

From: tonightmrkite@gmail.com
To: tonightmrkite@gmail.com
Subject: Comment to Supreme Court Opposing Petition to Revoke Pro Hac Special Provisions
Date: Monday, October 2, 2017 4:00:19 PM

Good Afternoon,

This email is to comment on the Petition to Terminate the Pro Hac Special Provisions.

I am a pro hac lawyer that has practiced on many of these cases. I am one of the few pro hac attorneys who has actually gone to trial on a DAPL case (because so many have been dismissed). I successfully litigated a case in June for a client.

My client in that matter had not been contacted by her court appointed counsel. Nothing had been filed in her case. Nothing had been prepared for trial. I entered with just over a week until trial. I helped her understand what was going on, and I generated briefs and pre-trial motions that allowed her to exclude inadmissible evidence.

Although some local counsel have been wonderful advocates for their clients, the above experience has been all too typical since I've been involved in these cases. It is unfair and violative of their right to adequate counsel.

I have lived in Mandan and worked on the DAPL cases since April. I work for the legal collectives here organizing clients, issue-spotting defenses, and speaking to local counsel. I also have represented, pro bono, a number of DAPL clients who needed representation.

I consider myself a member of the Mandan community. My dog plays in the Mandan parks, I eat in Mandan and North Dakota restaurants, I go hiking in North Dakota, I play soccer in a local adult league. I have thoroughly familiarized myself with the rules of court, the State's Attorneys, and the judges. I correspond weekly with the Morton County State's Attorney. I have never been reprimanded as not knowing a local rule or being unfamiliar with a procedure.

I would urge the Supreme Court to reject the Petition. The need for competent attorneys still exists. The issues presented in these cases are unique. The approach by the State's Attorneys has been bewildering to local counsel. There is a perception that North Dakota courts are unfair to Water Protectors. I know this not to be true, please continue with this program so it continues to not be true.

Thank you very much

Sam Saylor