

Judges
Marcela A. Keim
Presiding Judge

Beau G. Finley
Grant A. Forsberg
Stephanie R. Hansen
Thomas K. Harmon
Marcena M. Hendrix
John E. Huber
Sheryl L. Lohaus
Darryl R. Lowe
Jeffrey L. Marcuzzo
Craig Q. McDermott
Stephanie S. Shearer

COUNTY COURT

Douglas County, Nebraska

Hall of Justice, 2nd Floor, 1701 Farnam Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68183
(402) 444-5428 Fax (402) 444-6890

Pamela J. Cardenas
Judicial Administrator
(402) 444-7550

Civil/Small Claims Division
Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam Street
(402) 444-5424

Criminal/Traffic Division
Hall of Justice, 2nd Floor
1701 Farnam Street
(402) 444-5387

Probate Division
Hall of Justice, 3rd Floor
1701 Farnam Street
(402) 444-7153

December 3, 2024

Judicial Resources Commission
% Kara Nielsen
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509
Kara.Nielsen@nejudicial.gov

Dear Justice Jonathan J. Papik and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the County Court in the Fourth Judicial District, I am requesting that the Judicial Resources Commission determine the existence of a judicial vacancy due to the resignation of Darryl R. Lowe. In addition to Judge Lowe's departure, another colleague, Judge Jeffrey L. Marcuzzo announced his retirement this week. His last day will be January 10, 2025.

As you know, in 1998, the legislature amended § 24-301.02 to provide for a twelfth judge in our district. For the last 26 years, the County Court of the Fourth Judicial District has efficiently presided over millions of civil, criminal and probate cases. While the caseload and population in our jurisdiction has grown exponentially, we have stayed the course.

Despite being understaffed, we remain dedicated to providing access to justice. We take pride in our level of service. We are committed to serving the lawyers and litigants in our nearly 400,000 open cases. After consideration, we hope that the Commission will allow us to continue our work and agree that our district requires at least twelve County Court judges.



Judge Grant Forsberg and I plan to appear in person for the December 13, 2024, meeting should the Commission have any questions. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MARCELA A. KEIM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARCELA A. KEIM
Presiding Judge
Douglas County Court