About Us:
Minnesota Citizens for an Independent Judiciary is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization founded under the provisions of the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act and organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership is free.

Our purpose is to bring together Minnesota citizens in a nonpartisan fashion:

- To promote the constitutional heritage, legal, and general history of the State of Minnesota through nonpartisan research, education, and informational activities that help increase public awareness, understanding of, and confidence in our state's elected judiciary;

- To recognize and promote the principle of the separation of powers enshrined within Minnesota’s Constitution since 1858 through nonpartisan research, education, and informational activities designed to strengthen the public’s awareness of the need to maintain a state court system independent from both the executive and legislative branches, and accountable directly to the people as originally envisioned by Minnesota’s founders;

- And, to encourage the civic interaction of judicial branch officers and the general public.

The Importance of an Independent Judiciary

The dignity and stability of government in all its branches, the morals of the people and every blessing of society depend so much upon an upright and skillful administration of justice, that the judicial power ought to be distinct from both the legislative and executive and independent upon both, that so it may be a check upon both, as both should be checks upon that.

– THOMAS JEFFERSON

MINNESOTA CITIZENS FOR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING OF, AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR STATE’S ELECTED COURTS

Follow Us: Facebook | Twitter
Since 1858, competitive judicial elections have strengthened Minnesota’s courts, preserved their independence, and made them into the envy of much of the nation and the world.

In an age when divisive politics and the looming menace of civil war threatened to undermine our civic institutions, Minnesota’s founders wisely recognized that the only sure way they could create a respected judiciary independent and impartial enough to defend the rights and liberties of the people from special interests and the encroachment of the executive and legislative branches of government, was by letting the people, and not the politicians, select for themselves who would be their judges.

Minnesotans today can be proud that national studies consistently rate our courts amongst the finest in the nation. We can be proud that when emerging democracies abroad have need for judicial advice, they’ve turned to Minnesota judges. And proud that while other states have allowed their courts to be auctioned off to the highest bidder or turned into mere marionettes of the governor, the independence, integrity, and impartiality of our courts has remained beyond question because of the brilliant design of our state’s founders.

Unfortunately, too few Minnesotans know this. Minnesota Citizens for an Independent Judiciary is seeking to change that.

Our goal is to help end the mystery surrounding our state’s judiciary, and to bring about a greater public appreciation for the brilliant design of our system.

To learn more, or to find out what you can do to help, please visit our website: www.mncij.org.

A Warning From Our First Chief Justice

If the people are incapable of selecting their Judges, they are also incapable of selecting the man who is to appoint the Judges.

– LAFAYETTE EMMETT, 1857

DEMOCRATIC ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MINNESOTA TERRITORY, AND THE FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT.