

**Supreme Court Clerk's Office - Keller, Heather**

---

**From:** BJ Jones <hon.bj.jones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:41 AM  
**To:** (SUP) Clerk of Court Office  
**Subject:** Proposed rule to declare judicial emergency

I am writing in support of the proposal to the Supreme Court to declare an emergency to permit attorneys from other jurisdictions to appear for many of the individuals arrested in conjunction with the Dakota Access pipeline protests. I have been a member of the North Dakota bar for 28 years and was a legal services attorney on the Standing Rock reservation back in the 1980's. I now serve as an Associate Judge at Standing Rock and a Chief Judge at Sisseton-Wahpeton in northeastern South Dakota. I have also taught at the University of North Dakota law school for 21 years where I direct the Tribal Judicial Institute.

I have been asked to serve as local counsel with non-licensed ND attorneys for some of the Defendants but the rules associated with appearing with outside counsel are very laborious and would require me to be away from Court so often that I have had to turn down these requests. Many of the counsel who have requested appear genuine in their desire to see that these Defendants receive adequate legal counsel and many indicate they will not be charging for their services. I see this as an excellent way to ensure legal counsel for Defendants, many of whom are indigent, while saving Morton County and the State monies for court-appointed counsel.

I ask the Court to give favorable consideration to this request.

Honorable BJ Jones  
Associate Judge  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Court