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CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHWEST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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<b>DANIEL S. EL-DWEEK</b> District Court Judge (701) 444-3616 deldweek@ndcourts.gov	McKenzie County Courthouse 201 Fifth Street Northwest, Suite 524 Watford City, North Dakota 58854	Deyan Junker Court Recorder (701)842-8238 djunker@ndcourt.gov
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March 28, 2023

Chief Justice Jon Jensen  
North Dakota Supreme Court  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0530  
In care of: Petra H. Mandigo Hulm, Clerk of The Supreme Court

**by e-mail only**

**Re: In the Matter of the Vacancy in Judgeship Number 3, Chambers in Williston, Northwest Judicial District. Supreme Court No. 2023--68**

Dear Chief Justice Jensen and Justices:

I am writing to urge the Court to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Honorable Paul W. Jacobson in the Northwest Judicial District with chambers in Williston. Keeping the judgeship in Williston is vital to the administration of justice throughout the district. Maintaining the judgeship in Williston preserves and strengthens the foundations that have been built over the last several years to serve the people in the Northwest part of our state.

Citizens enjoy adequate access to our court system with the current configuration of the Northwest Judicial District. If the judgeship were abolished or moved, this District would suffer a judicial officer shortage according to the 2021-22 weighted caseload study. This shortage would be exacerbated by the need for judges to travel within the district to attempt to provide adequate coverage throughout the district. This would lead to less access to the Court for our citizens, and ultimately would result in more delay in reaching resolution of cases in our system.

On a personal note, while I congratulate Judge Jacobson on his retirement, he will certainly be missed. I know that his years of experience and fine legal mind have greatly benefitted the people of the Northwest Judicial District. Judge Jacobson's willingness to help, kindness, and his sense of humor made it a pleasure to work with him.

As always, I thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter to the citizens of the Northwest Judicial District.

I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. El-Dweek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Daniel S. El-Dweek  
District Court Judge