

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

DISTRICT COURT

SOUTH CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1013

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58502

GAIL HAGERTY
JUDGE

(701) 222-6682
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October 24, 2006

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2006

The Honorable Gerald W. VandeWalle
Chief Justice
Supreme Court
Judicial Wing, 1st Floor
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 180
Bismarck, ND 58505-0530

COURT ADMIN. OFFICE
SUPREME COURT

Dear Chief Justice VandeWalle:

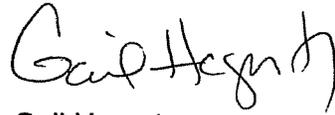
Under Supreme Court Administrative Rule 44, the Informal Complaint Panel is to report annually. As you know, I chair the panel. Two members of the panel have retired – Judge Ron Goodman and Judge Lester Ketterling. I understand Rev. Lynne's term is over and he does not wish to be reappointed.

The report is to provide information concerning the number and nature of complaints and the methods used to address complaints. In the past year, the panel has received three or four complaints. None have been appropriate for the type of response contemplated by Rule 44. People complaining have wanted specific personnel actions – to have employees disciplined through the personnel system or re-classified. One individual sought to change policy in a very broad manner. Another asked to have an employee jailed.

When these complaints were received, I responded explaining the types of actions and responses available to the panel and suggesting the complaints be handled by someone other than the Informal Complaint Panel.

I believe the Panel could be a useful tool. I wonder if it might be wise to re-appoint a new panel to re-energize the effort. (It has been suggested to me that people might believe that if I see complaints, I might discuss them with my husband – a Supreme Court Justice. People who know us would know better, but those who might use the process may have that suspicion.) A new Panel could review the materials we have prepared, consider changes, and make a new informational effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Hagerty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Gail Hagerty

cc: Justices of the Supreme Court
Members of the Informal Complaint Panel
Sally Holewa, Supreme Court Administrator