

July 16, 2006

Statement by Jennifer Mattson

I am a candidate for the DFL nomination for attorney general of Minnesota.

I have outlined the reasons for my candidacy in a letter to Rep. Matt Entenza delivered today. (copy enclosed)

I appear in court on behalf of my clients nearly every day. I am a third generation Mattson to become a Minnesota lawyer. For 48 of the last 52 years, the people of Minnesota have entrusted the attorney general's office to DFL'ers Lord, Mondale, my grandfather Robert Mattson, Spannaus, Humphrey and Hatch. Never was integrity an issue with these lawyers. While the attorney general is elected, it is essentially a law office and there must be trust between the people and the occupant. Rep. Entenza, because of his own statements and actions, will have an impossible task of re-establishing trust within the time constraints of this campaign. Political damage is being inflicted daily on the entire DFL effort.

I do not believe that "opposition research," which digs into the personal lives of candidates for the purpose of smear and personal destruction, is good for our political process. Voters abhor it and I do, as well. I will not be a party to it.

Instead, I will champion the law and dedicate myself to upholding the honor my predecessors have brought to the office of attorney general. I promise that if elected, I will continue Mike Hatch's work to vigorously enforce the laws on managed health care providers and insurance companies. I will keep the current staff intact, as it pursues ongoing investigations into these matters.

CONTACT: (651) 628-8766

(MINNESOTANS FOR MATTSON, MILES W. LORD, CHAIR)

July 16, 2006

Representative Matt Entenza
1647 Portland Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Dear Representative Entenza:

I have a personal history of supporting your campaigns for the state legislature. From 2001 to 2005, I resided in your district. My neighborhood law office is still in district 64A. I write this letter to you and deliver it in person with a sense of sadness.

I represent the views of many who are uncomfortable with the fact that you are seeking the office of attorney general at a time when the attorney general is investigating UnitedHealth Group, Inc. and the issuance of \$2.4 billion in stock options. I concur with the attorney general and those Minnesotans who publicly question how you could serve as attorney general while the office is investigating the \$30.8 million in UnitedHealth stock options granted to your wife. It appears to be an irreconcilable conflict. You are seeking the wrong office at the wrong time given your personal circumstances.

The public revelations about your paying a Chicago firm to secretly investigate your running mate, Mike Hatch, and the less than candid way you have justified it, leaves us all in doubt as to the truth. This behavior is so serious that, had it been known to the state DFL convention you would likely not have been endorsed. Questions remain to be answered. Why did you really do it? How much did it really cost? What did you expect to find and what were you going to do with it? Does Mike Hatch qualify as "opposition" to you in your mind? How wide is the scope of your sleuthing efforts? Have you reported your expenditures? Your apology will not insulate you from having to answer all of these questions, and more.

If you wanted to know about the office of attorney general, you could have reviewed Minnesota statutes; walked down the hall and met with Attorney General Hatch; held a legislative hearing; reviewed the office budget submitted to the legislature or referred to your own service in the office in the 1990's. You have made yourself a target with your responses. You have said people don't care about this, but you are wrong. Minnesotans care very much.

The simple fact is that your irreconcilable conflict of interest and personal campaign conduct are now the dominant issues. Not only is your own election highly questionable, but you are endangering the entire DFL ticket.

I believe events have spun out of your control and have compromised your campaign. I had hoped that you would set aside your personal ambitions and answer the call to end your candidacy for the sake of the DFL party and the people of Minnesota. I believe you to be a person of talent and promise but the current circumstances leave you wide-open to Republican attacks, which unfortunately have merit. Your fellow DFL'ers, including attorneys, find it impossible to defend you.

Therefore, I am filing as a candidate in the primary to make certain that DFL voters have the final say on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mattson

Biography

Jennifer Mattson was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She received her Juris Doctorate from William Mitchell College of Law and her undergraduate degree from Barnard College at Columbia University in New York City. She has also studied at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Ben Gurion University in Israel and the University of Granada in Spain.

Attending law school at night allowed Jennifer to complete a four-year clerkship with Judge J. Thomas Mott as his Judicial Law Clerk during his tenures as Chief Judge of the 2nd Judicial District and Chair of the Conference of Chief Judges.

Following law school, Jennifer joined Neighborhood Justice Center (NJC), a small non-profit organization specializing in the representation of low-income defendants in criminal matters. In August 2004, Jennifer left NJC and opened her law office in her old neighborhood in St. Paul. Jennifer understands that people will only respect the legal system if they have a qualified and dedicated advocate. She is committed to aggressively helping clients fight the charges they face. Mattson Law Office also services pro bono cases and reduced fee clients through Criminal Defense Services, which operates in St. Paul.

Jennifer is an active member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the American Bar Association, the Minnesota Bar Association, the Ramsey County Bar Association, the Warren Burger Inn of Court, the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and a member of its legislative committee.

In 2001, Jennifer took a leave of absence from her clerkship and law school to accept a full time position on Senator Dayton's campaign staff. She also served on the staff of Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D. MA.) in Washington, D.C., and Israeli Knesset Member Mooty Sandberg in Jerusalem, Israel. The Mattson family has been active in public affairs in Minnesota for four generations.

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