**Choosing a Judge**

**Student Handout: YOU DECIDE**

You are the governor of Minnesota. Under the Minnesota Constitution, you have the power to appoint judges to fill vacancies. A vacancy has occurred in the Supreme Court. A list of five finalists is on your desk. You must decide which person to appoint to the position.

**Candidate 1: Sue Johnson**

Sue has been a lawyer for 25 years. She is 53 years old. She is active in the area of family law (child custody and support, divorce, adoption). She grew up in a small town in southern Minnesota and now prac­tices in a neighboring town. Sue has been the chair of several community organizations and has received the volunteer of the year award in her town. She has also been named as a WCCO Good Neighbor.

**Candidate 2: Byron Wright**

Byron is the county attorney for one of the heavily populated counties. In this role, he is often quoted in the media as he tries to solve many serious crimes including murder. Because he spends all of his time working, he has little time for volunteer work. However, he is very active in his church. Before beginning his 6 years as county attorney, he worked for the public defender’s office for 15 years. Byron is 46 years old.

**Candidate 3: Stephen Blum**

Stephen is a lawyer in private practice in Minneapolis. The areas of law he works in most often are environmental and agricultural law. Stephen has been practicing law for 31 years. He spends much of his spare time representing poor people and people who feel that their first amendment right to practice their religion has been infringed. Stephen is 58 years old.

**Candidate 4: Tibetha Cunningham**

Tibetha is an African American lawyer in St. Paul. Although she has only been practicing 10 years, she has developed a reputation for being a top personal injury lawyer (representing people who have been injured). She spends most of her time in the courtroom trying cases. She is active in the Minnesota Women Lawyers’ Association and actively recruits other women of color to go to law school. Tibetha is 36 years old.

**Candidate 5: Bouy Hey**

Bouy is a lawyer who has been practicing for 19 years. He lives in a community with other Southeast Asians. His parents escaped from Cambodia in the 70s and settled in Minnesota where Bouy went to college and law school. Bouy has devoted his practice to helping other Asians in their efforts to get jobs, buy houses, educate their children, and live happy lives. Bouy is very well respected in his community and has become the spokes­person for the Southeast Asians. Bouy is 49 years old.