

LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BOARD

SUITE 305-I
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER
25 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155
lprbgeneral@courts.state.mn.us

TELEPHONE (651) 297-7610

<http://lprb.mncourts.gov/AboutUs/Pages/LawyersBoardDirectory.aspx>

Ms. Kellye Strickland
6445 South Maple Avenue, Unit 2006
Tempe, AZ 85283

Re: Appeal of Director's Determination in the Complaint of Kellye Strickland against
Attorney Kyle T. Manderfeld
Our File Number: 49870

Dear Ms. Strickland:

On June 10, 2025, the Director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility (OLPR) determined, without investigation, that discipline was not warranted in the above matter. You filed a timely appeal of that decision.

On July 28, 2025, this appeal was assigned to me. I received the complete file and reviewed it. Pursuant to the Minnesota Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, I find that the determinations that no investigation is warranted and that there be no lawyer discipline were appropriate, and I affirm the Director's decision.

The Director summarized the record and the allegation in the complaint as follows:

1. Attorney Kyle Manderfeld represents the petitioner in a restraining order case against you in state court in Ramsey County. You also have a pending civil rights case in federal court against Ramsey County which involves claims of improper service, denial of motions using fabricated dates, scheduling of hearings without notice, and violations of your First Amendment rights and due process.
2. You allege that Mr. Manderfeld has a conflict because he previously worked as an assistant county attorney in Ramsey County.
3. A public records search shows that your pending federal civil rights case against some Ramsey County government officials does not include Mr.

Manderfeld (or did not include Mr. Manderfeld at the time you made the complaint against him).

4. Public records also show that Mr. Manderfeld was not involved in any case against you during his employment as an assistant county attorney.
5. You submitted documents in support of your claims, including letters to the judge in your civil suit, which you argue are impermissible *ex parte* communications.

The Director provided the following reasons in support of the determinations not to investigate and that no lawyer discipline was warranted:

Under Rule 1.11(a)(2), MRPC, former government attorneys "shall not otherwise represent a client in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially as a public officer or employee[.]" While Mr. Manderfeld formerly worked as an assistant county attorney in Ramsey County, there is no information suggesting he participated personally and substantially in any matter involving you during that employment. Your federal claims against the county also do not include alleged misconduct by Mr. Manderfeld while working as an assistant county attorney. Your complaint does not state a basis for a reasonable belief that misconduct occurred.

To open an investigation into alleged violations of the Minnesota Rules of Professional Conduct, there must first be a reasonable belief that misconduct occurred. For there to be a conflict of interest for a former government attorney, there needs to have been previous work involving the same parties or the same matter that the attorney worked on. In this case, the documents related to your case and the public record show nothing to indicate that Mr. Manderfeld was involved in any matter while working as an assistant Ramsey County attorney that involves you or any matter related to your pending cases. Therefore, there is no reasonable basis to believe that Mr. Manderfeld committed professional misconduct.

Based on my review of your complaint, the relevant documents, and the Director's previous determination, I conclude that the Director's decisions are appropriate and therefore affirm the Director's decision. My decision on appeal is final. My approval of the Director's decision means that the Board's file on this case is now closed.

By copy of this letter, Mr. Kyle Manderfeld is hereby notified of my decision on appeal.

Very truly,

Handwritten signature of Amy Sweasy in black ink.

Amy Sweasy

Member

Lawyers Board of Professional Responsibility

cc: Kyle T. Manderfeld
Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility