in more than 30 cities and is working with state leaders from more than one-third of states in the country to improve education policies and systems.

II. STATEMENT OF WHY PARTICIPATION OF *AMICI CURIAE* IS DESIRABLE

An *amicus curiae* brief is desirable because the important equity issues raised in this case affect the interests and rights of children far beyond those of the parties to this action. Effective teachers are crucial to an adequate and effective education, and a grossly ineffective teacher reaps harm on a young child's access to literacy, earning potential, and ability to act as a responsible public citizen. The lack of effective teachers, thus the lack of effective education, deprives a populace of the knowledge, self-confidence, and critical thinking skills necessary for full participation in the robust and open debate that is central to our democracy.

Applicants have an extensive background of thorough and objective research on best practices to recruit and maintain a high quality teaching force in Minnesota and across the country. Applicants seek to participate as *amici curiae* because they believe they could offer valuable experience, research, and perspective on the important state constitutional issues involved. Consistent with *State v. Finley*, 242 Minn. 288, 64 N.W.2d 769 (1954), Applicants would like to inform or remind the court of facts or issues of law that may have escaped consideration, not repeat or emphasize arguments already presented by a party.

III. CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request the opportunity to participate in the case as *amici curiae*.

Dated: January 23, 2017

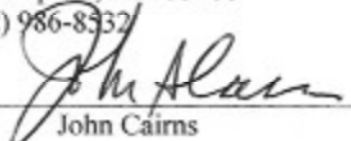
Respectfully submitted,

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