

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

C4-85-1848

ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO  
COURT RECORDS FOR PURPOSES OF  
CASELOAD STUDY

The National Center for State Courts ("NCSC") has entered into a contract with the State Court Administrator's Office ("SCAO") to conduct a weighted caseload analysis ("the Project"). In order to complete the Project, SCAO must make available to NCSC trial court records ("the Records") that contain sensitive, confidential information that may not be disclosed without the prior approval of the court.

The NCSC has agreed in writing not to disclose to any third party (except research assistants who must first sign an appropriate nondisclosure agreement with SCAO) any information in the Records from which the identity of any individual or other characteristic that could uniquely identify any individual is ascertainable.

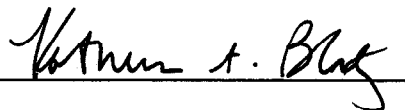
NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Rule 2 of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch and by virtue of and under the inherent and statutory authority of the court to regulate public access to records maintained by the judicial branch, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The district courts and the State Court Administrator's Office shall make the Records available to the NCSC and its permitted research assistants for purposes of the Project;

2. The NCSC and its permitted research assistants shall maintain the Records in accordance with the terms and conditions of the nondisclosure agreements executed between the NCSC, its research assistants, and SCAO, which agreements are incorporated into and made a part of this order;
3. If NCSC or its permitted research assistants receives a request to release any information contained in the Records, NCSC and its research assistants must immediately notify SCAO. SCAO will give NSCS and its research assistants instructions concerning the release of the information to the requesting party before the information is released; and
4. Without limiting paragraph 3, above, any reports prepared as a result of the project shall not disclose any information from which the identity of any individual or other characteristic that could uniquely identify any individual is ascertainable.

Date: June 13, 2002

BY THE COURT:



Kathleen A. Blatz  
Chief Justice

OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS

JUL 16 2002

**FILED**