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Kevin J. Slimp
City Prosecutor

December 11, 2024

Judicial Resources Commission
Honorable Jonathan Papik
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: Judicial Vacancy-Douglas County Court-4th Judicial District

Dear Justice Papik and Members of the Commission:

I am writing in support of this Commission declaring a judicial vacancy in the Douglas County Court due to Judge Darryl R. Lowe's retirement. Declaring a judicial vacancy on the County Court will help maintain the full number of judges allocated by the Nebraska Legislature and ensure that the County Court continues to administer cases in a timely manner for a large and diverse population.

The Douglas County Court has operated with twelve judges since 1998, despite a growing population. Douglas County now contains a population of over 580,000 residents and is part of a metropolitan area that contains almost one million people, many of whom frequently come to Omaha and Douglas County to work, shop, visit local attractions, and attend sporting events and concerts. With a large population and many visitors each day comes the challenges associated with any such large metropolitan area. Having twelve county court judges is imperative to the expeditious administration of justice.

In addition to the busy civil docket in Douglas County, each judicial day the County Court handles criminal cases scheduled in six different courtrooms. Separately, the County Court presides over often more than one hundred cases each month which are scheduled on the County Court's criminal jury docket. The County Court efficiently handles its criminal cases while taking into account the needs of affected offices, including: the Douglas County Attorney, the Omaha City Prosecutor, the Douglas County Public Defender, private attorneys, law enforcement, as well as the needs of lay witnesses and the litigants that appear before it each and every day. The County Court does so while treating each defendant as an individual, and giving due consideration to each case handled.



Case filings have increased significantly over the past year demonstrating the continued need for twelve judges presiding over cases in Douglas County Court. The Nebraska Legislature has determined that twelve judges are necessary to appropriately handle the judicial caseload in its most populous county. This has been true for the past twenty-five years. During that time, the population, caseload, and challenges to the effective administration of justice have only increased. This Commission has always seen fit to declare a judicial vacancy when a judge has left the Douglas County Court bench in the past, and I urge the Commission to declare a vacancy at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Slimp". The signature is stylized with a large initial "K" and "S".

Kevin J. Slimp
Omaha City Prosecutor