DAVE HEATON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 85TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Judiciary

AB 503 Relating to: adding a circuit court branch in Calumet, Wood, Marathon, Dunn, Polk, Jackson, and Vilas counties.

Thursday December 10, 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for allowing me to testify before you today in support of Assembly Bill 503 (AB 503). I am co-authoring this legislation because of the need I see for an additional judge in the seven counties included in this bill, including Marathon County which I represent.

First, it is important to note that the counties included in AB 503 were selected as a result of an objective process based on need and supported by data from a weighted caseload study. All seven of the counties that are selected for an additional judge under AB 503 are ranked in the top 10 for workload per judge according to data compiled by the Wisconsin Court System. The county board in each of these counties have also affirmed their support by passing a resolution requesting the legislature to allocate a new judge to their county, and accepting the financial costs the county will incur with the new judgeship.

AB 503 is necessary because Wisconsin's court system is funded jointly by the state and the counties and the number of circuit court branches in each county are laid out in state statute. This bill will amend the statutes to add circuit court branches in seven counties as well as allocate the state funds that are necessary to support these new judgeships.

I have also heard from judges and attorneys from my district who have advised, based on their personal experience, that the judicial case load in Marathon County warrants at least an additional judge and has warranted one for years. Data presented by the Wisconsin Court System backs up these accounts. This legislation will help reduce the judicial case load in counties that are the most overloaded and allow the criminal and civil justice system to work better for the citizens of those counties.

Mr. Chairman and members, thank you once again for the opportunity to testify before you today.

State Capitol Office: P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, WI 53708-8952 • (608) 266-0654 • Fax: (608) 282-3685 • Toll-Free: (888) 534-0085
Rep.Heaton@legis.wi.gov

RESOLUTION #R-41-13

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR A SIXTH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE FOR MARATHON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts of the Wisconsin Supreme Court has informed the Marathon County Board of Supervisors that the Marathon County Circuit Court caseload, based on the 2011 Wisconsin Weighted Caseload Study, indicates a current need for seven (7) judges in Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County is currently authorized five circuit judges and the rate of growth of case filings in Marathon County has consistently warranted seven (7) judges for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the State Courts has indicated to the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial District that it is anticipated that a bill will be introduced in the State Legislature to allocate additional judgeships; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County's judge need has been identified as one of the highest in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon hereby requests the Director of State Courts to request the Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate a sixth judgeship for Marathon County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors reaffirms that it will support both space and personnel requirements deemed necessary for support of a sixth circuit judge.

Dated this 25 day of June, 2013.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATE (2013 projections): Maximum staff anticipated is one courtroom clerk and one judicial assistant:

Clerk gross salary and benefits: $55,967

Judicial Assistant gross salary and benefits: $61,020

If a sixth judgeship is created, Marathon County would receive the court support grant base amount of $42,275 per year times six judges rather than five judges.

The addition of a sixth judge will result in the need to construct a sixth permanent courtroom consistent with the 20 year Courthouse plan.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Nan Kottke, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-41-13 was adopted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at their Adjourned Organizational meeting which was held June 25, 2013.

Nan Kottke

SEAL

Nan Kottke
Marathon County Clerk

State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

To: Assembly Committee on Judiciary

From: Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Date: December 10, 2015

RE: Assembly Bill 503 – Judgeship Bill

Chair Ott and Committee Members:

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 503 (AB 503), which proposes to create seven new circuit court branches in the state. I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for AB 503.

At the request of the Wisconsin State Courts, Rep. Murtha and I drafted AB 503. Determining need for additional courts is based on an objective system of standards established in 1977 under the reorganization of the courts creating the circuit court system. As part of the reorganization, the overall administrative structure of the courts was improved by developing an objective set of standards for making decisions to create circuit courts; a weighted caseload measurement system was created. In 2005 this system was updated and since then an annual analysis of court need has been conducted.

The court findings from the 2014 analysis showed Calumet, Dunn, Jackson, Marathon, Polk, Vilas, and Wood Counties to be in need. Given that costs are shared between the state and each county, it is worthy to note that each of the seven county boards have passed a resolution in support of an additional court. Under AB 503, one circuit court would be added to each county beginning in 2016.

Assembly Bill 503 makes an important change, based on objective standards and local support, to help these seven counties manage their circuit court caseload.

I urge your support of AB 503 and thank you for holding a public hearing on the bill.

10th Senate District
Phone: 800.862.1092/608.266.7745
Fax: 608.282.3550

http://www.harsdorfsenate.com

P.O. Box 7882 ▪ State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882
Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov

Supreme Court of Wisconsin
DIRECTOR OF STATE COURTS
P.O. BOX 1688
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

Patience D. Roggensack
Chief Justice

16 East State Capitol
Telephone 608-266-6828
Fax 608-267-0980

J. Denis Moran
Director of State Courts

Testimony
Of
The Honorable Scott R. Needham
Circuit Court Judge, Branch 3, St. Croix County
Chief Judge, Judicial Administrative District 10

In Support of
2015 Assembly Bill 503
Creating Seven Additional Circuit Court Branches

Assembly Committee on Judiciary
Representative Jim Ott, Chair
December 10, 2015

Thank you very much. By way of introduction, my name is Scott Needham. I have been a circuit court judge in St. Croix County since 1994 and was elected after a new branch was created in St. Croix County by the legislature in 1993. I have also served as the Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial Administrative District since 2011. The Tenth District includes the 13 counties in northwest Wisconsin and is approximately 23% of Wisconsin's geography. I am appearing here in favor of Assembly Bill 503 on behalf of the Committee of Chief Judges. AB 503 would create seven new circuit court branches in the following counties: Calumet, Dunn, Jackson, Marathon, Polk, Vilas and Wood.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee today with two of my fellow Chief Judges: Judges Neal Nielsen of Vilas County and Chief Judge in District 9 and Robert Wirtz of Fond du Lac and Chief Judge in District 4. We especially appreciate the fortunate coincidence that today's hearing is being held on a day that the three of us were already scheduled to be in Madison for other meetings, making issues of schedules and travel easier for us. Together, Judges Nielsen, Wirtz and I are responsible for the administrative needs of five of the seven counties included in the bill.

The Committee of Chief Judges is comprised of the 10 Chief Judges selected by the Supreme Court to handle administrative matters for the court system: managing the flow of cases, supervising personnel, collaborating with our county partners, developing budgets and working as a committee on issues of statewide importance. I serve as the chair of the Chief Judges' Workload Subcommittee that studies the distribution of cases throughout the state and determines areas where additional judicial resources may be needed. Judges Nielsen and Wirtz are the other members of the subcommittee.

Since court reorganization in the 1970s, the Wisconsin court system has been directed to establish an objective measure of judicial workload, with political considerations eliminated. Working first with the Legislative Council Committee on the Courts and later with the Legislative Audit Bureau, the court system contracted with experts on what would be the proper way to measure judicial need. For the past 35 years, the court system has used a weighted caseload system, which as the name suggests, concentrates on the number and types of cases coming before the circuit courts.

As noted, we have effectively been using the weighted caseload measuring system since 1980. The most recent completed study was conducted for the court system by the National Center for State Courts and released in February 2007. That study established a formula for evaluating the workload of each county. Using that formula and the number of cases filed in the state for any given calendar year, our Workload Subcommittee annually evaluates, determines and certifies, the judicial need in each of our 72 counties.

Attached to my testimony is a summary document that gives more background on the process we follow in evaluating judicial need. You'll note in Attachment A of the document the latest data from earlier this year that lists the ten counties identified as having the highest judicial need. The seven counties identified in the bill are all in the top ten.

The expression "justice delayed in justice denied" has direct application to what happens in a county where the judicial workload exceeds resources. Where constitutional or statutory time limits are present, such as in mental commitments, child protection matters, juvenile delinquency cases, domestic abuse or other injunction cases or in criminal cases, those cases will take precedence and other matters will take longer to handle. Matters without specific deadlines, such as civil cases, small claims, family law cases including divorce, paternity, placement and custody, are fit into the schedule as quickly as possible and as time permits.

As Chief Judges, we work with counties that show increasing need. We can alleviate some of the pressure through help from judges in neighboring counties and through reassignment of cases. But these are only temporary measures. Eventually we find that internal management measures applied across counties and judicial administrative districts are not sufficient to meet the demands of increasing judicial workload. We believe these seven counties are at that point of needing additional help.

The summary document also discusses another essential element to our decision-making – local support. We never move forward with a recommendation for additional judgeships unless we are assured of local support and adequate facilities.

As you are no doubt aware, funding for the Wisconsin court system is split between the state and the counties. While the state pays for the salaries and benefits of the judges and court reporters as well as court automation, the counties pick up a variety of other costs. Counties pay for the personnel costs of judicial support staff, clerks of court, and court commissioners as well as supplies and services. Counties also bear the costs of providing proper facilities, which sometimes involves remodeling or even new construction.

To demonstrate local support, I have also attached copies of the County Board resolutions from the seven counties. Over the last few years, the judges in the seven counties and we have

discussed the local judicial need with members of the county boards and with county administration. We are satisfied that the counties understand what they will be required to provide and they stand ready to provide their share of the resources needed.

The true beneficiaries of additional judgeships are the citizens and communities we serve. The direct benefit is to the citizens who require our assistance to resolve disputes. Adding judges in a county with demonstrated need means that we can resolve those disputes in a more timely fashion. For example, in St. Croix County which also was included in the most recent judgeship bill in 2008, case processing timelines were reduced dramatically – litigants were able to have their cases heard in a timely fashion and with the addition of our 4th judge, the system took a collective "sigh" and got back to doing justice effectively and efficiently. The old saying that "time is money" is certainly true for some of those who come before us. Adding a judge means that civil trials can be scheduled in fewer months than before. In general, adding judicial resources creates a system that is more efficient and responsive to the needs of all our citizens – processing criminal defendants faster so they do not require additional time waiting in jail, family court counseling and mediation services in child custody disputes resolved more quickly, assessments and driver safety plans can be carried out more quickly in OWI cases – to name a few. To directly address the impact, I would like to share written comments from judges in two of the counties where additional judgeships are proposed.

Providing additional resources in the 7 counties would also allow the judges to be part of innovative programs. We want our judges to be leaders of their local criminal justice coordinating councils and engaged in the overall health and well-being of their counties. Wisconsin now has more than 70 specialty courts including drug courts, OWI courts, mental health courts, juvenile treatment courts, domestic violence courts, unified family courts, and veterans courts. We know that research shows these courts are effective means to turn people's lives around and to make our communities safer through lower recidivism rates. But these courts require resources, including judicial time. I know that in many counties these innovative, evidence based programs are being staffed before and after normal business hours and over lunch hours.

In conclusion, these are some of the ways in which the communities we serve can benefit from these additional judicial resources. I want to thank the legislative sponsors of AB 503 for their support. Specifically, I extend my personal thanks to lead sponsors, Representative John Murtha and Senator Sheila Harsdorf. I am a constituent in both of their districts and I greatly appreciate their leadership and commitment to the greater good. We will continue to work with them as well as the legislative bodies as the bill proceeds through the process, including the need to amend the bill to provide for a later start date for the new branches.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. Judges Nielsen and Wirtz have a few additional comments, and then we would be happy to take questions. Thank you.

Scott Needham - Fwd: Judgeship Bill--Public Hearing

From: Molly GaleWyrick
To: Kim Mortensen
Date: 12/4/2015 1:44 PM
Subject: Fwd: Judgeship Bill--Public Hearing
Attachments: Judgeship Bill--Public Hearing

Kim please type this letter on letterhead and attach it to an email to the address noted - Rep.Ott@legis.wisconsin.gov

Dear Chairman Ott,

I am writing in support of the Judgeship Bill which if passed, will greatly benefit the citizens of Calumet, Wood, Marathon, Dunn, Polk, Jackson and Vilas Counties. As the presiding judge in Polk County I have personal knowledge of the challenges our citizens face when trying to promptly resolve disputes. We have all heard the saying "justice delayed is justice denied" and for too long, justice has been delayed in Polk County.

As the Justice System continues to move to more Evidenced Based Practices, we recognize the potential savings in terms of time and efficiencies but more importantly the savings in very real human terms. I've presided over a Treatment court for almost 8 years and the lives that have been positively impacted by the implementation of intensive outpatient treatment are in the hundreds. It isn't just the participants who are transformed but their families as well.

We are in the planning stages for a Mental Health Treatment Court. This will offer a more efficacious approach to individuals whose conduct brings them to the attention of law enforcement but whose medical diagnoses should really be addressed by Mental Health professionals in partnership with the courts.

It has been difficult to find the time and energy to devote to innovation when our caseload continues to be high. I've been a judge for almost 14 years and in that time so much has changed. Recognizing the value of treatment courts and of collaboration both within county government and throughout the county as a whole, leads me to the conclusion that with help we can tackle so much more.

We have had a Criminal Justice Collaborating Council for over 8 years which has actively addressed concerns in our county from the perspective of all our stakeholders. Our members and our County Board fully support our need for a Third Branch of the Circuit Court. This is not because the judges are overloaded with cases but because they recognize the unmet needs of our citizens whom we are sworn to serve.

Please give the Judgeship Bill your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Needham - Judgeship bill hearing

From: Rod Smeltzer
To: Scott Needham
Date: 12/7/2015 2:45 PM
Subject: Judgeship bill hearing

Chief,

Regarding the committee hearing on the Judgeship bill, the major point Jim and I would like to have passed onto the committee is that of capacity. In Dunn County the pipeline is so full that once cases are opened it is difficult to find court time to process them. This is true for all case types especially where contested or evidentiary hearings are needed. The length of time it often takes to schedule these matters back in court is a disservice to our citizens. Additionally, the caseload and amount of time needed in court can make it difficult to render written decisions in an optimum time frame for the parties.

On intake weeks, the process has been a grind for years where by necessity files are dealt with in a manner that does not allow for the amount of time a case deserves. This takes a major toll on everyone that is needed to make the system work.

We appreciate you taking the time to represent Dunn County at the hearing.

Thanks,
Rod and Jim

Meeting the Judicial Needs of Wisconsin

Request for Additional Judgeships: Assembly Bill 503 and Senate Bill 380

Director of State Courts

December 2015

Introduction

Based on demonstrated need and strong local support, the Director of State Courts recommends new judgeships be created in seven Wisconsin counties: Calumet, Dunn, Jackson, Marathon, Polk, Vilas and Wood.

In arriving at this recommendation, the Director's Office analyzed case data using the Wisconsin-specific weighted caseload study and the Wisconsin Judicial Needs Assessment. This study measures the time needed to dispose of cases and provides an estimate of each circuit court's judicial needs. Counties with the highest workload need were selected for the proposed new judgeships. The selected counties also worked closely with their county boards to ensure support for these additional judgeships. Internal management measures applied across counties and judicial administrative districts are no longer sufficient to meet the demands of the judicial workload.

Measuring Judicial Need

Background

In 1977 the voters of Wisconsin approved constitutional amendments reorganizing Wisconsin's court system. The reorganization eliminated county courts and created circuit courts that were given original jurisdiction of all matters civil and criminal.

After court reorganization was completed in 1980 (Ch. 449 Laws of 1977), there were 190 circuit court judges in Wisconsin. Since 1980 an additional 59 judgeships have been created, bringing the total number of circuit judges in Wisconsin to 249. The last judgeships were created in 2008 when judgeships were added to Barron, Chippewa, Dodge, Green, Juneau, Kenosha, Monroe, and St. Croix counties. (Green and Kenosha counties had a delayed effective date of 2009 and Monroe county was effective in 2010.)

Weighted Caseload

As part of court reorganization, the legislature took steps to improve the court's administrative structure. One of these steps was developing a consistent and reliable system to provide an objective basis for decisions regarding creating circuit courts. To this end, the Wisconsin Legislature directed the Legislative Council and the Director of State Courts to develop a weighted caseload measurement system.

In response, the Council and the Director contracted with Resource Planning Corporation (RPC), a Washington-based consulting firm, to develop the weighted caseload system for calculating circuit court judge need. The study was closely supervised by the Committee on Courts of the Legislative Council. The Committee and the Director of State Courts accepted RPC's report on March 31, 1980. This original weighted caseload study was updated in 1996 under a contract between the Director of State Courts and the National Center for State Courts.

In 2005, the Director of State Courts contracted with the National Center for State Courts to update the weighted caseload study. The National Center for State Courts completed its work in 2006, releasing the updated Judicial Needs Assessment. Using the 2006 study parameters, the Director of State Courts annually composes a weighted caseload analysis that determines each circuit court's judicial need.

The 2014 weighted caseload analysis showed several counties were in need of additional judgeships. This list was provided to the Committee of Chief Judges who objectively selected those counties with the highest workload, county support, and projections of increased workload. The counties selected were Calumet, Dunn, Jackson, Marathon, Polk, Vilas and Wood. Attachment A shows these counties consistently have some of the highest workloads per judge in the state.

Addressing Judicial Need – AB 503 and SB 380

Current Need

Assembly Bill 503 and Senate Bill 380 would add one circuit court branch in each of the following counties: Calumet, Dunn, Jackson, Marathon, Polk, Vilas and Wood. All judgeships except Jackson and Vilas counties would commence in 2016; Jackson and Vilas counties' new circuit court branch would commence in 2017. Jackson and Vilas counties have requested additional time to prepare their facilities. (Please note that because the deadline for noticing a 2016 spring election has passed, there will be a substitute amendment with the new circuit branches commencing in 2017, except Vilas County that would commence in 2018.)

The 2015 Judgeship Bill is based on the court system's weighted caseload study and on the local support of the county boards involved. There was also extensive input from the Committee of Chief Judges, the ten circuit court judges appointed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to supervise the judicial administrative districts.

Attachment B to this document is a map showing the ten judicial administrative districts, the number of current judges in each county, and the number of judges the seven counties listed above would have if the Legislature approves the new judgeships.

Local Support

County-level support for creating additional circuit court branches is an essential element in the decision to put forward the 2015 Judgeship Bill. The county boards of all counties included in the bill have passed resolutions supporting the efforts of the Director of State Courts in pursuing the new judgeships.

Funding for the state court system in Wisconsin is split between the state and the counties. The state pays for the salaries and fringe benefits of judges, travel expenses, reserve judges, district court administrators and official court reporters, plus the costs of court automation. The state also makes direct payments to the counties for circuit court costs through the court support payment program.

Counties pay for the costs of facilities, including constructing and maintaining new courthouses. Counties also pay for the personnel costs of judicial support staff, clerks of court, and court commissioners, as well as supplies and services to support personnel. Therefore, in order to demonstrate their willingness to take on these additional responsibilities, county support for new judgeships is required through a formal county board resolution.

Additional Factors

Although the primary factors in creating a new judgeship remain calculated need and county support, the chief judges also considered the issue of new policies, practices, and laws affecting time spent on each individual case. For example, treatment courts have become a common practice throughout Wisconsin since the Judicial Needs Assessment was originally created. It is clear these specialty courts require additional judicial workload as compared to other similar cases, thus creating the need for additional judges to balance out this work.

Conclusion

The Wisconsin Legislature requires judicial need be objective and the people of Wisconsin demand a quality justice system. This bill is both objective and guarantees the judiciary can continue to provide a high quality of service.

Therefore, the Director of State Courts Office urges your support of Assembly Bill 503 and Senate Bill 380. If you have questions, please contact the Director of State Courts, J. Denis Moran, at (608) 266-6828 or the court's Legislative Liaison, Nancy Rottier, at (608) 267-9733 or nancy.rottier@wicourts.gov.

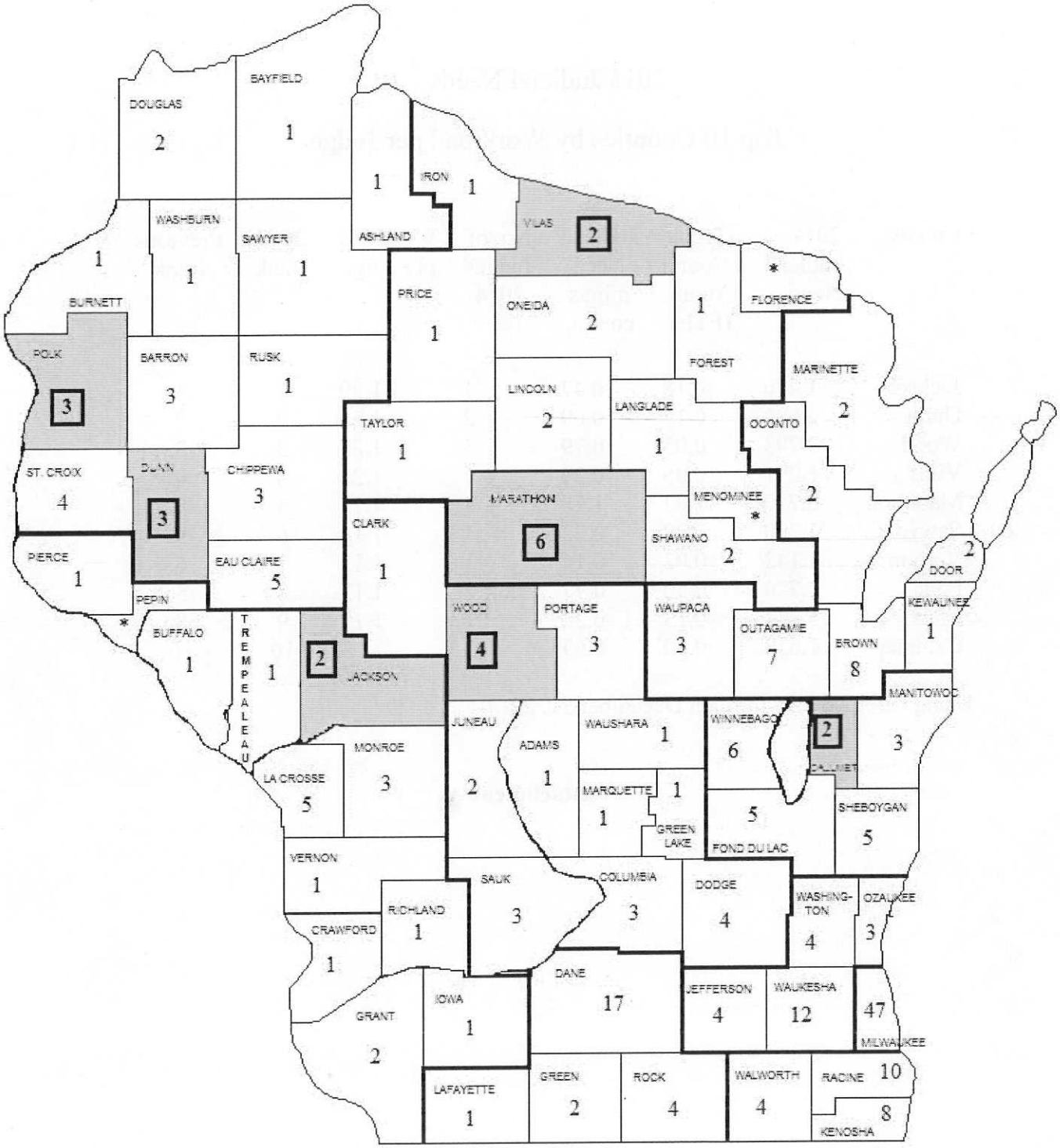
2015 Judicial Needs

Top 10 Counties by Workload per Judge

County	2014 Judicial Need	Circuit Court Comm. (FTE)	Judicial Need minus comm.	No. of Judges 2014	Workload per judge	2014 Rank	Previous Rank
Jackson	1.470	0.18	0.47	1	1.29	1	1
Dunn	2.686	0.10	0.69	2	1.29	2	2
Wood	3.793	0.05	0.79	3	1.25	3	3
Vilas	1.291	0.06	0.29	1	1.23	4	4
Marathon	6.777	1.03	1.78	5	1.15	5	7
Sawyer	1.220	0.09	0.22	1	1.13	6	9
Vernon	1.142	0.02	0.14	1	1.12	7	6
Polk	2.770	0.50	0.77	2	1.13	8	5
Clark	1.244	0.13	0.24	1	1.11	9	8
Calumet	1.633	0.50	0.63	1	1.13	10	10

Using caseload data through December 31, 2014

Attachment A



4 Total judgeship under proposed bill

Attachment B

RESOLUTION 2012-42

RESOLUTION REQUESTING LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL CALUMET COUNTY JUDICIAL BRANCH

Motion:	Adopted: X
1st Draheim	Lost:
2nd Stillman	Tabled:
Yes: 17 No: 1	Absent: 3
Number of votes required:	
[x] Majority	[ ] Two-thirds
Reviewed by: Dawn Klockow	Corp Counsel

		YES	NO	A
1	BARRIBEAU	X		
2	BUDDE	X		
3	CONNORS	X		
4	DIETRICH			X
5	DRAHEIM	X		
6	GENTZ	X		
7	GLAESER	X		
8	GREEN	X		
9	HOPFENSPERGER	X		
10	KLECKNER	X		
11	LA SHAY	X		
12	LAUGHRIN, P.	X		
13	LAUGHRIN, T.	X		
14	LEONHARDT			X
15	MUELLER		X	
16	OTT	X		
17	PRESCOTT			X
18	STECKER	X		
19	SCHWALENBERG	X		
20	STIER	X		
21	STILLMAN	X		

To the Honorable Chair and Board of Supervisors of Calumet County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Prior to 1978, the Wisconsin Trial Court System consisted of various municipal, county and circuit courts in which the judges' salaries were wholly or partially funded by the city, county or state; and

WHEREAS, By constitutional amendment approved by the citizens of Wisconsin in 1978, a one level trial court system was created consisting of Circuit Court Judges who were state employees and their salaries were fully funded by the state; and

WHEREAS, The effect of the amendment was that except for six counties, each county became a circuit. Three circuits were created consisting of two counties each; and

WHEREAS, Based upon the 69 circuits and 249 Circuit Judges, each judge today is supported by a mean average of 23,118 and a medium average of 20,840 citizens in their circuit; and

WHEREAS, Judicial needs were historically based upon a formula based upon workload and the number of judges in the circuit; and

WHEREAS, Now judicial needs, when creating new judges, is based upon a formula based upon work load and the number of judges and court commissioners in each circuit; and

WHEREAS, Fully 24.85% of the judicial officials in the State of Wisconsin are now funded by the counties; and

WHEREAS, The Calumet County Board requested the creation of a second court in our county by resolution in 1992 and 2004; and

WHEREAS, Calumet County has the largest population per judge of any circuit in Wisconsin (2010 population of 48,971); and

WHEREAS, With the addition of a second judge in Calumet County, this circuit would still place the population number per judge above the mean and median averages of the statewide numbers (24,486 vs. statewide mean average of 23,118 and statewide median average 20,840); and

WHEREAS, Calumet County, with two Judges would still have population per judge as the 18th largest average of the 69 circuits; and

WHEREAS, Eleven of the circuits that have a population less than Calumet County have two judges and two of the circuits that have a population less than Calumet County have three judges; and

WHEREAS, Calumet County has provided the physical facilities necessary for a 2nd Circuit Court including a courtroom, chambers and area for support staff; and

WHEREAS, For years, Calumet County has had a full-time judge with additional judges from within the fourth judicial district assisting with Calumet County cases at an ever increasing rate; and

WHEREAS, Circuit Court case filings are continuing to increase; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, the Calumet County Board of Supervisors had approved a resolution urging the legislature to authorize an additional judicial position for Calumet County, which passed both houses of the legislature and was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Calumet County Board of Supervisors herein assembled again request the State to create a 2nd Circuit Court Judge in Calumet County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Calumet County Clerk is requested to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the representatives from our assembly and senate districts and the committee members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Dated this 19th day of February 2013.

INTRODUCED BY THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mike Hopfensperger, Chair

Pete Stier

Don Glaeser

Tom Laughrin

William Barribeau

AND

INTRODUCED BY THE PUBLIC GROUNDS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Kenneth Draheim, Chair

James Stecker

Patrick Laughrin

Brian Leonhardt

David La Shay

COUNTERSIGNED BY

William Barribeau, County Board Chair

DUNN COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 44

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO ADD ADDITIONAL JUDGES

WHEREAS, Dunn County ranks near the top in judicial need in the State of Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts is recommending that the legislature add additional judgeships in those counties showing the greatest need according to the Judicial Needs Assessment; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin will pay the salary and benefits for the judge and his/her court reporter in addition to providing the needed computers and printers; additional support may be requested of the County; and,

WHEREAS, at present, the Dunn County Judicial Center has the prerequisite third courtroom available for a third circuit court judge, together with sufficient room for necessary accompanying support personnel; and,

WHEREAS, the support of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors is required for the Director of State Court's Office to include Dunn County in a judgeship bill creating a third circuit court branch; and,

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Judiciary and Law Committee that the County Board of Supervisors approve this Resolution in support of legislation creating additional judgeships; and,

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Judiciary and Law Committee that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors go on record as requesting that an additional judge be added in Dunn County; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors does approve this Resolution in support of legislation creating additional judgeships and urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Scott Walker to create a third branch of the Circuit Court for Dunn County to better serve the needs of the people of Dunn County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

Offered this 21th day of May, 2014, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE:

David Bartlett, Chair

ADOPTED ON: May 21, 2014

ATTEST:

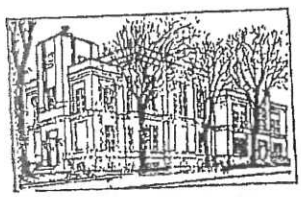
Julie A. Wathke, County Clerk

Approved as to Form and Execution:

Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Adoption of this resolution has no impact upon either the 2014 or 2015 budgets. Adoption of this resolution has no impact upon the current year tax levy.

Background Information: Language contained within the resolution should be sufficiently explanatory.



Jackson County

OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK
307 MAIN STREET
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN 54615

Kyle Deno, County Clerk
Phone (715) 284-0208
Fax (715) 284-0278
E-mail: kyle.deno@co.jackson.wi.us
Mary K Johnson, Deputy County Clerk
Diane Peterson, County Bookkeeper

March 18, 2014

County Board Action

At its regular session on March 17, 2014, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution #7-3-2014 in Supporting an Additional Circuit Court Judge by a unanimous voice vote.
16 ayes and 3 members were absent.

Attested: Kyle Deno
Kyle Deno, Jackson County Clerk, A.C.

Date: 3/18/2014

Resolution 7-3-2014

RE: Supporting an Additional Circuit Court Judge

WHEREAS, Jackson County is currently allotted one Circuit Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts weighted caseload study for 2010 through 2012, has Jackson County ranked No. 1 out of all counties in the State – as being the county most in need of another judge; and

WHEREAS, the current caseload in the areas of felony and misdemeanor criminal, major civil, family, juvenile and other time sensitive subject areas has increased over the past several years, which has led to delays in the processing and handling of these cases and exceeds the reasonable capacity of the single Judge in Jackson County, and

WHEREAS, despite utilizing court commissioners and creative scheduling practices, Jackson County still has a critical need for a second judgeship; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin will pay the salary and fringe benefits of the proposed second Circuit Court Judge, as well as that of his/her court reporter, in addition to providing all of the needed computers and printers for the judge and staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing the necessary court facilities and support staff should a second circuit court judgeship be created;

WHEREAS, the support of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors is required for the *Director of State Court's Office to Include Jackson County in a Judgeship bill* creating a *second* circuit court branch.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Scott Walker to create a second branch of the Circuit Court for Jackson County to better serve the needs of the people of Jackson County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jackson County Board of Supervisors agrees to provide the necessary court facilities and support staff if an additional circuit court judgeship were created; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors understands that the additional judgeship will require Jackson County to expend additional funds for a building project to accommodate a courtroom, offices for a Judge, court reporter and judicial assistant and a commitment to make the required accommodations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jackson County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, to the Wisconsin Director of the State Courts, and to all Wisconsin State Legislators with any constituency located within Jackson County.

Executive and Finance Committee

Property Committee

RESOLUTION #R-41-13

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR A SIXTH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE FOR MARATHON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts of the Wisconsin Supreme Court has informed the Marathon County Board of Supervisors that the Marathon County Circuit Court caseload, based on the 2011 Wisconsin Weighted Caseload Study, indicates a current need for seven (7) judges in Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County is currently authorized five circuit judges and the rate of growth of case filings in Marathon County has consistently warranted seven (7) judges for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the State Courts has indicated to the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial District that it is anticipated that a bill will be introduced in the State Legislature to allocate additional judgeships; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County's judge need has been identified as one of the highest in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon hereby requests the Director of State Courts to request the Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate a sixth judgeship for Marathon County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors reaffirms that it will support both space and personnel requirements deemed necessary for support of a sixth circuit judge.

Dated this 25 day of June 2013.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATE (2013 projections): Maximum staff anticipated is one courtroom clerk and one judicial assistant:

Clerk gross salary and benefits: $55,967

Judicial Assistant gross salary and benefits: $61,020

If a sixth judgeship is created, Marathon County would receive the court support grant base amount of $42,275 per year times six judges rather than five judges.

The addition of a sixth judge will result in the need to construct a sixth permanent courtroom consistent with the 20 year Courthouse plan.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Nan Kottke, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-41-13 was adopted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at their Adjourned Organizational meeting which was held June 25, 2013

Nan Kottke

SEAL

Nan Kottke
Marathon County Clerk

Resolution No. 30 -14

Resolution in Support of Legislation to Add Additional Judges

TO THE HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF POLK:

Lady and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS, Polk County ranks near the top in judicial need in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts is recommending that the legislature add additional judgeships in those counties showing the greatest need according to the Judicial Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin will pay the salary and benefits for the judge and his/her court reporter in addition to providing the needed computers and printers; additional support may be requested of the County; and

WHEREAS, at present, the Polk County Judicial Center has the prerequisite third courtroom available for a third circuit court judge, together with sufficient room for necessary accompanying support personnel; and

WHEREAS, the support of the Polk County Board of Supervisors is required for the Director of State Court's Office to include Polk County in a judgeship bill creating a third circuit court branch; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Polk County Public Safety and Highway Committee that the Polk County Board of Supervisors approve this resolution in support of legislation creating additional judgeships; and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Polk County Public Safety and Highway Committee that the Polk County Board of Supervisors go on record as requesting that an additional judge be added in Polk County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors does approve this resolution in support of legislation creating additional judgeships and urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Scott Walker to create a third branch of the Circuit Court for Polk County to better serve the needs of the people of Polk County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors directs the County Clerk to forward a certified copy of this resolution to Office of Governor, the respective legislative representatives of Polk County of the Wisconsin Senate and Wisconsin Assembly, the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Wisconsin Counties Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

Funding Source/ Funding Amount:	Not Applicable

Date Reviewed as to Appropriations:	Not Applicable
Committee Recommendation as To Appropriation:	Not Applicable
Effective Date:	Upon Passage
Dated Submitted To County Board	July 15, 2014
Submitted By:	
Review By County Administrator: ☐ Recommended ☐ Not Recommended ☒ Reviewed Only Dana Frey, County Administrator	Review By Corporation Counsel: ☑ Approved as to Form ☐ Recommended ☐ Not Recommended ☑ Reviewed Only Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

Acknowledgement of County Board Action

Mark As Appropriate:

At its regular business meeting on ~~July 15~~ Sept. 16, 2014, the Polk County Board of Supervisors considered and acted on the above resolution, Resolution No. 30 - 14; Resolution in Support of Legislation to Add Additional Judges, as follows:

- ☐ Adopted by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- ☑ Adopted by majority voice vote.
- ☐ Defeated by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- ☐ Defeated by majority voice vote
- ☐ Action Deferred by Procedural Action, as follows: _____

SIGNED BY: _____
William F. Johnson, IV, County Board Chairperson

Attest: _____
Carole T. Wondra, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)ss
COUNTY OF POLK)

I, Carole T. Wondra, Clerk for Polk County, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 30-14, that was adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors on Sept 16, 2014.

Carole T. Wondra 9-18-14

Carole T. Wondra Date
Polk County Clerk

Vilas County Clerk
330 Court Street • Eagle River, WI 54521
715-479-3600 • Fax: 715-479-3605

To: Wisconsin State Legislature - Joint Committee on Finance Members

From: David Alleman, Vilas County Clerk/Administrative Coordinator

CC: Wisconsin Chief Judges, c/o Marcia Vandercook

Date: June 16, 2015

Re: Judgeship Bill

In anticipation of deliberations on the creation of additional circuit court judgeships, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Vilas County to reiterate our interest in being included among the counties to be allocated an additional circuit court judge.

In September 2014, the Vilas County Board of Supervisors made a request to the Director of State Courts to request the Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate a second judgeship in Vilas County (see enclosed Resolution 2014-57). Within that Resolution was Vilas County's support for both the requisite space and personnel requirements for a second circuit court judge. Vilas County is now in the planning process for a courthouse expansion project and included in the preliminary draft plan/concept is additional space to support a second judge.

It is our understanding that the final draft of the bill will be reviewed by a subcommittee of Chief Judges this month. Should Vilas County be included in the final draft, please let us know if you need further information regarding the County's position on this issue. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

RESOLUTION 2014 - 57

As amended by the Vilas County Board

Re: **Support for a Second Circuit Court Judge for Vilas County**

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts of the Wisconsin Supreme Court has informed the Vilas County Board of Supervisors that the Vilas County Circuit Court caseload, based on the 2013 weighted caseload study, indicates a current need for two (2) judges in Vilas County; and

WHEREAS, Vilas County is currently authorized for one circuit court judge, while the rate of growth of case filings in Vilas County has consistently warranted two judges for at least the past 4 years; and

WHEREAS, the Director of State Courts has indicated to the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial District that it is anticipated that a bill will be introduced in the State Legislature to allocate additional judgeships; and

WHEREAS, Vilas County's judge need has been identified one of the highest in the state; and

WHEREAS, an additional judgeship is in the best interests of the citizens of Vilas County in order to provide an effective and efficient judiciary.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in session this 23rd day of September, 2014 that we hereby request the Director of State Courts to request the Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate a second judgeship for Vilas County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Vilas County will support both space and personnel requirements as deemed necessary for support of a second circuit judge and as set forth in the attached fiscal impact statement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if Vilas County is included in the judgeship bill we request a one-year delay in the implementation, in order to adequately plan for space and personnel requirements.

SUBMITTED BY: **Personnel Committee**
s/ Edward Bluthardt, Chair
s/ Charles Hayes
s/ Walt Maciag
Jerry Burkett
Art Kunde

SUBMITTED BY: **Finance & Budget Committee**
s/ Mark Rogacki, Chair
s/ Mary Kim Black
s/ Erv Teichmiller
s/ Kim Simac
Vernon Wiggenhauser

WOOD COUNTY

ITEM# 5-3

DATE February 18, 2014

RESOLUTION# 14-2-11

Effective Date February 18, 2014

Introduced by Judicial & Legislative

Page 1 of 2

Committee

LAD

Motion:	Adopted: X
1st Clendenning	Lost:
2nd Henkel	Tabled:
No: 1 Yes: 17	Absent: 1

Number of votes required:

X Majority ☐ Two-thirds

Reviewed by: PAK , Corp Counsel

Reviewed by: MFM , Finance Dir.

		NO	YES	A
1	Nelson, J		X	
2	Rozar, D		X	
3	Feirer, M		X	
4	Wagner, E		X	
5	Hendler, P	ABS	ENT	
6	Breu, A		X	
7	Ashbeck, R		X	
8	Miner, T		X	
9	Winch, W	X		
10	Henkel, H		X	
11	Curry, K		X	
12	Machon, D		X	
13	Hokamp, M		X	
14	Polach, D		X	
15	Clendenning, B		X	
16	Pliml, L		X	
17	Allworden, G		X	
18	Murphy, B		X	
19	Moody, R		X	

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To go on record as accepting the responsibilities associated with having a fourth judge such that if the state legislature authorizes an additional circuit court judge for Wood County, the county commits that it would provide the space and support staff necessary for the new court to operate.

FISCAL NOTE: Additional costs could be budgeted for as the office would not be created until August 1, 2015, at the earliest. Costs for constructing a new courtroom, judge's office, and necessary ancillary offices are not known but would be substantial. Recurring costs of a Judicial Assistant (secretary) of about $60,000 and possibly additional man hours in the Clerk of Court's office would all be offset in part by up to $40,000 in savings from a reduction in work by the court commissioners.

WHEREAS, the state maintains a system that calibrates the judicial needs of each county based upon the types and numbers of cases heard in the county and Wood County is and for quite some time has been rated for in excess of four judges, and

WHEREAS, the need for an additional judge in Wood County is the second highest rated judicial need in the state and legislation may be forthcoming within the next year or two to create the office of a fourth judge in Wood County, and

WHEREAS, the state wants to verify that a county is willing to accept the responsibilities as well as the advantages of having a new judicial position and, therefore, seeks a resolution of the Wood County Board supporting the creation of a fourth judgeship in Wood County, and

WHEREAS, the Judicial and Legislative Committee has studied the matter and in doing so has determined not only what the primary costs are associated with creating a fourth judgeship but some savings that would come about by creating the office, including:

Costs:

Upfront: Recognizing the earliest a new judge would take office would be August 1, 2015, the county would be able to utilize the reserve courtroom and the adjoining offices and conference rooms to meet the space needs of a new circuit court for a while but eventually an additional courtroom, jury room, judge's chambers and the staff offices would be needed. The cost for this space would be significant and likely part of a larger construction project.

Recurring: The salary and benefits of the judge and his/her court reporter are paid by the state but each judge has a judicial assistant, which would cost between $54,000 and $62,000 per year depending upon experience (this includes the benefits). The Clerk of Courts has advised that an additional court clerk would be needed at an annual total cost of between $50,000 to $55,000, although arguably with the four judges carrying the same case load as the three judges, it might not be necessary to add a full-time position to cover these duties.

( )

WILLIAM CLENDENNING (Chairman)

GERALD NELSON

GARY ALLWORDEN

ED WAGNER

WILLIAM MURPHY

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this 18th day of February 20 14 .

County Clerk

County Board Chairman

WOOD COUNTY

ITEM# 5-

DATE February 18, 2014

RESOLUTION# _____ Effective Date: February 18, 2014

Introduced by Judicial & Legislative Committee

Savings: The county currently has a family court commissioner that is paid about $73,000 per year and a court commissioner that handles small claims for $20,000 per year. These costs are borne fully by the county and could be substantially reduced if a new judgeship were established. A realistic estimate would be a reduction of $40,000 in the court commissioner costs. The court clerk responsibilities that currently serve the family court commissioner and the small claims court commissioner could be allocated to the new circuit court judge.

WHEREAS, the Judicial and Legislative Committee believes that it is in Wood County's best interest to have a fourth circuit court in Wood County to handle the caseload and that the upfront and recurring costs for such a court are outweighed by the benefits to the county, and that the county needs to prepare for an additional circuit court with its long-term space needs planning.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES to go on record in support of the establishment of a fourth circuit court judgeship in Wood County and the county commits that it will provide for the space needs and long-term recurring costs of a new circuit court.

( )

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this _____ day of _____ 20 _____.

County Clerk

County Board Chairman

Barron County District Attorney

Angela L. Beranek
Russell E. Berg
Rachel A. Kibbe
Assistant District Attorneys
Mary A. Hogan
Victim/ Witness Coordinator

1420 State Hwy 25 North – Room 2301
Barron WI 54812-3003
TEL: (715) 537-6220
FAX: (715) 537-6155
E-mail: dabarron@da.wi.gov

December 8, 2015

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Judiciary
Attn: Chairman Jim Ott
Wisconsin State Capitol
Room 317 North
Madison WI 53708

RE: Statement on AB 503

Dear Chairman Ott and Committee Members:

I currently serve as the Barron County District Attorney in northwest Wisconsin and offer this statement with respect to AB 503 (the "Bill"). It is my understanding that the Bill is scheduled for a public hearing on Thursday, December 10, 2015 in front of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Judiciary. Unfortunately, my prosecutorial obligations do not allow me to testify in person, and I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the record as my position to the Bill.

Dunn County District Attorney Andrea Nodolf and I collaborate on a number of matters and assist each other as special prosecutors as Barron County lies to the immediate north of Dunn County. Barron County and Dunn County share many similarities including population, size, demographics, and criminal activity patterns. Prior to 2008, Barron County had the same judicial/prosecutor composition, two (2) judges to three (3) full time prosecutors, that Dunn County currently has. A third judicial branch was added to Barron County in 2008 making the judge to prosecutor composition a one-to-one relationship.

To be blunt and to the point, creation of the one-to-one relationship in Barron County was ill-conceived and has been very detrimental to the integrity and proper functioning of this Office. The addition of a judicial branch, especially in a less populous county, has created substantial operational and administrative issues for my Office. Further, despite repeated assurances that the additional judicial branch would assist my Office in securing an additional prosecutor, I have not received an additional assistant district attorney in over ten (10) years despite my repeated requests/pleas.

A primary area of concern is that the additional branch has resulted in more in-court time for my prosecutors and myself. This has created numerous coverage

issues and instances where prosecutors are not available at critical times to draft warrants or provide time-sensitive legal support to front line officers. Additionally, more in-court time results in less preparation time to review files, draft complaints and court documents, settle cases, and prepare for hearings and trials. A second primary area of concern is that the additional branch has resulted in cases moving more rapidly. In a vacuum, rapid resolution of cases is the goal. However, when no additional prosecutor support is provided, this Office is stretched beyond its capacity to perform its functions.

Although this Office performs its duties and faithfully serves it constituents, my dedicated and hard-working staff is continually pushed to its breaking point and is in desperate need of an additional prosecutor. Ms. Nodolf has been championing an amendment to the Bill that would provide either a full or half time assistant district attorney for each of the seven (7) counties receiving an additional judicial branch. In my opinion based on my first-hand experience, without the proposed amendment, you are unreasonably placing these prosecutorial units at risk of not being able to properly perform their duties and threatening public safety. Please do not do to these seven (7) counties what should have never been done to my Office in Barron County.

Given that the legislature is willing to address state level staffing deficiencies outside of the normal budget process, I am respectfully asking that the legislature immediately begin work on a bipartisan bill addressing prosecution staffing shortages throughout the other Wisconsin counties not affected by AB 503.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I look forward to working with you to resolve our critical prosecution staffing shortages.

Sincerely,

Angela Beranek

Angela Beranek
Barron County District Attorney

W D A A

WISCONSIN DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

December 8, 2015

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Judiciary
Attn: Chairman Jim Ott
Wisconsin State Capitol
Room 317 North
Madison WI 53708

RE: Qualified Support of AB 503

Dear Chairman Ott and Committee Members:

I currently serve as President of the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association (the "WDAA") and offer this statement on behalf of the WDAA with respect to AB 503 (the "Bill"). It is my understanding that the Bill is scheduled for a public hearing on Thursday, December 10, 2015 in front of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Judiciary. Unfortunately, a representative of the WDAA is not available to testify in person and I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the record as the WDAA's position as to the Bill.

The WDAA seeks to: promote public peace and safety by just and vigorous prosecution; do impartial justice by ensuring that the guilty are punished and the innocent go free; protect the health and welfare of children who are victims of child abuse and neglect; and safeguard the rule of law and promote citizens' participation in law enforcement by treating all persons who come in contact with the criminal justice system with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Prosecution staffing levels have been at a critical low throughout the State for well over a decade and continue to worsen every year. Due to these staffing shortages, many prosecutorial units are forced to make decisions and cuts that threaten their ability to serve their constituents and promote public peace and safety by just and vigorous prosecution. As recently as last year, the WDAA requested additional assistant district attorneys through the budget process but was not provided with any positions despite the inclusion of a number of public defender positions.

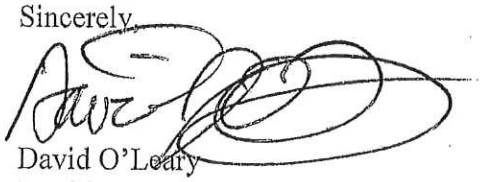
Dunn County District Attorney Andrea Nodolf has been championing an amendment to the Bill that would provide either a full or half time assistant district attorney for each of the seven (7) counties receiving an additional judicial branch. The purpose of these additional prosecutors is, in part, to compensate for the structural, operational, and administrative issues additional judicial branches will cause to the local prosecutorial units. The WDAA supports District Attorney

Nodolf's proposed amendment and provides its support to AB 503 provided the proposed amendment is added to the Bill.

The WDAA is encouraged by AB 503 in that it demonstrates that the legislature is willing to address state level staffing deficiencies outside of the normal budget process. As such, the WDAA will be looking to the sponsors and co-sponsors of AB 503 to immediately begin work on a bipartisan bill addressing prosecution staffing shortages throughout the other Wisconsin counties not affected by AB 503.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I look forward to working with you to resolve our critical prosecution staffing shortages.

Sincerely,



David O'Leary
President, Wisconsin District Attorneys Association
Rock County District Attorney