

## **RESUME OF FREDERICK P. KESSLER**

### **PERSONAL**

Frederick P. Kessler  
[REDACTED]

Milwaukee, WI 53202  
[REDACTED]

Date of Birth: January 11, 1940 (son of German Immigrants)

Married to Joan F. Kessler, Judge Wisconsin Court of Appeals and former President Carter's US Attorney for Eastern Wisconsin  
two daughters

### **EDUCATION**

Attended Milwaukee area public and parochial elementary schools  
Milwaukee Lutheran High School and Capitol Page School 1957  
(Page US House of Representatives 1955-57 during time that  
Congress was in session)

BA University of Wisconsin (Madison) Political Science 1962

LLB University of Wisconsin Law School 1966

### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

#### Wisconsin Legislature

State Assembly 1960 (sworn in on 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, youngest  
person ever elected to legislature at that time)

Member, Education Committee

Ran unsuccessfully for State Senate 1962

State Assembly 1964-70

Member Elections, Judiciary, Rules Committee

Chairman, Elections Committee, 1972

State Assembly 2004-2018t

Member, Elections, Judiciary Committee 2004-08

Chair, Homeland Security Committee 2008

Member, Elections, Criminal Justice Committee  
2010 to 2018

## Judicial

Milwaukee County Judge, Branch 4, 1972-79  
Misdemeanor, traffic and civil assignments  
Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge, Branch 19. 1979-1982  
Felony and Civil assignments  
Resigned to run unsuccessfully for Congress 1982  
Reserve Circuit Judge 1982-86  
Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge. Branch 23, 1986-88  
Juvenile Court assignments  
Resigned to run unsuccessfully for Congress 1988  
Reserve Circuit Judge 1988-2004, 2019....  
As Reserve Judge presided in 26 different counties in Wisconsin  
Member, Legislative Council Committee on Court Reorganization 1978-79 (One of four Judges)  
The committee drafted the law that created the Court of Appeals, established the single level trial court system,

## Civic

Appointed by Mayor John Norquist to the Milwaukee Harbor Commission 1983-84

## **REDISTRICTING LITIGATION AND CONSULTING**

**In 2015 convened and chaired a committee of Attorney Peter Earl, James Hall, Sachin Chheda and Bill Whitford that started the lawsuit Whitford v. Nichol now pending before a three Judge Panel in Wisconsin's Western District Federal Court, and was the first redistricting case to be heard by the US Supreme Court.**

## Litigation

1963 worked with Roland Day (later Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court) on the 1963 Wisconsin legislative redistricting case, doing research and drawing maps.

1972 Represented the League of Women Voters against Washington County in the first successful County Board redistricting case in Wisconsin. (US District Court)

1972 Attorney for City of Shawano against Shawano County in a successful County Board redistricting case. (US District Court)

1972 Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_ v. Waukesha County in an unsuccessful County Board redistricting case, (US District Court)

#### Legislator

1971, as Chair of the Assembly Elections Committee acted as chief negotiator for the Senate and Assembly Democrats in drafting the map and the successful redistricting plan which was signed into law. In the 1970's Wisconsin was the only state, with a divided legislature (66 Democrats/34 Republicans in the Assembly, 13 Democrats/ 20 Republicans in the Senate) that required each Senate seat to consist of three whole assembly seats, which was redistricted without Court litigation. **This map was cited in 2016 during trial in Whitford v. Nichol as the only non-gerrymandered map in Wisconsin.**

#### Consultant to Legislatures

1991 Consultant to the Wisconsin Senate Democratic Caucus. Prepared maps and research. Apportionment ultimately done by US District Court in Western District.

1991 Consultant to the Nevada Democratic legislative Causes. Successfully drafted maps and negotiated legislative and Congressional maps through the legislature which were signed into law. Assembly had 22 Democrats (One who was a John Birch Society member voting with the Republicans), and 20 Republicans, Senate had 11 Democrats and 10 Republicans.

2001 Consultant to the Nevada Democratic legislative Caucus. Successfully drafted maps and negotiated legislative and Congressional maps through legislature which were signed into law through a divided state. Assembly had 26 Democrats and 16 Republicans. Senate had 10 Democrats and 11 Republicans.

#### Consultant to Counties, Cities and School Boards

None of the maps cited below have ever been set aside by a Court. In fact only one was challenged by a court filing, but the suit was withdrawn when the civil rights organization the plaintiff was relying on for support informed him that they felt a minority/majority district as drawn in the map was the only appropriate result

All the maps I prepared met both the one person/one vote requirements and Section Two of the Voting Rights Act

1992 Milwaukee School Board. Drafted map for the eight electoral districts.

1997 City of Las Vegas, Nevada. Drafted and negotiated a map to redraw the four wards of the city which was passed and signed into law.

2001 Milwaukee County. Co-consultant with Percy Julian. Plan was adopted with some revisions

2001 Clark County Nevada, drafted and negotiated the map to redraw the seven county commission districts. Approved by the Commission unanimously.

2001 Milwaukee School Board. Drafted map for the eight electoral districts.

2002 City of Las Vegas. Revised the ward map for the nations fastest growing city, which was passed and signed by the mayor.

2004 City of North Las Vegas. City required to elect by districts instead of at-large. Drew map and negotiated wars that were unanimously adopted and signed into law

2005 City of Las Vegas. Drafted and negotiated a map to expand the City Council into six wards. Passed and signed into law. (one dissenting vote)

2008 City of Las Vegas. Revised the prior map because of growth. Passed and signed into law.

2012 City of Las Vegas. Again hired to draw map and negotiate changes resulting from the census. Adopted and Signed into law.

2014 City of North Las Vegas. Map draw and submitted. Unanimously adopted by council.

Consultant to Native American Tribe

Potawatomi Tribe challenge to Forest County hired me to draft an amendment to the Forest County Board map. They would not allow an alternative plan with smaller deviations for non-native American districts to be submitted. They were not successful in the US District Court.

Panelist or lecturer at redistricting seminars by the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) in Chicago, IL 2009 and Providence, RI in 2010 on "How to draw a redistricting plan that will be upheld". Panelist on Redistricting at NCSL Annual Convention (Philadelphia) 2010

**LEGAL AND LABOR ARBITRATION CAREER**

Arbitration Panels

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service ad hoc panel  
Oregon Public Employee Relations Board panel of Arbitrators  
Wisconsin Employment /relations Commission ad hoc panel  
Virgin Islands PERB panel

Permanent Panels

Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority panel  
US Postal Service and Postal Clerks panel (former member)

Independent Hearing Officer

Milwaukee Employee Retirement System

Trained mediators for ABA Central and East European Initiative in Bulgaria in 2002

**CIVIC AND PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

Member, Wisconsin Bar Association (Senior Status)  
Board of Individual Rights Section, 2013-16

Amnesty International

Organizer and first President of Group 106 in Milwaukee,  
1973-75

American Civil Liberties Union

Member, Wisconsin State Board, 1971

Former Chair, Milwaukee Chapter Board

Member, Milwaukee Chapter Board (periodically for over 10  
years in 1970's 1980's and 2000's)

Migrant Labor Lawyers Committee 1969-71

Co-founded with Michael McCann a lawyers group that  
provided free legal services to migrant workers in central  
Wisconsin, prior to creation of Federal funded legal services

Goethe House of Wisconsin (German Cultural organization)

Member, Board of Directors, 1998 to present

Chair 1998-2001

Member, NAACP and many community and ethnic organizations

Presidential Elector for Barak Obama 2012

## **AWARDS**

German Immersion Foundation

2013 For being the founder of Milwaukee Board Director's  
German Immersion School, the only public school in the  
country as a German immersion elementary school

American Civil Liberties Union Wisconsin Chapter

2008 Eunice Z. Edgar Life Achievement Award (the highest  
award) for dedication and commitment to Civil Liberties

Scale of Justice Award

2010 the Wisconsin State Bar Association

Milwaukee French Immersion School's Spirit of MFIS Award 2017-8