

## Summary of Minnesota Court Hearing on Budget

By [Thomas J. Hanson](#) on June 24, 2011

The Judicial phase of the budget stalemate between Governor Mark Dayton and the Republican legislature began at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday before Ramsey County District Judge Kathleen Gearin.

The courtroom was packed with dozens of people standing and peeking in from the hallway. The front of the court was full of parties and interveners with such legal luminaries as Attorney General Lori Swanson, former Chief Justice Eric Magnuson, former Attorney General Mike Hatch, and Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman.

Judge Gearin made two rulings during Thursday's hearing. She first rejected the Governor's motion requesting the court-ordered mediation between the Governor and the Legislature. In making the motion, the Governor's Counsel, David Lillehaug, argued that court-ordered mediation was used to resolve the dispute between the Met Council and the University of Minnesota on Central Corridor, which were two government entities. Eric Magnuson, on behalf of the House, argued that it was unconstitutional.

Judge Gearin also rejected the motion by Senators Warren Limmer, Roger Chamberlain, Sean Nienow, and Scott Newman to become parties and ruled that their position was adequately represented by existing parties.

In her comments, Judge Gearin said that this shutdown crisis is not like the shutdowns of the past (she cited 2001 and 2005). Additionally, she said she would not rule on core functions on Thursday.

The court will reconvene on Friday.