

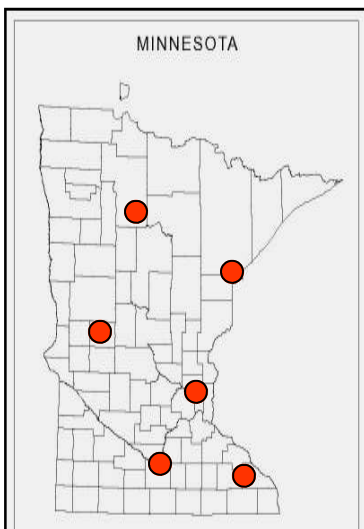
OAH Background

In 1975, the Legislature established the Office of Administrative Hearings as an independent tribunal within the Executive Branch.

Mission Statement

The Office of Administrative Hearings provides settlement conferences, mediation services and hearing services to state and municipal government programs. OAH strives to provide a fair, efficient, professional and high-quality set of services for those who appear before it.

OAH Hub Cities



FY 2012-2013 Quality Improvement Goals:

- Continue to reduce time from an initial case filing to the date of an evidentiary hearing.
- Continue to reduce the time from the closure of the hearing record to the issuance of a final decision.
- Continue to increase the number of agencies and local units of governments that utilize the agency's services.

Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings

Workers Compensation Division

Judges in the Workers' Compensation Division conduct pretrial and trial level functions associated with claims for workers' compensation benefits. Those functions include ruling on motions, conducting settlement and pretrial conferences, mediations and trials, and issuing awards and final decisions.

The OAH conducts hearings in locations across Minnesota — most often in one of six "Hub Cities": Duluth, Walker, Alexandria, Mankato, Rochester and Saint Paul.

Budget: The workers compensation program is funded from the Special Compensation Fund through a biennial appropriation of \$14.5 million. No General Funds are used.

Administrative Law Division

Judges in the Administrative Law Division provide hearing and mediation services to more than 100 state agencies and local units of governments. Administrative Law Judges preside in hearings on a broad array of matters relating to rulemaking, state licensing, utility regulation, fair campaign practices, data practices and the operation of government programs.

Budget: Nearly all of the administrative law program operates as an Enterprise Fund. Each year Minnesota Management & Budget sets billing rates for the services rendered to client agencies. No General Funds are used.

Municipal Boundary Adjustments Unit

Municipal Boundary Adjustments unit (MBA) administers the state's uniform system for city boundary adjustments. MBA issues orders for the creation or dissolution of cities or for the alteration of city borders through consolidation, annexation or detachment. MBA likewise provides assistance to local governments on boundary change, incorporation and consolidation matters.

Budget: The MBA is funded through an annual appropriation from the General Fund of \$267,000.

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OAH : High Quality And Experience

OAH judges average over 17 years of judicial experience on the bench. The OAH is one of the largest tribunals in the State of Minnesota, and all judges are subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct.

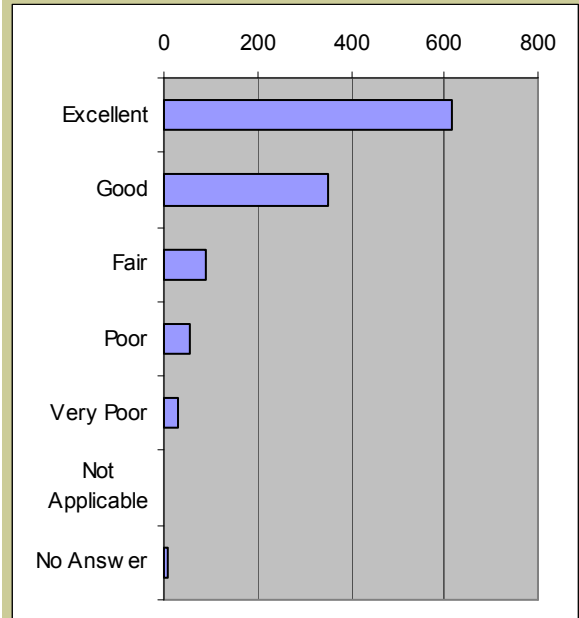
Cost Savings: Continuing Success

OAH has maintained the same billing rates over the past four years, added new areas of jurisdiction without increasing staff and reduced its annual building costs by over \$400,000.

Survey: What Others Say About The OAH

The OAH's Judicial and Performance Development Survey is an award winning model and was the first survey of judicial services in the State of Minnesota. Four out of five litigants/responders rate the OAH services as "Excellent" or "Good".

Litigant Approval Rates: 4 Out Of 5 Rate Services As "Excellent" or "Good"



Innovation: Technology And More

OAH strives to improve accessibility and ease for all parties, including pro se litigants. New case management practices coupled with an improved website will allow E-filing, E-serving and real time reporting and scheduling of all OAH matters.

The OAH continues to attract new jurisdictions by promoting timeliness and cost reductions. For example, OAH now hears "community court" cases for the Cities of South St. Paul and West St. Paul, as well as other kinds of cases for many other municipalities. OAH looks forward to new opportunities within the state system and local units of government for OAH to provide high quality, low cost alternatives.

What's Hot: OAH Mediation Services

More parties in OAH workers' compensation matters are requesting the mediation services of the OAH judges. Four Workers' Compensation Judges have developed a successful mediation option for cases which meet certain criteria. This option has been welcomed by parties, reduced the overall number of cases requiring a hearing and achieved an early resolution to many complex cases.

MBA: Leading The Way

The Municipal Boundary Adjustment unit coordinates the state boundary adjustment functions and maintains the state's municipal boundary adjustment database. Recent enhancements to the orderly annexation database have expanded its search functionality and made it easier for parties to access information.

Looking Ahead: New Duluth Office Space

Planning is underway for the OAH Duluth office space to move to a new location. Due to the sale of the building to St. Louis County by the State, the OAH will be relocating their Duluth space in the summer of 2012. The State will be issuing a Request for Proposal for site determination in late January of 2011.