



MWL Foundation Board of Directors Standards for Selection

The MWL Foundation Board of Directors has established general standards to be considered by the MWL Foundation Nominating Committee in recommending a slate of candidates for the 2026-2027 Board of Directors. Considerations may include but are not limited to:

- A candidate's past experience serving on the board of the MWL Foundation, MWL or their organizational leadership groups;
- A candidate's commitment to the MWL Foundation and/or MWL, and past involvement with the MWL Foundation and/or MWL;
- A candidate's understanding of the role of the MWL Foundation and how it relates to MWL as a supporting organization;
- A candidate's interest, ability and resources to engage in the Foundation's key initiatives, both raising funds and working to develop relationships with stakeholders, donors, and potential donors in support of the Foundation's work;
- A candidate's past involvement with other legal and community organizations;
- A candidate's overall professional experience, within and outside of the legal community, as it may relate to areas of expertise needed on the board (financial, fundraising, development, tax-related expertise, marketing, business, etc.);
- A candidate's other skills, talents and connections that are useful to the MWL Foundation;
- A candidate's ability to commit an appropriate amount of time to the specific board position being applied for;
- A candidate's impact on the overall diversity of the board's make-up, in conjunction with (or) as described in MWL's Diversity and Inclusion Statement;
- A candidate's commitment, conscientiousness and sense of responsibility for tasks; and
- A candidate's leadership ability and willingness to use it on behalf of the MWL Foundation.

MWL Foundation Board of Directors Job Descriptions

The MWL Foundation Board of Director positions encompass four key roles:

- Strategic leadership and oversight;
- Organizational management, policy development, and direct support of goals and objectives;

- Fund development and fiduciary responsibilities;
- Ambassadors to the MWL and greater community.

As the leadership group responsible for ensuring MWL Foundation is making steady progress towards its mission and goals, Board members are key in providing strategic focus and oversight, as well as dedicating time and effort to the work necessary to accomplish its goals. As an active Board of Directors, members are expected to:

- Become fully familiar with the organization and the environment in which it operates.
- Participate fully in the governance process.
- Understand and accept related fiduciary responsibilities for the organization.
- Regularly attend regular board and related meetings. Adequately prepares for such meetings.
- Actively participate in fundraising and relationship-building efforts on behalf of the organization throughout the year.
- Willingly accept assignments and complete them thoroughly and on time.
- Participate as a member of a committee or working group, as appropriate.
- Volunteer for board taskforces and/or projects.
- Get to know other MWL Foundation Board members and MWL leadership and build a collegial working relationship that contributes to consensus.
- Participate as an ambassador of the MWL Foundation and MWL. This leadership function is viewed as vital to enhancing the MWL Foundation's reputation, impact and outreach to members, key stakeholders, and the Minnesota legal community, all in direct service to the Foundation's mission.
- Serve as an active participant in the board's planning efforts, strategic goal-setting, and annual evaluation.

For further information about the MWL Foundation Board positions, role and responsibilities, and time commitment, please contact MWL Executive Director Jennifer MacPhail (JMacPhail@mwlfoundation.org).