

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Corrections and
Courts
(AC-CC)

(Form Updated: 07/24/2009)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Reports ... CR
**

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES
**

➤ Public Hearings ... PH
**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE
FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt
**

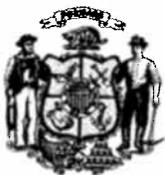
Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
**

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)
** **07hr_ab0393_AC-CC_pt02**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc
**

()



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

October 31, 2007

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 393: Creating a New Circuit Court Branch in Barron, Chippewa, Dodge, Green, Juneau, Monroe, and St. Croix Counties

Assembly Bill 393, introduced on June 7, 2007, would provide a new circuit court branch in each of the following counties: Barron, Chippewa, Dodge, Green, Juneau, Monroe, and St. Croix. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Corrections and Courts, and a public hearing was held on October 23, 2007. By a vote of 11 to 0, the Assembly Committee on Corrections and Courts recommended passage of Assembly Bill 393 (AB 393) on October 25, 2007, and the bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.

A Senate companion bill, Senate Bill 199, would also provide a new circuit court branch for the seven counties. The bill was introduced on June 1, 2007, and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Corrections. Public hearings for the bill were held on August 13, 14, 28, and September 11.

CURRENT LAW

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Wisconsin, and includes 241 branches. The number of court branches (judges) is statutorily determined. Judges are elected on a nonpartisan basis to six-year terms at the spring election and take office the following August 1st. Any vacancies that occur mid-term are filled by the Governor until a successor is elected. Section 751.02 of the Wisconsin statutes authorizes each judge to appoint a court reporter to record and transcribe testimony in court proceedings.

SUMMARY OF BILL

Under AB 393, seven circuit court branches would be created, one new branch for each of the following counties: Barron, Chippewa, Dodge, Green, Juneau, Monroe, and St. Croix. For six of the seven new branches, the initial election for the circuit court judge would be at the spring 2008 election for terms commencing August 1, 2008, and ending July 31, 2014. For Monroe County, the initial election for the circuit court judge would be at the spring 2010 election for a term commencing on August 1, 2010, and ending July 31, 2016. For each new circuit court judge position authorized under AB 393, a new court reporter position is also authorized.

It should be noted that s. 10.06(1)(a) provides that the Government Accountability Board must provide a "Notice of Election" form to each county clerk on or before the November 15th preceding the spring election. The "Notice of Election" form must list: (a) each office to be filled and the incumbent, if any, for each; (b) the office's term length and expiration date; (c) the beginning date and deadline for circulating and filing declarations of candidacy and nomination papers, where required, for each office listed and the date of primary election. As a result, in order to include the new circuit court branches in the spring 2008 election, AB 393 would need to be enacted prior to the November 15th date.

A technical modification should also be noted. The bill creates a new circuit court branch for Juneau County. However, on October 26, 2007, the Governor signed the 2007-09 biennial budget bill, 2007 Act 20, which includes a provision to create a new circuit court branch for Juneau County. Assembly Bill 393 should be modified to delete the duplicative provision. As a result, the bill would create new circuit court branches for six counties: Barron, Chippewa, Dodge, Green, Monroe, and St. Croix.

FISCAL EFFECT

On September 11, 2007, the Director of State Courts Office submitted a fiscal estimate for AB 393. According to the fiscal estimate, the annual cost for one circuit court branch is \$230,500 GPR and \$3,900 PR. In addition, one-time costs of \$1,900 GPR for judicial materials and \$28,300 PR for computer equipment were identified.

In the fiscal estimate, the annual funding identified for one circuit court branch includes: (a) \$230,200 GPR for salaries and fringe benefits for the judge and court reporter positions [from the circuit court operations sum sufficient appropriation]; (b) \$3,900 PR for computer costs associated with the circuit court automation program [from the Supreme Court's court information systems continuing appropriation]; and (c) approximately \$300 GPR for judicial materials [from the Supreme Court operations sum sufficient appropriation]. It should be noted that the salary and fringe benefit amounts identified (\$230,200 GPR) are based on fringe benefit rates for the 2005-07 biennium. Utilizing the fringe benefit rates for the 2007-09 biennium, the salary and fringe benefit amounts would be \$239,300 GPR.

The following table details the costs under AB 393 for the five new branches created under the bill for 2008-09 (excluding Juneau County), and on an annualized basis when Monroe County is included in 2010. Since the new circuit court branches will begin on August 1st, rather than at the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1st, the salary and fringe benefit amounts identified for 2008-09 are prorated.

| | <u>2008-09*</u> | | <u>Annualized</u> | |
|---|-----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Judicial Salaries and Fringe Benefits** | \$841,000 | GPR | \$1,101,000 | GPR |
| Court Reporter Salaries and Fringe Benefits** | 256,000 | GPR | 334,800 | GPR |
| Judicial Materials | 1,700 | GPR | 1,800 | GPR |
| CCAP Expenses | 19,500 | PR | 23,400 | PR |
| One-Time - Judicial Materials | 9,500 | GPR | | |
| One-Time - CCAP Equipment | <u>141,500</u> | PR | | |
| TOTAL -- | \$1,108,200 | GPR | \$1,437,600 | GPR |
| | 161,000 | PR | 23,400 | PR |

* Identifies funding for 11 months for salaries and fringe benefits.

** Includes \$1,900 per branch for judicial travel expenses.

It should be noted that the bill does not appropriate funding for the new circuit court branches. Since the circuit court operations GPR appropriation [s. 20.625(1)(a)] is a sum-sufficient appropriation, the courts may expend the amounts necessary to cover the additional salary and fringe benefit costs associated with the new circuit court branches. Further, since the Supreme Court's court information systems PR appropriation [s. 20.680(2)(j)] is a continuing appropriation, the courts may expend the amounts necessary for computer costs from the appropriation, limited only by available revenues from which the appropriation is made. As such, the courts may fund the amounts from these appropriations under current law.

However, in regards to the costs for judicial materials, while the fiscal estimate indicates that these costs would be funded through the Supreme Court operations sum sufficient appropriation [s. 20.680(1)(a)], these costs should be funded through the Supreme Court's law library annual appropriation [s. 20.680(4)(a)]. As a result, the bill should be modified to specifically provide funding to the law library appropriation for the costs for judicial materials, a total of \$11,200 GPR in 2008-09 (including \$1,700 GPR for ongoing costs and \$9,500 GPR for one-time costs).

Prepared by: Chris Carmichael



BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - 13

**Resolution in Support of Legislation to
add Additional Judges**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Found In
AB 393
Folder

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WHEREAS, a new study by the National Center for State Courts shows that Wisconsin needs 18 additional judges to maintain current levels of service in view of increasing caseloads; and

WHEREAS, the study was based upon the 2006 Judicial Needs Assessment which is an objective measure of the judicial time needed to process the cases filed in the Circuit Courts; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin last added a judgeship in 1999; if current case filing trends continue, the Courts will be handling 150,000 more cases in 2008 than they handled in 1999; 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 soonest an additional judgeship would be added would be 2008, with an election in April and the seat filled in August; and

WHEREAS, the cost of salary and benefits for the judge and court reporter are paid by the State, the County would need to pay for a Deputy Clerk of Court and a half-time Judicial Assistant; and

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

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on March 6, 2007, on a vote of 7-0, with Miller, Zahrbock, Horstman, Mosentine, Strom, Stavran and Thompson voting in favor and no committee members voting against. Bartlett and Romsos were absent.

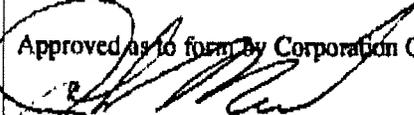
36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of
37 Supervisors does approve this Resolution in support of legislation creating additional
38 judgeships.
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of Supervisors
41 does go on record as requesting that an additional judge be added in Barron County.
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to
44 Legislators representing Barron County, Governor Jim Doyle and Director of State
45 Courts John Voelker.
46

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur
48 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
49
50

OFFERED THIS 19th day of March, 2007.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Other ()</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year: n/a - Future years:</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled ()</p> <p>Approved as to form by Corporation Counsel:  John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p> | <p> James Miller, Executive Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> |
|---|---|

MOTION: (Jost/Novotny) for adoption. Roll Call vote resulted in 26 yes, 1 no, 2 absent at this time. Voting no, Leff. Carried.

CHAMBERS OF CIRCUIT COURT

HONORABLE RODERICK A. CAMERON

Branch One-Chippewa County

711 N. Bridge Street

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-1876

715-726-7781

KRISS ANDERSON
JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

ERIC W. OLSON
COURT REPORTER

February 13, 2007

A. John Voelker
Director of State Courts
PO Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Third Judge Resolution
Chippewa County

Dear John,

I am sending you via fax a copy of the Chippewa County board's unanimous adoption of a resolution for a third judge for Chippewa County. A hard copy will follow. This is the fourth time since 1994 that our county board has passed such a resolution.

Respectfully,



Roderick A. Cameron

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THIRD CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

WHEREAS, according to state court statistics, Chippewa County had a weighted caseload of 3.8 judicial officers in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County, according to a comprehensive, statewide workload study, has the third busiest circuit court in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County is the most populous county with two circuit judges and has a greater population than some counties which have three circuit court judges; and

WHEREAS, the opening of two prisons in Chippewa County has further increased the workload problem; and

WHEREAS, the existing caseload exceeds the capacity of the two circuit courts even though Chippewa County uses court commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the existing caseload creates substantial difficulty in the timely scheduling of cases, some of which have mandatory trial deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors has on three previous occasions passed resolutions urging the creation of a third branch of Circuit Court for Chippewa County; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing the necessary court facilities and support staff if an additional circuit judgeship were to be created.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Jim Doyle to create a third branch of the Circuit Court for Chippewa County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Jim Doyle, all Chippewa County legislators, and A. John Voelker, Director of State Courts.

Date Received this 13th day of February, 2007

LEGAL COMMITTEE

APPROVED
[Signature]
Corporation Counsel
[Signature]
County Auditor

[Signature]
Marilyn J. Holte
[Signature]
Emery Sedlacek

Costs of renovation and support staff unable to be determined at this time.

An estimated fiscal impact statement will be provided at the Board meeting.

1st Reading

2nd Reading

Board Action

Adopted

For

Against

Absent

Vote Required

Prepared by:

2/13/07 *[Signature]*
David Hillman
[Signature]
Doug Sandvick
[Signature]
William Dixon

[Signature]
KM Bernier

KAREN J. GIBSON
Dodge County Clerk
kgibson@co.dodge.wi.us

Administration Building
127 East Oak Street, Juneau WI 53039
920-386-3602 / Fax: 920-386-3928



JEAN M. HELLER
Chief Deputy
jheller@co.dodge.wi.us

STEPHANIE JUSTMANN
Deputy
sjustmamm@co.dodge.wi.us

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I, Karen J. Gibson, County Clerk in and for the County of Dodge, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 06-68 adopted by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors on December 19, 2006.

Dated this 20th day of December, 2006.



Karen J. Gibson
Dodge County Clerk

(County Seal)

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2006

Director of State
Courts

RESOLUTION NO. 06-68

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
FOR DODGE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the citizens of Dodge County have been served for the last 44 years by three judges, the third court having been created in 1962, and the population of Dodge County having grown significantly since then; and,

WHEREAS, Dodge County has the largest population, 88,660, of any of the nine counties currently served by three Circuit Court Judges, and whereas the other eight counties have an average population of 69,946, or nearly 19,000 fewer than Dodge County; and,

WHEREAS, Dodge County already has a larger population than one of the three counties with four Circuit Court Judges; and,

WHEREAS, the caseload for the Dodge County Circuit Court Judges has increased by approximately 50% in just the past ten years; and,

WHEREAS, a year-long study very recently released by the Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office indicates that the Dodge County Circuit Court caseload per judge is one of the highest among the 72 counties in Wisconsin, with a caseload which is suited for 4.8 judges; and,

WHEREAS, Dodge County is the only county in the state with four prisons, which prisons provide a steady flow of various inmate petitions, John Doe requests, prison assault and prison escape charges, and other matters to the Dodge County Circuit Courts; and,

WHEREAS, Dodge County already has a Branch 4 courtroom and ancillary office space, both of which are suitably furnished and equipped to meet the needs of a fourth Circuit Court Branch; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin will pay the salary and fringe benefits of the proposed fourth 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 his staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Director of State Courts has indicated that a bill will be introduced before the Wisconsin Legislature in January of 2007 calling for the creation of several more judgeships around the state, including one for Dodge County if the proposed additional Dodge County judgeship is supported by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors; and,

WHEREAS, in the event that the bill creating this new Dodge County judgeship is passed by the Wisconsin Legislature, this new Dodge County judgeship will not be filled until at least August 1, 2008, and it being likely that the population of Dodge County and the caseload of the Dodge County Circuit Courts will continue to grow in the meantime; and,

WHEREAS, the last such judge bill successfully sponsored by the Director of State Courts was back in 1997, and not knowing when there might be another chance for Dodge County if we are not included in the proposed 2007 bill;

SO, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Dodge County Board of Supervisors hereby indicates its support for the creation of a fourth Circuit Court judgeship to better serve the needs of the people of Dodge County; and,

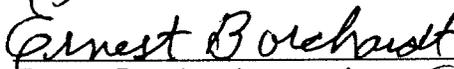
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

That the Dodge 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 State Courts, and to all Wisconsin State Legislators with any constituency located within Dodge County.

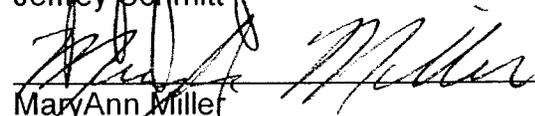
All of which is respectfully submitted this 19th day of December, 2006.


Kenneth Neumann


James Layman


Ernest Borchardt


Jeffrey Schmitt

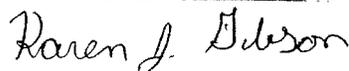

MaryAnn Miller

DODGE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMITTEE

ADOPTED
by DODGE COUNTY BOARD

DEC 19 2006

YES 34 NOES 0
ABSENT 2
ABSTAIN 1



COPY

RECEIVED

RESOLUTION 1-2-07

JAN 12 2007

Resolution Supporting an Additional Circuit Court Judge

Director of State Courts

WHEREAS, Green County currently is allocated one Circuit Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, data for 1996 through 2006 from the Director of State Courts has indicated that a single Circuit Court Judge is inadequate to meet the needs of Green County; and

WHEREAS, the support of the Green County Board of Supervisors is required for the Wisconsin Legislature to enact a law creating a new circuit court branch for Green County; and

WHEREAS, the Green County Board has previously endorsed an additional Circuit Court Judge in 2001 with the adoption of Resolution 1-2-01, and in 1999 with the adoption of Resolution 6-1-99.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Green County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, that they go on record in support of the Wisconsin Legislature to create an additional Green County Circuit Court Judge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Director of State Courts, the Governor, and members of the Wisconsin legislature representing Green County.

SIGNED: THE RESOLUTIONS, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE:

Jeff Thomm, Chair

Gene Curran

Jerry Guth

FISCAL NOTE: Fiscal impact unknown at this time. MJD

LEGAL NOTE: Approved as to form. WEM

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GREEN)

I, Michael J. Doyle, County Clerk in and for said County, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 1-2-07, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 9, 2007.

Dated at Monroe, Wisconsin this 9th day of January, 2007.

Michael J. Doyle
Green County Clerk

Juneau County Board of Supervisors

Courthouse, 220 East State Street
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948



RECEIVED

JAN 02 2007

Director of State
Courts

RESOLUTION 06-104

DATE: December 19, 2006

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIP
FOR JUNEAU COUNTY

Sponsor: Executive Committee

Intent: The County of Juneau's support for the creation of a second judgeship.

Fiscal Impact: \$53,500.00

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office Judicial Needs Assessment, 2006, shows a statistical judicial need of one additional judge for Juneau County based upon the case load statistics for calendar year filings ending 2005;

WHEREAS, the 2005 Circuit Court Case Load Study—ranked by workload—had Juneau County number one of all the seventy-two counties: one circuit judge was doing the work of two circuit judges;

WHEREAS, the Juneau County Board of Supervisors finds a public interest mandates the creation of a second judgeship; the county having completed the construction of the Juneau County Justice Center in September 2002, containing three separate courtrooms, two of which are suitable for jury trials, and enough office space for three judges, three judicial assistants, and three courtroom reporters;

WHEREAS, the current volume of cases has led to delays in the processing and handling of cases and exceeds the reasonable capacity of the single Judge in Juneau County to handle the plethora of cases;

WHEREAS, the sole Judge for Juneau County is responsible for processing all cases generated from Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center, whose address is 1111 North Road, Mauston, WI 53948, and the New Lisbon Correctional Institution, whose address is 2000 Progress Road, New Lisbon, WI 53950;

WHEREAS, the creation of a second judgeship will reduce the need for reserve judges and presiding judges from other counties to alleviate the bludgeoning case load, thereby reducing costs and increasing the speed of administration of justice in the Juneau County;

WHEREAS, the creation of a second judgeship depends upon legislative action to create the position and provide for its funding, and the process of a second judgeship commences with an resolution of support from the Juneau County Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Juneau County Board of Supervisors that Juneau County does hereby support the creation of a second judgeship for Juneau County and requests, the State of Wisconsin provide that judgeship as soon as reasonable practicable.

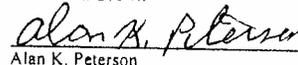
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Juneau County Board of Supervisors is aware that the additional judgeship will require Juneau County to expend additional funds for furniture, supplies and equipment, and for the salaries and benefits of an additional judicial assistant for the additional judge in the amount of \$53,500.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Juneau 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 State Courts, and to all Wisconsin State Legislators with any constituency located within Juneau County.

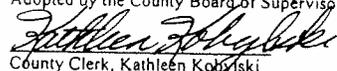
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


James C. Barrett, Chairman

Edward R. Brown


Alan K. Peterson

Adopted by the County Board of Supervisors this 19th day of December, 2006.


County Clerk, Kathleen Kobyjski

RESOLUTION NO. 4-07-10

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIP FOR MONROE COUNTY

Whereas, the citizens of Monroe County have been served for the last ten years by two judges; and

Whereas, data for 1996 through 2006 from the Director of State Courts has indicated that Monroe County had a weighted caseload of 3.8 judges; and

Whereas, caseloads in Monroe County in the area of felony and misdemeanor criminal, and other time-intensive subject areas have increased; and

Whereas, despite creative scheduling procedures and practices, Monroe County has a critical need for an additional judgeship; and

Whereas, the Monroe County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing the necessary court facilities and support staff if an additional circuit court judgeship were created.

NOW, THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the Monroe County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor, Jim Doyle to create a third branch of the Circuit Court of Monroe County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are forwarded to Governor Jim Doyle, all Monroe County legislators, and A. John Voelker, Director of State Courts.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 25th day of April, 2007.

Bruce Humphrey
Jerry J. Bloom
Chuck Bluske
Julie K. Radke
Richard Yarrington

Public Safety & Justice Committee: 4 Yes; 0 No; 1 abstain; 1 absent; 1 vacant position

Intent: Declare Monroe County, WI support for a third circuit court judgeship.

Fiscal Note: Support staff, supplies and court facility at a cost of approximately \$200,000.00 in two to three years. The exact costs are unable to be determined at this time.

**State of Wisconsin
County of Monroe**

I, Susan A. Matson, Monroe County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 4-07-10 adopted by the County Board of Supervisor at the meeting held April 25, 2007.

St. Croix County Government Center

1101 Carmichael Road
Hudson, WI 54016-7710
Fax (715)381-4401

ERIC J. LUNDELL
Circuit Judge – Br. I
Assigned to Ctm. 3
(715) 386-4613

EDWARD F. VLACK
Circuit Judge – Br. II
Assigned to Ctm. 1
(715) 386-4612

SCOTT R. NEEDHAM
Circuit Judge – Br. III
Assigned to Ctm. 4
(715) 386-4611

**COURT COMMISSIONER
/LAW CLERK**
(715) 386-4615

March 28, 2007

A. John Voelker
Director of State Courts
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: St. Croix County Resolution Supporting a Fourth Judgeship

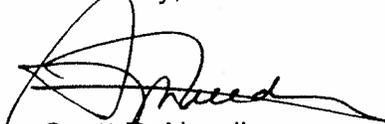
Dear John:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of the resolution unanimously passed by the St. Croix County Board at their March 20 meeting supporting the creation of a fourth judgeship. Caseloads in St. Croix County continue to grow proportionate to the population explosion being experienced by the county. Demographic projections indicate that this phenomenon will continue into the foreseeable future. We are truly fortunate to have a supportive county board. We are hopeful that the Court, Director's Office, legislature, and Governor Doyle will be equally supportive of our need.

We are extremely appreciative of the support you and the Court have shown to us as well as our colleagues state wide.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, do not hesitate to contact us.

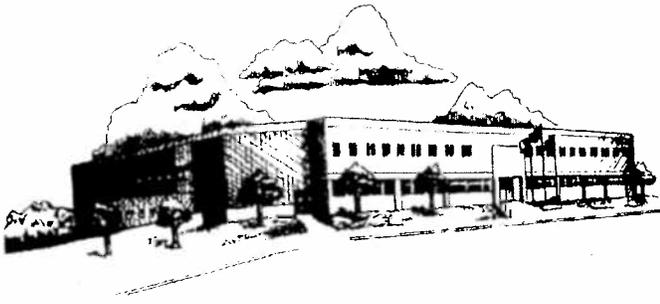
Sincerely,


Scott R. Needham


Eric J. Lundell


Edward F. Vlack

Encl.



**ST. CROIX COUNTY
WISCONSIN
OFFICE OF COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN**
ST. CROIX COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
1101 Carmichael Road
Hudson, WI 54016-7710
(715) 386-4605 FAX (715) 381-4301

March 22, 2007

A. John Voelker
Director of State Courts
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: St. Croix County Resolution Supporting a Fourth Judgeship

Dear Director Voelker:

Enclosed is a copy of the resolution passed unanimously by the St. Croix County Board. Sufficient courtrooms and other space are available, although arrangements to accommodate secure access to the jail will need to be made. Although the 2008 budget appears tight, some way will be found to fund the necessary support staff and ancillary expenses because of the importance of adding judges in our district of the state.

The County Board appreciates continuing efforts to move the whole court system to the state budget.

Cordially,

C. W. "Buck" Malick
Chairman
sdg
Encl

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FOURTH JUDGESHIP
FOR ST. CROIX COUNTY**

Resolution No. 7(2007)

ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, St. Croix County has experienced and continues to experience exceptional population growth since 1994, the year that this county received its third Circuit Court Judgeship; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix County leads the State of Wisconsin with the highest estimated population growth rate of 23.5% from April 1, 2000 to January 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix County is the 78th fastest growing county in the United States based on estimated population growth between April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, as of December 31, 2006, State-weighted caseload statistics indicate that St. Croix County has judicial need for 4.76 judges; and

WHEREAS, caseloads in St. Croix County in the area of felony and misdemeanor criminal, major civil, family, and other time-intensive subject areas have increased; and

WHEREAS, these increased caseloads have resulted in substantial delays in scheduling and timely resolution of cases; and

WHEREAS, despite utilizing court commissioners and creative scheduling procedures and practices, St. Croix County has a critical need for an additional judgeship; and

WHEREAS, the projected increased population growth of the county will cause significant increases in future caseloads of the courts of this county; and

WHEREAS, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing the necessary court facilities and support staff should an additional circuit court judgeship be created and the State declines to supply sufficient funding for those facilities and support staff; and

WHEREAS, at present, the St. Croix County Government Center has the prerequisite fourth courtroom available for a fourth circuit court judge, together with sufficient room for necessary accompanying support personnel; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2005, a similar resolution was adopted by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors and this resolution is intended to affirm the Board's resolve and determination to have a fourth judgeship in St. Croix County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor James Doyle to create a fourth branch of circuit court for St. Croix County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor James Doyle, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, Senator Sheila Harsdorf, Representative Kitty Rhoades, Representative Ann Hraychuck, Representative John Murtha, and A. John Voelker, Director of State Courts.

Offered by the Finance Committee on March 20, 2007.

| YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT | SUPERVISOR | SIGNATURE |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stan Krueger | <i>Stan Krueger</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Esther Wentz | <i>Esther Wentz</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Clarence Malick | <i>Clarence Malick</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Daryl Standafer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tom Caflich | |

Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 3-19-07
Greg Timmerman
 Greg Timmerman, Corporation Counsel

This Resolution was adopted by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors on March 20 2007
Cindy Campbell
 Cindy Campbell, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 COUNTY OF ST. CROIX
 I, Cindy Campbell, St. Croix County Clerk, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution # 7 (2007) adopted by the County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held March 20, 2007
Cindy Campbell A.C.
 Cindy Campbell, St. Croix County Clerk



PROPOSED SA to 2007 SB 199

1. Page 1, line 3. Delete "Juneau, "
2. Page 2, line 3. Delete lines 3 to 5.
3. Page 3, line 1. Delete lines 1 to 3.
4. Page 3, line 16. Delete "6.0" and substitute "5.0".
5. Page 3, line 18. Delete "6" and substitute "5".
6. Page 3, line 20. Delete "6.0" and substitute "5.0".
7. Page 3, line 22. Delete "6" and substitute "5".
8. Page 3, line 23. Delete "Juneau, ".
9. Page 4, line 9. After that line insert:

s. 9107 (1), as created in 2007 Act __ [biennial budget act], is amended to read:

(1) CIRCUIT JUDGE ELECTION. The initial election for circuit judge for branch 8 of the circuit court for Kenosha County shall be at the spring election of 2008⁹ for terms commencing August 1, 2009, and ending July 31, 2015.

10. Page 4, line 9. After that line insert:

SECTION 9. Appropriation changes; circuit courts.

[NOTE: This section likely won't be drafted by LRB since they don't draft appropriation changes to sum sufficient appropriations; it's included here to show what the total 2008-09 fiscal effect of the bill will be.]

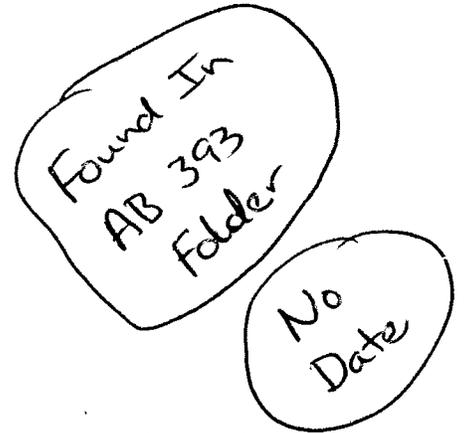
(1) Circuit courts. The appropriation account under section 20.625 (1) (a) of the statutes is increased by \$1,055,100 in 2008-09.

SECTION 10. Appropriation changes, supreme court.

(1) Court information systems. The appropriation account under section 20.680 (2) (j) of the statutes is increased by \$160,500 in 2008-09.

(2) Law library. The appropriation account under section 20.680 (4) (a) of the statutes is increased by \$11,200 in 2008-09.

-END-





Last added in '97

Study id'd 18 needed judgeships.
Narrowed down to 7 priorities.

The funding is not included. Additional
appropriation is necessary.

Affects the ability of litigants
to have their case heard in
a timely manner.

Found In
AB 393 Folder

No
Date