

Hulm, Petra

From: Charles Clippert <charlie@clippertlaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 1:18 PM
To: Miller, Penny
Subject: Petition To Permit Temporary Provision of Legal Services by Qualified Attorneys From Outside North Dakota

Ms. Penny Miller
Clerk, North Dakota Supreme Court

Dear Ms. Miller,

I am the President of the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and I am asking that the North Dakota Supreme Court allow qualified Minnesota lawyers to represent individuals charged in relation to the Dakota Access pipeline protests. There is an emergency affecting the North Dakota legal system resulting from the high number of arrests related to the protests. There is an insufficient number of qualified and interested criminal defense attorneys in North Dakota to represent the over 500 people arrested. Many criminal defense lawyers have already maxed out their public defender allotments. Many other lawyers have declined to take on these cases often due to work load capacity, time constraints, or conflicts of interest.

These defendants deserve fair trials. In Minnesota, our courts have recently dealt with protests related to the Republican National Convention and protests related to shootings by police officers. I know the strain that these cases caused our judicial system. If a Minnesota lawyer wanted to represent a client charged in relation to the Dakota Access pipeline cases, I hope that the lawyer would be able to take on the case. This would ease the strain on the North Dakota court system and resources within the judicial system.

I would request that the North Dakota Supreme Court accept and approve the Petition to Permit Temporary Provision of Legal Services by Qualified Attorneys from Outside North Dakota. Allowing attorneys from outside of North Dakota to assume representation of protesters will ensure that the accused are able to obtain legal counsel and be given their day in court.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Charlie Clippert
President, Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

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