

DECEMBER 19, 2016

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Hulm, Petra

From: Alan Bentz-Letts <alanbentzletts@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 9:30 PM
To: (SUP) Clerk of Court Office; Alan Bentz-Letts
Subject: Temporary Provision of Legal Services

TO: The Honorable Gerald W. VandeWalle, Chief Justice, Other Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of North Dakota, Ms. Penny Miller, Clerk of the Supreme Court:

As someone who has been following closely the events at the Standing Rock Sioux reservation and the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, I wish to urge you to permit the temporary provision of legal services by qualified attorneys from outside North Dakota in the legal proceedings on this matter. The sheer volume of cases, the fact that many of those who have been arrested in connection with the pipeline are from outside the state, and the intense interest in these cases from individuals throughout the United States and even the world, all suggest that legal representation from outside North Dakota should and needs to be permitted. These individuals arrested have been operating from a principled and spiritual commitment to nonviolent protest, and therefore are deserving of full respect for their constitutional and legal rights. North Dakota will, in a sense, itself be on trial as many in the nation watch to see whether fairness and due process are evident in the court process. I urge you, therefore, to grant the petition for the temporary provision of legal services by out-of-state attorneys. Thank you, Rev. Dr. Alan Bentz-Letts