50449 - 495

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN SUPREME COURT

HEARING ON REDISTRICTING PLANS FOR THE EIGHTH AND NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND PART OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ORDER

50449 and 49543 and 49858

WHEREAS, the Judges of the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial Districts have submitted to the Supreme Court plans to realign the courts of the districts,

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court wishes to allow public testimony on the redistricting plans,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a hearing on the redistricting plans with respect to the Eighth and Ninth Judicial Districts and Clay, Becker, Otter Tail, Wadena, Douglas, and Todd Counties of the Seventh Judicial District shall be held in the Supreme Court Chambers in the State Capitol, Saint Paul, Minnesota, at 9:30 a. m. on Thursday, October 4, 1979.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that advance notice of the hearing be given by the publication of this order once in the Supreme Court edition of FINANCE AND COMMERCE, ST. PAUL LEGAL LEDGER, and BENCH AND BAR.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that interested persons show cause, if any they have, why the proposed redistricting plans should not be adopted. All persons desiring to be heard shall file briefs or petitions setting forth their objections, and shall also notify the Clerk of the Supreme Court, in writing, on or before September 27, 1979 of their desire to be heard on the matter.

DATED: August 0, 1979. SUPREME COURT BY THE COURT FILED AUG 17 1979 Shief JOHN MCCARTHY CLERK



#### COUNTY COURT OF AITKIN COUNTY

#### **ROBERT S. GRAFF, JUDGE**

COURT HOUSE AITKIN, MINN. 56431 PHONE 218-927-2102 EXT. 43

September 28, 1979



FLORENCE A. TARR CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT-COUNTY COURTS PHONE 218-927-2102 EXT. 37

ROBERT E. HAAS CLERK OF COURTS PHONE 218-927-2102 EXT. 38

> Chief Justice Robert Sheran Minnesota Supreme Court State Capitol St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Redistricting Ninth Judicial District Aitkin-Crow Wing Counties

Dear Chief Justice Sheran:

As you are aware, your Court will hold redistricting hearings affecting Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties on Thursday, October 4, 1979.

As you may recall, I have attended earlier redistricting hearings expressing my concern over merging a smaller county, Aitkin (population approximately 15,000), with Crow Wing (population approximately 40,000).

There are varied reasons for my concern, but my immediate concern at this time is that I feel that would be grossly unfair to merge these two counties for the purposes of an election without a residency or chamber requirement of a judge residing in the smaller county.

However, even though I oppose this plan, I feel there is a possibility that it may come to pass. My simple request is not to allow the plan to go into effect until 1981, as I will be seeking my third six-year term and running for re-election in 1980.

If it is the Supreme Court's desire to merge these two counties into one judicial district, I feel that it is incumbent on me and I fully intend to move residence to Brainerd since I will have neither chamber nor residence requirements in Aitkin County. I would then understand it would be keeping in spirit with the unification bill by moving and to better serve the judicial district of the Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties. September 28, 1979 Chief Justice Sheran Page 2

However, if this act were to go into effect immediately, I would then be forced to move to Brainerd immediately. I would probably experience some difficulty in establishing myself with the Crow Wing electorate in such a short period of time.

I have always supported total court unification. I have always expressed my willingness to do whatever was felt to be in the best interest of the public in serving this state. I will gladly accept the burden, but feel that I must also receive fair consideration.

Respectfully submitted.

Robert S. Graf

Judge of County Court

RSG/tmc

cc: The Honorable Gerald Kalina, President Minnesota County Judges' Association

> Mr. Dennis Howard Ninth Judicial District Administrator

office of the clerk Supreme Court of Minnesota St. Paul, Minn.

JOHN MCCARTHY CLERK WAYNE TSCHIMPERLE DEPUTY

ς.

18 September 1979

Hon. Michael Haas County Court of Cass County Courthouse Walker, MN

Dear Judge Haas:

# In re Redistricting of the Ninth Judicial District

We have just received your letter of September 17, 1979. We have referred the same to our State Court Administrator, Mr. Lawrence Harmon for answer. He is intimately familiar with the details of redistricting. We have noted your appearance on October 4th. Enjoy your vacation.

Sincerely,

John McCarthy, Clerk

cc: Laurie Harmon

## County Court of Cass County

COURT HOUSE WALKER, MINN. 56484 PHONE 218-547-1236

> ANONA RIVIERE CLERK OF COURT Civil Division

MARY H. CYR CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK Trafic Div. - Criminal Div.

LORRAINE LOEFFLER DEPUTY CLERK

September 17, 1979

Family Div. BOBBI J. ROSSER DEPUTY CLERK Probate Division Conciliation Division

Mr. John McCarthy Minnesota Supreme Court Capitol Building St. Paul, MN

RE: IN THE MATTER OF REDISTRICTING OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

This letter is a confirmation of my telephone call to you September 12, 1979, with respect to the abovecaptioned matter, which is scheduled for a show cause hearing on or about the 4th of October, 1979.

My question to you was to which of the three plans was the Court referring to when it made its show cause Order on for hearing October 4? There was an "official" plan originally adopted by the Judges and thereafter rejected by the Judges of the Ninth Judicial District for all practical purposes, and there was a plan placing the District in one or two large districts, which was rejected so far as the east half of the District were concerned, and a third plan which appeared to be a compromised plan acceptable by all persons and recommended for passage by the Committee under Judge Kalina's recommendation.

By this letter I would also wish to appear and speak to the issue on the 4th of October, 1979. I would wish to stand upon the items already submitted to the Court and upon an additional publication by the State Demographer listing current populations and analyzing trends in population growth to the year 2000. I will provide copies of these documents for mach of the members of the Court, but because I am going on vacation I may not be able to do that until the date of the hearing.

MICHAEL J. HAAS JUDGE

KEITH L. KRAFT JUDGE Mr. John McCarthy Minnesota Supreme Court Capitol Building St. Paul, MN September 17, 1979 Page 2

A clarification of the plan subject to the show cause Order would be much appreciated. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely, A Contraction of the second Michael J. Haas

MJH:sam

IN THE MATTER OF THE REDISTRICTINSUPREME COURT. PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNTY COURTS OF THE FILED NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

î,

The subcommittee on court redistricting of the Judicial Planning Committee has considered the various proposals for the redistricting of the county courts within the Ninth Judicial District and recommends to the Supreme Court for its consideration the following proposal:

 That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Norman and Mahnomen.

2. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Lake of the Woods and Koochiching.

3. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Clearwater and Beltrami.

4. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Hubbard, Cass and Itasca.

5. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Crow Wing and Aitkin.

The propos

The proposal of the subcommittee was adopted unanimously but certain concerns were expressed during the meetings. We note that Lake of the Woods and Koochiching will only have one county judge and that one of the purposes of redistricting is to eliminate that type of district. However the subcommittee realizes that because of the geographical problems that the proposed solution is the only feasible one at this time.

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Further there were some thoughts that Beltrami and Clearwater Counties should have been joined with Hubbard, Cass and Itasca. This was not acceptable to the judges affected and the subcommittee felt that it would be proper to allow the affected judges to make this determination.

DATED: May 30, 1979

Respectfully Submitted,

Subcommittee on Court Redistricting of the Judicial Planning Committee

Lina Kalina, Gerald W.

Chairman

#### STATE OF MINNESOTA IN SUPREME COURT

HEARING ON REDISTRICTING PLANS FOR THE EIGHTH AND NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND PART OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT 50449

PETITION IN OBJECTION TO PART OF REDISTRICTING NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Your petitioner respectfully represents to the Supreme Court of Minnesota, that he is the duly elected County Court Judge for the County Court District of Kittson, Lake of the Woods and Roseau Counties, and that your petitioner objects to the suggested plan that Kittson and Roseau Counties be joined to the Counties of Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Norman comprising five County Court Judges.

Your petitioner, ever since July 1978, has not been in full agreement with any proposal for redistricting, but in view of the fact that he was told that the Supreme Court's goal was not to have a County Court District with only one judge, your petitioner acquiesced in agreeing to a County Court District of Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Roseau and Kittson, however, such a suggestion was not accepted at any judges' meeting. When your petitioner learned of the Judicial Planning Commission's recommendation that Koochiching and Lake of the Woods Counties would be one district with one judge and primarily because of geographical location, your petitioner then felt Roseau and Kittson Counties should be an exception also and for the same reason.

GEOGRAPHY: Your petitioner would like to compare geography between Koochiching and Lake of the Woods Counties with Itasca County, and Kittson and Roseau Counties with Pennington, Marshall, Red Lake, Norman and Polk.

International Falls (present chamber of County C ourt Judge) is 69 miles from Baudette and 116 miles from Grand Rapids.

Roseau (present chamber of county court judge, your petitioner) to the county seats of Pennington, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Norman and Mahnomen Counties are as follows:

Roseau to	Thief River Falls, Pennington Co.	63 miles
**	Warren, Marshall Co.	85 miles
11	Red Lake Falls, Red Lake Co.	80 miles
11	Crookston, Polk Co.	107 miles
**	Ada, Norman Co.	134 miles
11	Mahnomen, Mahnomen Co.	121 miles

It would be impractical to have your petitioner and the other judges running around playing tag over such an area. It would be senseless, in view of the cost of gasoline, food and shelter, to send me to these areas when there are other judges in this proposed district who would be much closer.

Your petitioner's point is that Roseau and Kittson Counties are just as remote as Lake of the Woods and Koochiching Counties. Your petitioner plans on attending this hearing, and it will mean traveling 365 to 370 miles. It either means spending two seven hour days on the road or else drive 65 miles to get an airplane and then fly. If I take an airplane, I will lose one-half day in my chambers, incur expenses of food and lodging, or, as an alternative, leave Roseau at 5:00 A.M. on the morning of the hearing to catch a flight out of Thief River Falls at 6:30 A.M.

<u>NO NEED TO REDISTRICT</u>: Your petitioner has heard that the reason for redistricting is that the Court does not want a County Court District with only one judge. Reasons being, as your petitioner understands them, are (1) vacations, (2) illness, (3) other disability, (4) affidavits of prejudice (5) filling vacancies because of death, retirement and disability.

<u>VACATIONS:</u> There has never been a problem with continuing the Court's business because of this. The judges in other districts have covered the pressing business of the Court, and when requested, your petitioner has agreed to cover their Courts for them. The Chief Judge of the District has the power to assign us to go anywhere in the District and I know of no instance that anyone has refused.

ILLNESS: Your petitioner, thankfully, has not had to request assistance for this reason, but believes it would be handled in the same manner as vacations.

AFFIDAVITS OF PREJUDICE: Your petitioner has had no problem in advising our Court Administrator as to one being filed against him, and the administrator obtaining a different judge. When this does occur, your petitioner suggests that I assume the substitute judge's obligations. Thus, the work is being done in both places.

FILLING VACANCIES: There should not be any problem in this respect if the vacancy is, hopefully, to be filled by a lawyer in the district. There are presently thirteen lawyers in Roseau and Kittson Counties. Besides this, I have seen when residency has not been an absolute criterion, and a judge is appointed from outside the district.

Page 2.

<u>CHAMBERS:</u> Your petitioner is concerned that in none of the proposals submitted has anything been suggested as to the Supreme Court designating chambers for the county court judges. Your petitioner respectfully suggests that Roseau, Minnesota, shall be designated as Chambers for the reason that the case load is heavier.

<u>POPULATION:</u> The population of the entire ninth judicial district is 266,503 and there are fifteen judges and one judicial officer, which means there is one judge per 16,656 people. Your petitioner, in requesting that Roseau and Kittson be a county court district with one judge is not shirking his duty, as the combined population of Roseau and Kittson is 18,753. The population during the summer and hunting season is increased. Your petitioner concurs with the Eighth Judicial report in that they consider a population of 15,000 per judge is feasible for a rural judge. This is due to travel and supportive staff which a rural judge does not have.

ELECTIONS: Your petitioner believes that the reason for no unanimous plan being submitted to your Court is the fact that we do not know in what area we would have to run for re-election. As far as being called upon to serve in any part of the Ninth Judicial District, I am sure that no judge would be unwilling to do so if it did not injure his own Court and he would not fall behind to such a degree that he could not catch up. If the proposed district is adopted I presume I would have to run in eight counties. My chances of being exposed in the counties of Red Lake, Polk, Norman, Mahnomen and Marshall are remote. My comments relative to travel expenses and other judges being closer to their counties are appropriate here and need not be elaborated upon. It is possible that the larger counties could dictate who the judge would be for the smaller counties, and thus, the smaller counties would not have much to say. If my primary duty was to take care of Roseau and Kittson Counties, which have 18,753 people, they would be bucking a total population in the other six counties of 82,795.

LOCAL CONCERN: There is local concern over the proposed county court district as proposed, and both Roseau and Kittson County Commissioners have passed resolutions opposing the proposed eight county court district and in favor of Roseau and Kittson County Court District with one judge. The people know whom they are voting for, while they would not know if the person is from Ada, 134 miles away. There are attached hereto certified copies of their resolutions. Your petitioner would like to say that there are people who are in opposition to the proposal but are not here today to speak, and you can hardly blame them when they are 370 miles away. Many of them do not have the time to come, and many do not have the money to cover their expenses.

WHEREFORE, your petitioner respectfully requests that the Supreme Court in redistricting the county court district for the Ninth Judicial District will make Roseau and Kittson Counties a county court district with one judge who would be chambered in Roseau.

Respectfully submitted,

hanchan

Donald E. Shanahan

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Minnesota is contemplating redistricting the County Court's District within the Ninth Judicial District, and

WHEREAS, at present there is one County Court Judge for the Counties of Roseau, Kittson and Lake of the Woods, and

WHEREAS, it appears that it is contemplated that Roseau and Kittson Counties be joined in a County Court District which would comprise the Counties of Roseau, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Norman and Mahnomen, and

WHEREAS, it is believed that a Judge should be elected by the electorate where the Judge will have his primary duties and obligations,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Roseau County Board of Commissioners that it favors a County Court District of Roseau and Kittson Counties to be served by one Judge who will be elected from said District.

STATE OF MINNESOTA ) <sub>SS</sub> COUNTY OF ROSEAU )

I, Richard C. Bergan, County Auditor in and for Roseau County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of part of the proceedings adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on May 16, 1979.

ichard C. Bergan

County Auditor Roseau County, Minnesota

RESOLUTION

KITTSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Hallock, Minnesota 56728

DateJune 5, 1979	Resolution No. 79-33
Motion by Commissioner Hanson	Seconded by Commissioner Sanner

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Minnesota is contemplating redistricting the County Court's District within the Ninth Judicial District, and

WHEREAS, at present there is one County Court Judge for the Counties of Roseau, Kittson and Lake of the Woods, and

WHEREAS, it appears that it is contemplated that Roseau and Kittson Counties be joined in a County Court District which would comprise the Counties of Roseau, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Norman and Mahnomen, and

WHEREAS it is believed that a Judge should be elected by the electorate where the Judge will have his primary duties and obligations,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Kittson County Board of Commissioners that it favors a County Court District of Roseau and Kittson Counties to be served by one Judge who will be elected from said District.

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### NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT MILEAGE CHART

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#### THE SUPREME COURT OF MINNESOTA

JUDICIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE 40 N. MILTON SUITE 302 ST. PAUL, MN 55104

> 612/296-6282 296-6207

49858

September 25, 1979

49858

Mr. John McCarthy, Clerk Minnesota Supreme Court Suite 230, Capitol Building Aurora Avenue St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

It has come to our understanding, as a result of a letter from Judge Haas, there is some misunderstanding as to which plan will be considered for the Ninth Judicial District by the Supreme Court on October 4th.

Attached for your files please find a copy of the letter from Judge Kalina to Justice Sheran outlining the counties to be considered in the Ninth Judicial District plan along with a colored map indicating which counties shall comprise each county court in the Ninth District.

Please contact me if I may be of assistance regarding the enclosed material.

Cordially,

Usan

Susan M. Saetre Staff Associate Judicial Planning Committee

SMS:jef

Enc.

9-26 - - Called Susan Saetre. Stated our Court has abready received their recommendation and to just file This material in our office file. W.T.



### THE SUPREME COURT OF MINNESOTA

JUDICIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE 40 N. MILTON SUITE 302 ST. PAUL, MN 55104

> 612/296-6282 296-6207

September 25, 1979

Honorable Michael Haas County Court of Cass County Courthouse Walker, Minnesota 56484

Dear Judge Haas:

This is in response to your letter of September 18th to John McCarthy, Clerk of the Minnesota Supreme Court, regarding the redistricting plan for the Ninth Judicial District that will be heard by the Supreme Court on October 4, 1979.

The official plan that will be considered by the Supreme Court on October 4th is the plan that was approved by the Judicial Planning Committee Redistricting Subcommittee. The plan under consideration lists the counties of: Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Norman and Mahnomen as one county court district; Lake of the Woods and Koochiching as a county court district; Clearwater and Beltrami as a county court district; Hubbard, Cass and Itasca as a county court district; and Crow Wing and Aitkin as a county court district.

Judge Gerald Kalina will present the plan to the Supreme Court and if any of the other plans from the Ninth District are to be considered by the Supreme Court, they will have to be introduced by someone other than the Judicial Planning Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Cordially, Usan MXaitre

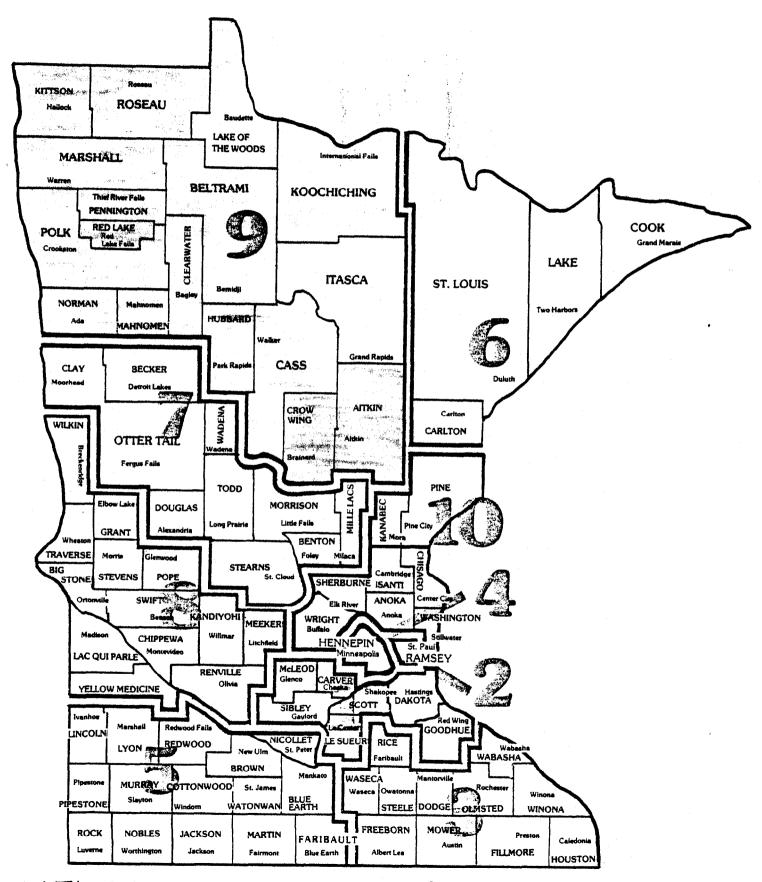
Susan M. Saetre Staff Associate Judicial Planning Committee

SMS:jef

cc: Honorable Gerald Kalina John McCarthy

### NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT \* PLAN THREE

## Minnesota Judicial Districts



\* THIS PLAN WAS APPROVED BY THE JPC REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE AND SUBMITTED TO THE SUPRIEME COURT ON MAY 22, 1979.

### DEPARTMENT Judicial Planning Committee

STATE OF MINNESOTA

# Office Memorandum

то

: Redistricting Subcommittee members

DATE: May 23, 1979

FROM : Susan M. Saetre, Staff Associate

PHONE: 297-2155

SUBJECT: Recommendation to the Supreme Court on 9th & 7th Redistricting Plans

Please review the attached correspondence from Judge Kalina. Contact him by May 30th if you have any questions on the Redistricting proposals.

The minutes of the May 18th meeting will be sent out next week.

JUDGES CHARLES F. GEGEN JOHN J. DALY MARTIN J. MANSUR GERALD W. KALINA JACK A. MITCHELL

Court Loun

DIVISION 1 OF DAKOTA COUNTY

POST OFFICE BOX 365 COURTHOUSE / 4th and VERMILLION / HASTINGS, MINN. 55033 PHONE 437-3191 MAY 23 1979 CLERK

NICK VUJOVICH

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK WILLIAM E. HEALY

CHIEF DEPUTY, DIVISION 1 ELEANOR CHARLTON

May 22, 1979

Ms. Susan M. Saetre, Judicial Planning Committee 40 North Milton, Suite 302 St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Dear Ms. Saetre:

Enclosed please find copies of proposed plan in the ninth and seventh districts. I would appreciate having you send a copy to each member of the committee with the request that if they have any corrections or changes that they notify me, either in writing or by phone, no later than May 30th.

You might wish to put in your memo to them that I made an alteration in the selection of chairman because it is possible that the district judge appointed to the committee is not the chief judge.

Thank you for your help. Very/truly yours, Gerald W. Kalina

Judge of County Court

GWK:dp Enc. IN THE MATTER OF THE REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNTY COURTS OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

The subcommittee on court redistricting of the Judicial Planning Committee has considered the various proposals for the redistricting of the county courts within the Seventh Judicial District and recommends to the Supreme Court for its consideration the following proposal:

1. That there be a county court district consisting of the counties of Clay, Becker and Otter Tail.

2. That there be a county court district consisting of the counties of Douglas, Todd and Wadena.

3. That it is the position of the subcommittee that there has been insufficient public involvement as to the balance of the proposed plan for the Seventh District. The proposed plan submitted by the judges contemplates changes in the judicial district boundaries.

It is the request of the subcommittee that the Supreme Court authorize a commission to study this matter and conduct public hearings. The proposed commission would consist of a district court judge from the Seventh District and one from the Tenth District, a county court judge from each of the two districts, a county board member from each of the two districts, a member of the bar association from each of the two districts, and two lay persons from each of the districts. The lay persons on the the commission would be selected by the chief judge of the respective district. The other members would be selected by and from their respective associations. The commission would be chaired by a chairman elected by the commission, and Susan Saetre of the Judicial Planning Committee would act as staff person to assist the commission. It is contemplated that the commission would be formed no later than July 1, 1979, and would submit its final written report no later than October 15, 1979.

Because of possible election problems in Douglas, Todd and Wadena, it was felt that this district should be established as soon as possible. If this were accomplished there seems to be no reason not to proceed immediately to establish the district consisting of Clay, Becker and Otter Tail Counties. DATED:

Respectfully Submitted,

Subcommittee on Court Redistricting of the Judicial Planning Committee,

Gerald Kalina.

Chairman

## IN THE MATTER OF THE REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNTY COURTS OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

The subcommittee on court redistricting of the Judicial Planning Committee has considered the various proposals for the redistricting of the county courts within the Ninth Judicial District and recommends to the Supreme Court for its consideration the following proposal:

 That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Norman and Mahnomen.

2. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Lake of the Woods and Koochiching.

3. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Clearwater and Beltrami.

4. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Hubbard, Cass and Itasca.

5. That there be a county court district composed of the following counties: Crow Wing and Aitkin.

Para Margarit

The proposal of the subcommittee was adopted unanimously but certain concerns were expressed during the meetings. We note that Lake of the Woods and Koochiching will only have one county judge and that one of the purposes of redistricting is to eliminate that type of district. However the subcommittee realizes that because of the geographical problems that the proposed solution is the only feasible one at this time.

Further there were some thoughts that Beltrami and Clearwater Counties should have been joined with Hubbard, Cass and Itasca. This was not acceptable to the judges affected and the subcommittee felt that it would be proper to allow the affected judges to make this determination.

DATED:

Respectfully Submitted,

Subcommittee on Court Redistricting of the Judicial Planning Committee

Jalina ralled Gerald W. Kalina, Chairman