

# *A VISION FOR THE YEAR*

*2020*

## *The North Dakota Judicial System*

The Judiciary will provide:

Universal access to fair, humane, affordable and cost efficient legal dispute resolution.

Access will be quick with swift decisionmaking by specialist judges with assistance of lay experts, mediation, arbitration and specialized resolution centers.

Technology will free the judicial process from geographic constraints:

### *Trial Centers.*

Trial centers will enable computer linking for filing and documentation with interactive technology as the vehicle to bring parties, litigants, witnesses, lawyers, and the jury together. Prefiling conferences through interactive technology will channel cases to the appropriate resolution center.

### *Public Education.*

Judicial education programs and decision logic tables designed to assist the public with legal questions will be available to the public through the most modern technology in public locations such as kiosks and in the home via CD ROM and personal computer information networks.

### *Appellate Review.*

Technology will provide predictable appellate outcomes through decision logic law tables thus reducing the number of appeals. Certiorari will insure only the most meritorious issues will require appellate time and consideration.

### *Judicial Quality.*

Competitive judicial pay, retirement benefits, and merit selection are necessary for a proficient judiciary to encourage experienced, knowledgeable, and competent attorneys to seek judicial positions.

### *Judicial Procedure.*

Technology will eliminate the need for paper and filing space. It will also reduce judicial costs.