Julie Sprau Succeeds Ross Galarneault As MGA Executive Director, COO

Julie L. Sprau, a 36-year-old attorney, has been selected as the new executive director and chief operating officer of the Minnesota Golf Association.

She succeeds Ross Galarneault, who will be leaving in the near future after 15 years of service.

Sprau was named after an Executive Search Committee, headed by Past MGA President Bill Bohmer, spent several months evaluating more than 90 applicants. Other members of the committee were MGA President Dick Bennett, Past President Roger Gordon and First Vice President Cal Simmons and board members Loren Hegland, JoAnn Hernandez, Mary Jahnke and Jan Nelson.

"Julie is extremely well qualified," said Bohmer, "and the MGA will be in excellent hands for many years to come."

Current secretary-treasurer of the MGA, she has submitted her resignation to take over her new position.

A 1980 graduate of Hopkins Lindbergh High School, Julie was graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Iowa State University. She was employed by General Mills as a financial analyst for the next four years. During that time she earned her Master of Business Administration with honors at the University of Minnesota, then received her law degree in 1991 at William Mitchell Law School.

She worked for the Minneapolis law firm of Dorsey & Whitney for three years before establishing her own firm in 1983 to pursue a career in the areas of corporate and international law.

Sprau has competed in amateur golf throughout her life. She played high school golf for Eisenhower High School and competed in the Minnesota State High School tournaments as well as various state amateur competitions.

At Iowa State she was a member of the varsity golf team and played in the AIAW national golf tournament, now known as the NCAA national golf tournament.

Julie also has been active with various Minnesota golf organizations. During her college years she helped conduct various junior golf tournaments and camps held by the Minnesota PGA. She recently completed her term as Long Range Planning Director of the MWGA. She became a director of the MGA in 1986 and served as chair of the Bylaws and Legal Affairs Committee, was a member of both the Executive and Management Committees and was named Secretary/Treasurer of the association in 1996.

Julie and her husband, Joe, also an attorney, are the parents of two daughters, Lauren, 5½, and Nicole, 3.