

UNEMPLOYMENT APPEALS SELF HELP CLINIC

2020 REPORT

In 2020 the clinic assisted 35 people. (Three people attended twice.) One clinic session was held with an interpreter. Due to COVID-19 all clinics were done by telephone. Last year cases with at least one pro se party constituted about 80% of unemployment appeal case filings. There were a total of 70 unemployment cases filed in the Court of Appeals.

Clinic Details

Typically, the clinic operates twice per month. Clinic customers speak with volunteer attorneys for approximately 30 minutes. Prior to calling the customer, the attorney reviews both the customer's initial decision from the unemployment law judge and the decision in response to the request for reconsideration.

Number of Appeals Filed

21 of the clinic customers (60%) decided not to file an appeal after consulting with the clinic attorney.

Full Representation Provided

Four customers were provided full representation by the Appellate Pro Bono Panel (MSBA Appellate Practice Section).

Appeal Outcomes

Description of Outcome	# of Cases	# of Clinic Customers Represented *
Appeals Dismissed	8	
No brief filed – 4		
Dismissed and remanded - 1		
Voluntary dismissal - 3		2
ULJ Affirmed	5	1
ULJ Reversed	0	
Vacated	1	1

* Appellant had counsel from the Appellate Pro Bono Panel.

Counties of Customers:

Blue Earth, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Kandiyohi, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, Sherburne, Washington, Wright

Attorney Volunteers in 2020:

Craig Brandt, Howard Bolter, Sarah Crippen, Marlene Garvis, Nathan Griffin, Mary Kaczorek, Corey Kobbervig, Lee Nelson, Jonathan Reppe, Brian Rochel

State Law Library Volunteers:

Sarah Larsen, Liz Reppe

About the Clinic:

In April 2013, the Minnesota State Law Library and the Labor and Employment Section of the MSBA started a free clinic for people contemplating an appeal to the Minnesota Court of Appeals from an agency denial of unemployment benefits. The clinic is staffed by volunteer attorneys and law library staff.