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December 11, 2024

Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission
Via email to: Dawn.Mussmann@nejudicial.gov

RE: Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission Hearing on December 13, 2024

Members of the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission:

On behalf of the Omaha Bar Association, I write today in support of a determination of a judicial vacancy of the County Court, 4th Judicial District created by the resignation of Judge Darryl R. Lowe. We thank the Commission for recent similar determinations for this Court – it is vital for the effective administration of justice in Douglas County Court by our judiciary.

In sustained feedback received from OBA members—both judges and attorneys—the message has been constant: we need more judges in Douglas County (both County and District Court) to keep up with the current caseload. We have heard from our members that the judicial needs (both in number of judges and numbers of judicial support staff) in the 4th District significantly outweigh current levels found in our courthouse.

The ramifications of having insufficient judicial resources to support our state court system are serious. Overwhelmed courts are taking many extra months to schedule hearings and trials due to lack of availability of court dates. Overwhelmed and understaffed court staffs are leading to delays and frustrations from members of the practicing bar. In the end, the general public, those clients our OBA members serve as attorneys and as members of the bench, suffers as a result of insufficient judicial resources.

Additionally and as presented in detail by Andy Wilson (my immediate predecessor in the OBA Presidency) in letters submitted to Commission meetings in September and December 2023, we ask the Commission to examine and explore potential updates and improvements to the methodology used in determination of the Assessment/Weighted Caseload Reports.

On behalf of the Omaha Bar Association and our 1450+ members, thank you again for critically important work done by this Commission.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Lennon
President, Omaha Bar Association

