## STATE OF MINNESOTA IN SUPREME COURT

C2-87-1089

In re Domestic Abuse Advocates

ORDER

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force for Gender Fairness in the Courts,

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. In all proceedings before the trial court under Minnesota Statutes 518B, domestic abuse advocates shall be allowed to attend and sit at counsel table, confer with the victim, and, at the judge's discretion, address the court.
- 2. In criminal trial court proceedings, domestic abuse advocates shall be allowed to accompany the victim, confer with the victim and, at sentencing, at the judge's discretion, be heard by the judge.
- 3. Court administrators shall allow domestic abuse advocates to assist victims of domestic violence in the preparation of petitions for protection orders.
- 4. When they assist victims of domestic violence as specified in this order, domestic abuse advocates are not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

DATED: February 5, 1991

BY THE COURT:

A.M. Keith Chief Justice

OFFICE OF APPELLATE COURTS

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FILED