

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**IN SUPREME COURT**

**C6-89-2248**

**Order Establishing the Criminal Courts  
Study Commission and Appointing Members**

**O R D E R**

WHEREAS, 1989 Minn. Laws, Chapter 335, Article 3, Section 41, authorizes the Supreme Court to establish a commission to study ways to more expeditiously dispose of criminal cases and report its conclusions to the Supreme Court by January 1, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the expeditious disposition of criminal cases can contribute to a higher quality of justice without sacrificing fair outcome and without denying due process of the law; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Judges, through its continuing efforts to actively manage the trial court caseload, has identified the timely disposition of criminal cases as essential to the effective administration of justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a Criminal Courts Study Commission is established to examine:

1. Whether systems, rules and statutes of other jurisdictions provide alternative models which would simplify procedures and expedite the processing of criminal cases without sacrificing fair outcome;
2. Whether certain kinds of minor offenses should be decriminalized and subjected to an administrative process, with the option of enhancing the matter to a misdemeanor if prior judgments have been entered against a party;
3. Whether the petty misdemeanor category should be expanded to replace current misdemeanor offenses in some instances, with criteria for enhancing a petty misdemeanor to a misdemeanor in specified circumstances; and
4. Whether other administrative or legislative action can be

taken to facilitate the expeditious disposition of criminal and juvenile cases without sacrifice of due process of law. The commission shall file its report with the Supreme Court on or before January 1, 1991.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following persons are hereby appointed to serve on the commission:

Edwin J. Butterfoss  
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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Martin J. Costello, Attorney at Law, shall serve as chairperson of the commission and that Michael B. Johnson, Office of the State Court Administrator, shall serve as staff to the commission.

Dated: December 29, 1989

BY THE COURT



Peter S. Popovich  
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court  
of the State of Minnesota