

IN THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

NOTICE OF CONSULTATION
Supreme Court No. 20230068

**In the Matter of the Vacancy in Judgeship No. 3,
with Chambers in Williston, Northwest Judicial District**

[¶1] On March 7, 2023, the Governor notified this Court of the retirement of the Honorable Paul W. Jacobson as Judge of the District Court in the Northwest Judicial District, effective May 31, 2023. Under N.D.C.C. § 27-05-02.1, a vacancy in the office of district judge will be created upon Judge Jacobson’s retirement. The Court considered the matter, and

[¶2] Within 90 days after notification of the vacancy, N.D.C.C. § 27-05-02.1 requires the Supreme Court to determine whether the office is necessary for effective judicial administration. The Supreme Court may order that: (1) the vacancy be filled; (2) the vacant office be transferred to a judicial district in which an additional judge is necessary for effective judicial administration; or (3) the vacant office be abolished with or without transfer of a district judgeship to any location in which a judge is necessary for effective judicial administration. The Supreme Court considered the matter, and

[¶3] **ORDERED**, the Supreme Court will undertake a written consultation with the attorneys and judges of the Northwest Judicial District under N.D. Sup. Ct. Admin. R. 7.2(b). Under N.D. Sup Ct. Admin. R. 7.2(b), any interested person wishing to comment on the vacancy may also do so in writing. Comments are due **no later than April 10, 2023**. It is expected the Supreme Court will receive a report from the Court Administrator for Unit 4 regarding the Northwest Judicial District and discussing the criteria under N.D. Sup. Ct. Admin. R. 7.2 and receive statewide caseload data from the State Court Administrator’s office. Written comments may be

e-mailed to Petra H. Mandigo Hulm, Clerk of the Supreme Court, at supclerkofcourt@ndcourts.gov, or addressed to 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505-0530.

[¶4] The Supreme Court of the State of North Dakota, with the Honorable Jon J. Jensen, Chief Justice, the Honorable Daniel J. Crothers, the Honorable Lisa Fair McEvers, the Honorable Jerod E. Tufte, and the Honorable Douglas A. Bahr, Justices, directing the Clerk of the Supreme Court to enter the above order.

Dated: March 8, 2023

Petra H. Mandigo Hulm
Clerk
North Dakota Supreme Court