

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RAMSEY

DISTRICT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No. 62-C9-61-315222

In the Matter of OTTO BREMER
TRUST (formerly known as the Otto
Bremer Foundation)

**AFFIDAVIT AND ACCEPTANCE OF
MARCIA AVNER**

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

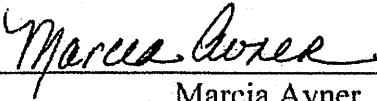
Marcia Avner, being first duly sworn under oath, states as follows:

1. My name is Marcia Avner. I am a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota.
2. I am available to serve as a fiduciary of the above-captioned Trust, both as a special fiduciary to take possession of the trust property and administer the trust pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501C.1001(b)(5), and as a replacement Trustee under section 501C.0704.
3. I have attached as **Exhibit 1** a curriculum vitae setting forth my qualifications to serve in these capacities. My experience includes, but is not limited to extensive consulting work with non-profit organizations, philanthropic entities, and academic centers to ensure that public policy and civic engagement are implemented as core strategies for meeting goals and effective change. I was previously a Director with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and serve as faculty teaching courses on nonprofit organizations.
4. Subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions to be determined by this Court, I am willing to accept the appointment to serve in these capacities.
5. Upon such acceptance, I agree to administer the trust in accordance with its applicable terms and to be bound by the provisions of applicable statutes relating to the office.

6. If appointed to serve in such capacities, I will submit to the jurisdiction of the Court in any proceeding relating to this trust; and swear to faithfully perform all duties of the office to the best of my ability.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116.



Marcia Avner

4834-3551-7639, v. 1

Marcia Avner
1071 Cleveland Avenue South
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116
marcia@avnerspano.com
www.marciaavnerconsulting.com
651-210-2618

Professional Experience

2010 – present: Consultant, Avner Consulting LLC. Founder and Principal.

Includes work with nonprofit organizations, philanthropic entities, and academic centers to ensure that public policy and civic engagement are implemented as core strategies for meeting goals and effecting change. Services include curriculum development, research, writing, policy issue campaign planning, organizational development for effective policy initiatives, strategic planning design and facilitation, public speaking, advocacy training courses and workshops. More information and a list of clients may be found at www.marciaavnerconsulting.com.

2003- Present: Faculty at the Master's in Advocacy and Political Leadership at the University of Minnesota-Duluth

- Courses designed and taught include *Nonprofits as Vehicles for Social Change*, *Nonprofits and Government*, *the Impact of Art on Social Change Movements*, and *Civic Engagement: Lobbying, Advocacy, and Election Activity for Nonprofits*.
- Supervise student internships

1996 – 2010: Public Policy Director, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN)

- Develop sector, issues, strategy, and MCN positions on public policy issues that are relevant to nonprofits in Minnesota and nationwide,
- Advocate and lobby on nonprofit and public interest issues at the state, local, and national level,
- Design and implement nationally acclaimed training programs to build and sustain nonprofit capacity and commitment to policy advocacy,
- Provide consultation to leading national foundation on development of policy initiatives and strategies for alleviated poverty,
- Provide formal briefings and trainings to nonprofit organizations - at least 40 per year - on policy planning, issue development, advocacy and lobbying skills, technology and advocacy, board roles in advocacy, message development, grassroots organizing, and media advocacy,
- Consult with up to 35 nonprofit organizations each year on the development of their policy plans and infrastructure,

- Speak often to a wide array of local and national audiences in the nonprofit and academic communities, professional associations, and others, inspiring civic engagement,
- Build the MCN Public Policy Cabinet, an advisory group of over 60 nonprofit leaders who participate in an active policy network,
- Manage the *Minnesota Budget Project*, the Minnesota component of the national State Fiscal Policy Initiative, providing fiscal policy analysis to Minnesota leaders and advocates,
- Co-convene *Minnesota is Watching*, and now the 2009 *Invest in Minnesota* campaign: labor, faith, and nonprofit organizations advocating for sound fiscal policy,
- Participate in the work of numerous nonprofit advocacy coalitions on diverse issues: welfare reform, election reform, children's mental health, and others,
- Initiate, convene, and manage the *Minnesota Participation Project*, an effort to increase voter turnout among underrepresented populations and build long term capacity for nonpartisan nonprofit election activity. MPP provides planning materials, seminars, training for trainers, financial support, legal education, and a media campaign to encourage and support nonprofit voter registration, education, and mobilization,
- Build the Minnesota Democracy Network, a new effort to facilitate improved communication, cooperation, and increased effectiveness among nonprofits engaging in democracy supporting activities,
- Train and encourage national and international nonprofit organizations engaging in advocacy, including state associations of nonprofits, issue affinity groups, private and community foundations, and emerging nonprofit federations,
- Conduct workshops for Charity Lobbying in the Public Interest (CLPI) in numerous states and design and facilitate CLPI's annual national network training for advocates,
- Sustain strong, positive relationships with Minnesota media; frequent media interviews,
- Develop proposals for local and national funding for MCN's advocacy activities; extensive and successful fundraising experience,
- Manage MCN's policy staff including the director and staff of *The Minnesota Budget Project*,
- Serve as spokesperson for MCN on advocacy and policy issues, and
- Participate as senior manager in MCN planning, strategy, accountability, and positioning of the nonprofit sector in the community.

1998 – 2003: Assistant Professor, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

- Taught specialized courses in advocacy, leadership, and media.

2000-2002: Coordinator of the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Management Program, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

- Responsible for curriculum development, recruitment of adjunct faculty, marketing, student admissions, and program oversight.

1991-1996: Minnesota Communications Director, United States Senator Paul D. Wellstone, St. Paul, MN

- Developed schedules for Senator Paul D. Wellstone and Sheila Wellstone's connections to Minnesota constituents, organizations, and communities,
- Coordinated issue-based strategy and scheduling logistics with Wellstone Office in DC,
- Participated in shaping strategy for issue priorities, positions, and messages with Senator Wellstone and staff,
- Developed and maintained positive and productive relationships with Minnesota and national media,
- Traveled statewide with Senator Wellstone and Sheila Wellstone to provide media and logistics management on site,
- Produced media advisories, press releases, media events, and background information for the press,
- Promoted Wellstone positions and issues to the press,
- Responsible for Senator Paul D. Wellstone and Sheila Wellstone's meetings with the press,
- Responsible for press outreach and arrangements for national visitors, including First Lady Hillary Clinton and Secretaries Reich, Shalala, Pena, and others,
- Represented the Senator in meetings with diverse interest groups statewide,
- Developed issues, message, organizing and media initiatives on domestic violence prevention and related issues with Sheila Wellstone and supported her initiatives as a national leader.

1990-1991: Executive Assistant and Deputy Mayor to Mayor Jim Scheibel, St. Paul

- Served as liaison between the Office of the Mayor and city departments, working with Cabinet to shape priorities and solve problems,
- Advised mayor on human resource issues, including hiring Fire Chief, Labor Relations Manager, and city department directors,
- Represented the mayor in labor relations issues,
- Designed and implemented initiatives to enhance effectiveness in city government: consolidation of functions, improved service delivery.

1986-1990: Executive Director, The Minnesota Project, St. Paul, MN

- Provided leadership and managed activities of statewide nonprofit focused on rural community development,

- Directed staff of 15 in development and implementation of local, regional, and national initiatives including sustainable agriculture, waste management, water quality protection, and rural community economic sustainability,
- Built and sustained collaborative initiatives with local and national nonprofits,
- Directed a community based leadership internship program in nine Minnesota communities,
- Advocated at the local, state, and national level on resource and community sustainability issues,
- Created opportunities for citizen participation in community decisions,
- Responsible for fundraising and program evaluation.

1983-1986: Assistant Commissioner, Energy Division, Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development

- Directed the Energy Division's administrative, personnel, and finance functions,
- Supervised staff within five activities: Conservation, Alternative Energy Engineering, Consumer Assistance, Research Coordination, and Community Energy Technical Assistance,
- Coordinated public affairs outreach, including work with legislators, business leaders, trade and professional associations, utilities, and the general public,
- Served as liaison between the Energy Division and the federal Department of Energy.

1977-1983: Education and Legislation Coordinator, Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG), Minneapolis, MN

- Advocated at the Minnesota legislature for passage of MPIRG proposals,
- Designed legislative initiatives, conducted research, developed educational materials, coordinated organizing and media campaigns,
- Led major issue campaigns, including: *Sun Funds: An Alternative Energy Information and Finance Campaign*,
- Worked with NSP and the Minnesota Energy Division to create programs to satisfy a \$130 million conservation program commitment made by NSP to settle an MPIRG lawsuit concerning the construction of the Sherco # 3 coal-fired power plant,
- Designed and established a Conciliation Court Action Center,
- Initiated, sought funding, and supervised ten Vista volunteers in the MPIRG/Vista Energy Project.

1974-1981: Teaching Associate, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

- Developed and taught classes in English, American Studies, Women's Studies, Continuing Education for Women, Criminal Justice Studies, and the College of Liberal Arts Honors program.

1974-1975: Instructor, Department of English, Hamline University, St. Paul

**1965-1968: Instructor, Department of English, Henderson Junior High School,
Little Rock Arkansas**

Education

B. A., English, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1961
Awards: Mortar Board, Pi Delta Epsilon (Journalism), Literary Journal Editor

M.A. English, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1970
Award: Phi Beta Kappa

Completed all course work and preliminary examinations toward the PhD in American Studies, University of Minnesota, 1972-

Publications include:

Avner, Marcia, "Advocacy, Lobbying, and Social Change," in David Renz. *The Jossey Bass Handbook of Nonprofit Leadership and Management*, " 5rd edition, San Francisco, 2016.

Avner, Marcia, "Advocacy, Lobbying, and Social Change," in David Renz. *The Jossey Bass Handbook of Nonprofit Leadership and Management*, " 3rd edition, San Francisco, 2010.

Avner, Marcia. *Policy Matters*, St. Paul, MN: Northwest Area Foundation, 2009.
(Available online at www.nwaf.org)

Avner, Marcia. *The Nonprofit Board Member's Guide to Nonprofit Lobbying and Advocacy*, St. Paul, MN: Wilder Publishing, 2004

Avner, Marcia. *The Lobbying and Advocacy Handbook for Nonprofit Organizations*, St. Paul, MN: Wilder Publishing, 2002. Second edition 2013

Avner, Marcia and Ginger Sisco, *Media Directory for Minnesota Nonprofits*, St. Paul, MN: MCN, 2002

Numerous articles published in The Minneapolis Foundation newsletter, The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Newsletters, The Nonprofit Quarterly, Foundation News, and elsewhere.

Community Activities

- Currently serve on the following nonprofit boards of directors:

- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Bauman Foundation
- Jewish Community Action
- Minnesota American Community Survey

- Currently serve on the following advisory committees:
 - Policy Committee, Center for Victims of Torture
 - Funders Census Initiative, Funders Committee for Civic Participation

- Previous nonprofit board and public service includes:
 - United Family Medicine
 - Jewish Family Services, St Paul
 - Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest
 - Jewish Community Action
 - Citizen's League
 - Lifetrack Resources
 - Governor's Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Citizen's League Task Force on Children's Mental Health, Co-Chair
 - Affirmative Options Coalition Steering Committee
 - Minnesota Hearing Society, Board Chair
 - Citizen Advisory Committee to the LCMR on the Environmental Trust Fund
 - Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment
 - Minnesota Food Association, Board member and Vice Chair
 - Citizens for a Better Environment, Board member and Vice Chair
 - Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, Board member and Chair
 - Minnesota Solar Energy Association, board member and Treasurer
 - Hennepin County Task Force on Mental Health Commitment
 - Parent Advocacy Coalition for Education Rights (PACER) volunteer
 - Women Historians of the Midwest
 - Minneapolis Association for the Hearing Impaired, board member and Chair
 - League of Women Voters
 - Community organizer, volunteer, Scott Arkansas

