



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Via E-mail and U.S. Mail

Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel
The Honorable Wilhelmina M. Wright, Presiding Judge
c/o Clerk of Appellate Courts
305 Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

DEC 23 2011

FILED

Re: *Sara Hippert, et al. v. Mark Ritchie, et al.*
Case Number A11-152

Dear Special Redistricting Panel:

In its Order Stating Redistricting Principles and Requirements for Plan Submissions, the Panel set oral argument "on the proposed redistricting plans" for Wednesday, January 4, 2012. According to the Order, the purpose of the oral argument is for the parties to "present their proposed redistricting plans" and "present oral arguments in favor of [the parties'] proposed redistricting plans or in opposition to other proposed plans." Based upon the Panel's description of the purpose of the oral argument, the issue of the constitutionality of the current districts is not an appropriate subject for the January 4 oral argument.

Secretary of State Ritchie does not wish to argue in favor of or against any of the proposed plans. As a result, counsel for Secretary of State Ritchie do not intend to attend either session of the January 4 oral argument. However, if the Panel intends to hear oral argument on the issue of the constitutionality of the current districts, Secretary of State Ritchie would ask to participate in the oral argument with respect to that issue. Thus, Secretary of State Ritchie respectfully requests that the Panel clarify whether it will hear argument regarding the issue of the constitutionality of the current districts at the January 4 hearing.

Sincerely,

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