

To the Judges:

The impact of this story was immediate and wide-ranging. The story was picked up statewide, prompting news stories and editorials in several newspapers, including the Star Tribune, the state's largest newspaper. As a result of our story, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz reprimanded the Commissioner of the agency that approved the hiring of the individual in question, named Joe Radinovich.

Radinovich announced his own resignation within days of our story, and the Minnesota Legislature drafted and approved a change to state law that extended the time frame for advertising openings for state positions and established other procedures to ensure such hirings did not happen again.

Marshall Helmberger Publisher Timberjay Newspapers