



State of Nebraska
District Court of Nebraska
Fourth Judicial District

JUDGE JAMES M. MASTELLER
HALL OF JUSTICE
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LISA ARROWSMITH
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December 7, 2021

Judicial Resources Commission
c/o Dawn Mussmann
State Capital Building
P.O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509
Dawn.Mussmann@nebraska.gov

RE: Public Testimony

Dear Justice Stacy and Members of the Commission:

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of the request of the District Judges of the Fourth Judicial District (Douglas County) that the Judicial Resources Commission determine that it would be appropriate to add an 18th District Judge to the Fourth Judicial District.

Since the Judicial Resources Commission's last hearing on September 10, 2021, I am pleased to report that Governor Pete Ricketts has appointed Jeffrey J. Lux, LeAnne M. Srb, and Molly B. Keane as District Judges in our district. Although these recent appointments have brought the total number of District Judges in our district to 17, caseload statistics reflect the continued need for additional judicial resources to adequately meet the needs of the Fourth Judicial District.

The October 2020 Final Report of the Nebraska Judicial Workload Assessment conducted by the National Center for State Courts concluded that the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District has **an implied need for 20.68 judges**. As of October 31, 2021, there were a total of **8,338 cases pending** in our district, 3,588 of which are family law cases. Despite our best efforts, I am concerned that the heavy caseloads assigned to the District Judges may be impacting our ability to progress cases as expeditiously as is called for by the Supreme Court's Case Progression Standards. See Neb. Ct. R. § 6-101.

Accordingly, the District Judges of the Fourth Judicial District respectfully request that the Judicial Resources Commission determine that it would be appropriate to add an 18th District Judge to the Fourth Judicial District.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I remain

Very Sincerely Yours,



James M. Masteller

CC: Judge Timothy P. Burns
Judge Duane C. Dougherty
Judge W. Russell Bowie
Judge Tressa M. Alioth
Judge Marlon A. Polk
Judge J. Michael Coffey
Judge Kimberly Miller Pankonin
Judge Horacio J. Wheelock
Judge J Russell Derr
Judge Leigh Ann Retelsdorf
Judge Peter C. Bataillon
Judge Jeffrey J. Lux
Judge Shelly R. Stratman
Judge T. Olon Engleman
Judge LeAnne M. Srb
Molly B. Keane
Sheri K. Larsen