

**Miller, Penny**

FILED

<b>From:</b>	Michelle Thelen <michelle.thelen@rocketmail.com>	IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
<b>Sent:</b>	Saturday, December 17, 2016 9:39 AM	DECEMBER 19, 2016
<b>To:</b>	(SUP) Clerk of Court Office	STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
<b>Subject:</b>	States Attorney Erickson/6th amendment Right to counsel for Water protectors	

Dear Penny Miller,  
 Clerk of the Supreme Court,  
[supclerkofcourt@ndcourts.gov](mailto:supclerkofcourt@ndcourts.gov)

“Denying Water Protectors their constitutional rights to counsel is a far more serious barrier to justice than concrete slabs across a highway,” said William Tilton, WPLC lawyer. “We filed to call on the Supreme Court to recognize this judicial emergency and open the courts to qualified criminal lawyers who are standing by to help.”

I request the North Dakota supreme court rule on amendments to make it easier for out-of-state lawyers to represent Water Protectors in the NODAPL Movement.

The Right to Counsel. A criminal defendant's right to an attorney is found in the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which requires the "assistance of counsel" for the accused in all criminal prosecutions. It's a constitutional right to be represented in court in this America.

Also...

For the reasons below, I call on Morton County State’s Attorney Erickson to step down as prosecutor. I also call on the courts to decide whether his prosecutorial conduct has tainted the jury pool and prevented a fair trial to the point that the Water Protectors’ cases must be dismissed.

“State’s Attorney Erickson set out to use the most slanderous words and harmful rhetoric he could muster to defame the Water Protector defendants, their lawyers and supporters, and undermine the legitimacy of the Standing Rock encampment and concern over the DAPL, said Jeff Haas, WPLC lawyer. “Certainly, another objective of Erikson’s motion was to bias prospective Morton County jurors who will be hearing the first Standing Rock jury trial set for Monday, December 19.

Concerned ND citizen,  
 Michelle Thelen

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