

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF  
THE NEBRASKA JUDICIAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
December 13, 2024**

Pursuant to the press release issued December 4, 2024, the Annual Meeting and public hearing of the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024, in the Nebraska Supreme Court Courtroom, State Capitol Building, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

*AGENDA ITEM I:* The Chair called the proceedings to order at approximately 10 a.m. The proceedings included a Zoom videoconferencing option for Commission members and for members of the public. Roll Call by Kara Nielsen.

PRESENT (\* denotes Zoom attendance)

Justice Jonathan Papik  
Judge Anne Paine\*  
Judge Travis O’Gorman\*  
Judge Matthew Kahler  
Taylor Gage  
Kenneth Hartman  
Roxanne Kracl\*  
Jane Langan Mach\*  
Nancy McCabe  
Robert Parker\*  
Brian Phares\*  
Meagan Spomer\*  
Darlene Starman  
Ron Temple\*  
Jacqueline Tessendorf\*  
Maria Whitmore\*

EXCUSED

Cyd Hall

The Chair noted for the record that Timothy Engler resigned from the Commission on November 7, 2024. The Chair introduced and welcomed Jane Langan Mach. Ms. Langan Mach will serve the remainder of Mr. Engler’s term which expires July 1, 2026.

*AGENDA ITEM II:* The Chair confirmed that all Commission members had received and reviewed the minutes from the September 13, 2024, hearing. On a voice vote the commissioners unanimously accepted the minutes of September 13.

*AGENDA ITEM III:* The following exhibits were received and considered by the Commission, and are attached to these minutes:

- Exhibit 1: Meeting Agenda
- Exhibit 2: Minutes of the September 13, 2024, hearing.
- Exhibit 3: Resignation letter of Judge Darryl R. Lowe.
- Exhibit 4: Resignation letter of Ryan C. Carson

- Exhibit 5: Letter from Tricia Freeman of the NSBA
- Exhibit 6: 2024 County Court Weighted Caseload Report
- Exhibit 7: 2024 District court Weighted Caseload Report
- Exhibit 8: County Court Judge Marcella Keim letter re: 4<sup>th</sup> District, County Court
- Exhibit 9: Omaha City Prosecutor Kevin Slimp letter re: 4<sup>th</sup> District, County Court
- Exhibit 10: Omaha Bar Association, Angela Lennon letter re: 4<sup>th</sup> District, County Court

*AGENDA ITEM IV:* The public hearing was conducted, and the Commission received and considered public testimony from: Judge Marcella Keim, 4<sup>th</sup> District, County Court; Judge Grant Forsberg, 4<sup>th</sup> District, County Court; Liz Neeley, Executive Director of the Nebraska State Bar Association; and Amy Prenda, Deputy State Court Administrator for Court Services.

(a): It was moved by Judge Matthew Kahler and seconded by Ken Hartman to declare a judicial vacancy in the County Court in the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District due to the resignation of Judge Darryl Lowe, with the primary location being Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

(b): It was moved by Judge Matthew Kahler and seconded by Maria Whitmore to declare a judicial vacancy in the District Court in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District due to the appointment of Judge Ryan Carson as federal magistrate judge, with the primary location being Kearney, Buffalo County, Nebraska. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

*AGENDA ITEM V:* The Chair presented the 2024 Report on Judicial Caseloads, Filing Trends, and Factors Affecting Judicial Resources. Supportive data was shared via PowerPoint, and a copy of that presentation is attached to these minutes.

*AGENDA ITEM VI:* Annual Meeting topics under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 24-1205:

(a): The Commission took up whether it is appropriate to recommend adding a judgeship in any judicial district. No motions were made on this issue.

(b): The Commission took up whether it is appropriate to recommend reducing a judgeship in any judicial district. No motions were made on this issue.

(c): The Commission took up whether to recommend any judicial district boundaries, or number of judicial districts, should be changed for the district or county courts. No motions were made on this issue.

(d): The Commission took up whether to make any recommendations for the more balanced use of existing judicial resources. No motions were made on this issue.

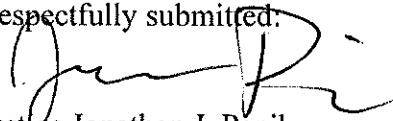
*AGENDA ITEM VII:* Other items were brought to the attention of the Commission.

(a): The Chair addressed the vacancy in the office of Secretary, resulting when Timothy Engler resigned. The vacancy will be further addressed at the meeting of January 17, 2025.

(b): The Chair advised the Commission of the dates for the 2025 meetings: January 17, April 11, August 15, and November 14.

*AGENDA ITEM VIII:* There being no other matters, a motion to adjourn was made by Maria Whitmore, and seconded by Brian Phares. The voice vote of the commissioners was approved unanimously. The Commission adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan J. Papik', written in a cursive style.

Justice Jonathan J. Papik  
Chair