

Hulm, Petra

From: Jennifer McNally <jstecknally@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 30, 2016 10:22 AM
To: (SUP) Clerk of Court Office
Subject: A comment on the Question of Permitting Temporary Provision of Legal Services by Qualified Attorneys From Outside North Dakota

Your Honors,

My name is Jennifer S. McNally, and I am an attorney licensed for the last 20 years to practice law in your neighboring state of Minnesota. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you regarding the temporary permitting of qualified attorneys from outside of North Dakota, in response to the unusual flood of cases in the North Dakota court system right now.

Because it is clear there will be more Constitutionally guaranteed requests for counsel than can be accommodated by present resources, I am writing in support of this petition, and to urge you to approve this request.

As I know you are well aware, absent the Court granting the relief requested, indigent defendants' Fifth Amendment right to representation by counsel, and Sixth Amendment right to counsel of their choice, may be put in jeopardy. Conversely, permitting temporary practice by qualified out-of-state lawyers will allow the state of North Dakota to fulfill the state's obligation imposed under the Constitution.

As an attorney, there is nothing more precious to me, and I am sure to you as well, than the sanctity of the Constitution, and my obligation to uphold its guarantees. This is the foundation on which we all stand, and on which our great nation thrives. I am proud to be a part of a system which applies the same guarantees to all, regardless of socio-economic status, race, gender, religion, or background, and I thank you for your service and your contributions to this ideal.

Sincerely,
Jennifer S. McNally, Esq.
MN License #027091X