Norm Coleman,  

Petitioner,  

vs.  

The Minnesota State Canvassing Board; and Michelle DesJardin, Hennepin County Elections Manager; Cynthia Reichert, Minneapolis Elections Director; and Hennepin County Canvassing Board, individually and on behalf of all County and Local Election Officers and County Canvassing Boards  

Respondents.

STATE OF MINNESOTA )

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN ) ss.

Michelle Desjardin, upon being first duly sworn under oath, states as follows:

1. I am the Manager of Elections for Hennepin County. I make this affidavit based on personal knowledge.

2. The Hennepin County Canvassing Board (“HCCB”) met on November 10, 2008, and certified elections results within Hennepin County, including the results for the U.S. Senate race. The results certified were based on the results that each precinct reported on election night directly from precinct counters, with the exception of precincts from four cities which reported slightly different results.
because some properly cast ballots had not been run through a precinct counter on election night. The results certified did not include any “Original Ballots” (an “original” ballot that was duplicated by election judges). In other words, only the duplicates were included and not the “Original Ballots.” These results were communicated to the Minnesota Secretary of State as required by statute.

3. On November 18, 2008, the State Canvassing Board met and directed the Minnesota Secretary of State to oversee a recount in the United States Senate contest. The recount was conducted by Deputy Recount Officials, who were appointed by the Minnesota Secretary of State. I was a Deputy Recount Official for twelve cities in western Hennepin County. There were approximately 19 different Deputy Recount Officials within Hennepin County that performed recounts. I executed an agreement with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State (“OSS”) regarding my duties as a Deputy Recount Official. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of this agreement. It is my understanding that all Deputy Recount Officials completed a similar agreement.

4. I conducted my recount of precincts in twelve cities from Western Hennepin County on November 20, 2008 at the city of Independence. Only one original ballot envelope was opened during this recount. Several Original Ballots were matched with identified duplicate ballots. The Original Ballots were counted in the recount and the duplicates were not. The recount numbers for that precinct matched the election night totals exactly. There were no challenges based on original and/or duplicate ballots during this recount.
5. After completing the recount, in accordance with the OSS rules, I communicated the results of the precincts recounted to the OSS on the form provided by the OSS and forwarded ballots challenged by the parties. Attached as Exhibit 2 is a copy of the form used to communicate this information. I completed a similar form for all twelve cities.

6. The HCCB had no role in this recount process. The HCCB did not provide any direction or certify any recount results.

7. Election judges need to make duplicate ballots when the original ballot cannot be fed into the precinct counter. In addition to damaged ballots, many ballots received pursuant to the Uniform Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act ("UOCAVA") have to be duplicated because the original cannot be read by the precinct counters.

Further your affiant sayeth not.

/s/ Michelle Desjardin  
Michelle Desjardin  
Manager of Elections, Hennepin County

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of December, 2008.

/s/ Judy Rounsville  
Notary Public