



**MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL  
BRANCH**

**First Judicial District**

**Mission:** To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

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[First Judicial District Public Website](#)

The First Judicial District has 36 judges and more than 250 staff that handle over 120,000 cases annually in the counties of Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, Le Sueur, McLeod, Scott and Sibley.

# The First Edition

A Newsletter about the First Judicial District of the State of Minnesota

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OCTOBER 2016

## Le Sueur County Moves Forward with New Justice Center

By Joanne Kopet, Le Sueur County Court Administrator

In 2015, the Le Sueur County Commissioners hired BKV Group to do a Facilities Assessment Study. The study was commissioned because of space limitations at the current courthouse facility. Three concepts were presented to the Commissioners. Two of the proposed concepts provided for remodeling and additions onto the current courthouse facility. The third proposed concept provided for an off-site Justice Center.

On August 2, 2016, the Le Sueur County Commissioners voted to approve a new off-site Justice Center. The proposed Justice Center will be located on the south side of State Highway 99. The estimated cost to construct the new Justice Center is \$19 million and soft costs of approximately \$4.6 million. According to Darrell Pettis, Le Sueur County Administrator, if all goes as planned, construction on the new Justice Center would begin in Spring 2018 with completion in Spring 2019.

Le Sueur County has begun the process to select an architect for the project and hopes to have that done by Fall 2016. Once an architect is on board, the process will begin to put together the space for the new justice center. The center will house court administration, sheriff's office

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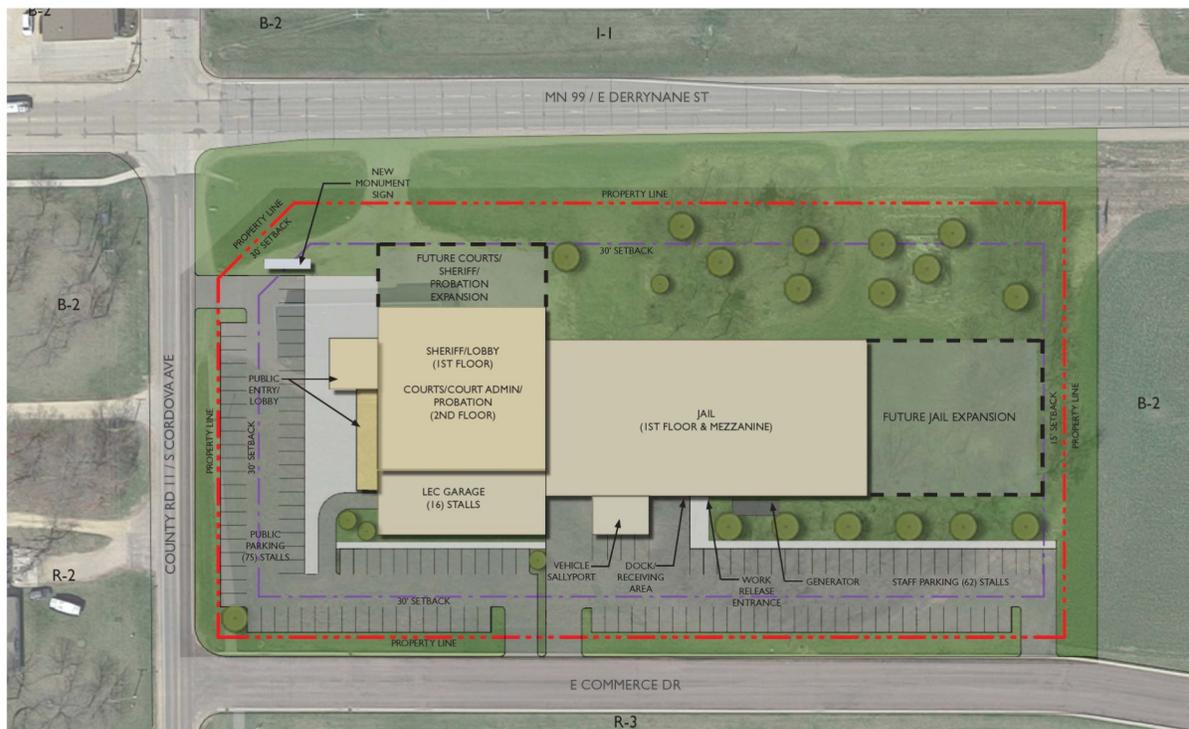
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Le Sueur County New Justice Center  
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(administration and dispatch), county jail, probation, possibly Department of Corrections and emergency management, along with space for the county attorney.

Once the new Justice Center is completed the county will begin remodeling the existing courthouse, specifically the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor where court administration and probation currently

have office space and the courtrooms. Once remodeled, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor space will house other county offices.



## Anne K. McKeig Sworn-in as 94<sup>th</sup> Supreme Court Justice



Anne K. McKeig Sworn in as 94th Supreme Court Justice

Judge of the White Earth Tribal Court; Noya Woodrich, Former President and CEO of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches;

Tayana Osuna – assisted with the robing.

The event featured a drum circle performance by students from the Northland Eagles Drum Group from Northland High School in Remer, Justice McKeig's former high school. The White Earth Color Guard posted the colors for the event.

In her remarks, Justice McKeig spoke to the historic significance of her appointment:

“To Governor Dayton - Chi Miigwetch for having faith in a young woman from Federal Dam, born, raised and Minnesota educated. You have made history in allowing me to be the first Native American woman appointed to the State's highest Court - in all of the United States. I am prepared with the love and support of my community to demonstrate that your decision was one of great vision and wisdom not because you chose me but because you appreciate the role that native nations have played in the history of our great state. By this appointment

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The Honorable Anne K. McKeig was sworn in as the 94<sup>th</sup> Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court during a public investiture ceremony on Thursday, September 15, 2016. The ceremony was held at the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium on the campus of St. Catherine University in Saint Paul.

Justice McKeig was presented at the ceremony by Governor Mark Dayton, who appointed Justice McKeig to the Supreme Court in June to replace retiring Associate Justice Christopher J. Dietzen.

Speaking on behalf of Justice McKeig at the investiture ceremony were the Honorable Robert A. Blaeser, Chief

and Brittney Miller, a former law clerk of Justice McKeig, who is now an attorney at Moss & Barnett.

President Robin Wolpert presented remarks on behalf of the Minnesota State Bar Association, and President Philip Brodeen spoke on behalf of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association. Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea administered the oath of office. Justice McKeig's mother, Cecelia McKeig, and daughter, Tayana Osuna, held the Bible. Justice McKeig's husband, Jose Osuna, and children – Balam Osuna, Xicotencatl Osuna, Itzel Osuna, Caleb Osuna, and



Anne K. McKeig Sworn in as Supreme Court Justice  
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you have built an historic bridge.”

Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice McKeig served as a district court judge in the Fourth Judicial District, and was the presiding judge in the Fourth District’s Family Court. She was appointed to the bench in 2008 by Governor Tim Pawlenty. She previously worked as an assistant Hennepin County attorney in the Child Protection Division for over 16 years, where she specialized in Indian Child Welfare cases.

Justice McKeig is currently an adjunct

professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, a trainer for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, past chair and current board member of the Board of the Division of Indian Work, and a member of the Speakers Bureau for the National Child Protection Training Center. She is also a frequent speaker at many local and national conferences on the issue of Indian Child Welfare, and is a descendant of White Earth Nation.

Justice McKeig earned her B.S. from St. Catherine University and her J.D. from

Hamline University School of Law.

Justice McKeig was raised in Federal Dam, Minnesota, which borders the Leech Lake Ojibwe Reservation. She is a descendant of the White Earth Ojibwe, and is the first Native American to serve on Minnesota’s highest court. She is also the first female Native American in the country to serve on any state’s highest court.

More information about Justice McKeig is available [here](#).

## Free Legal Clinics Expanding to Goodhue County

By Chris Channing, Goodhue County Court Administrator

Legal Assistance of Dakota County, Ltd. (LADC) is expanding the free legal clinics they offer to include Goodhue County. These clinics will be the first Wednesday of every month and by appointment only. The first day for these to be held is October 5<sup>th</sup> and will be from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at the Goodhue County Law Library, located in the basement of the Justice Center. The legal issues must be related to family law and the individual

seeking the advice must be at 200% or below the poverty guidelines. These clinics will be facilitated by a staff member of LADC and the legal advice will be provided by volunteer lawyers who are primarily practicing in Goodhue County.

It is anticipated that the slots for the clinic will be in very high demand. LADC should be commended for expanding to assist those low-income litigants in Goodhue County. This

service will further close the gap for those who cannot afford legal representation in family law matters.

LADC is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization that provides critical civil legal services to low-income families and individuals in Dakota County. Their primary focus is family law. These cases frequently involve child custody and visitation, child

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*Free Legal Clinics Expanding to Goodhue Co.  
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support, divorce, and domestic abuse. LADC also addresses low-income needs in other areas of law, including consumer law, criminal record expungement, immigration, schools, social services, taxes and youth. LADC has been addressing the civil legal needs of low-income people since 1972. Their current services include:



- **Free representation in court for Family Law cases\***
- **Free representation in court for cases in other areas of civil law\***
- **Free legal advice for qualified low-income applicants**
- **Free referral services to private attorneys practicing in relevant legal areas**

\* LADC tries to provide free legal services for all people who meet low-income requirements. However, they may not be able to provide full representation to all qualified applicants because of limited staff resources.



## State Law Library

By Liz Reppe, State Law Librarian

The Minnesota State Law Library, which is located on the ground floor of the Minnesota Judicial Center in St. Paul, provides legal information to the courts, attorneys, self-represented litigants, and the general public on a statewide basis. The Library supports the legal research needs of the appellate and district courts, and court staff, and serves as the archive for the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

“Our mission is to provide legal

information to anyone who seeks it”, says State Law Librarian Liz Reppe. “Having access to the law furthers the public’s access to justice”.

The Library is open to everyone and staff assist attorneys and the public in finding legal materials via e-mail, phone, live chat, and in person. In 2015, Library staff answered more than 7,000 questions. Additionally, more than 3,000 people visited the Library and utilized its

resources without requiring Library staff assistance. The Library’s collection includes state and federal laws, legal treatises, practice materials, and self-help materials. In addition, patrons can use public computers, current awareness materials, and online legal research resources such as Westlaw. The State Law Library also provides access to public trial court and appellate court

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State Law Library  
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State Law Library

documents from its public terminals.

The State Law Library has a two free appeals clinics. One clinic is for people seeking to appeal a denial of unemployment benefits to the Court of Appeals. At the clinic, participants can get advice from an attorney and assistance with completion of the appeal paperwork. The Library also hosts a

general appeals clinic for other types of appeals. At this clinic, people can meet with an experienced appellate attorney to get help with understanding the rules and procedures the appellate courts require.

Through a collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), the State Law Library provides legal resources to inmates of the state

prisons. The Law Library Service to Prisoners (LLSP) librarians meet monthly with inmates at each of the eight primary correctional facilities in Minnesota. Most inmate requests are received and answered by mail, using the resources of the State Law Library. LLSP eliminates the need for the DOC to maintain costly and extensive law libraries at each facility. This program is funded by inmate canteen and phone services, not by Minnesota taxpayers. In 2015, the Library answered 46,109 requests. The Library also provides some assistance to jail inmates in counties without a staffed county law library.

In addition, the State Law Library provides assistance and advice to county law libraries located throughout the state, provides training to county law library staff, and regularly answers questions about collection development, budget issues, and staffing.



## Statewide Language Access Plan Adopted

In June, the Minnesota Judicial Branch moved from individual Language Access plans for each county and SCAO and adopted a Statewide Language Access Plan. In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights

Act of 1964; 45 C.F.R. § 80 et seq; and 28 C.F.R. § 42 et seq.; the Statewide Language Access Plan provides a framework for the provision of timely and reasonable language assistance to Limited English Proficiency

persons who come in contact with the Branch. The comprehensive plan, which replaces the 88 separate plans, includes:



- provision of interpreters and other language access services,
- training and education of Judicial Branch employees and language service providers, and
- ongoing monitoring and efforts to improve language access services.

The Plan addresses state and federal statutory and constitutional requirements for the provision of equal access, and is consistent with the Branch Strategic Plan's goals, objectives, and stated mission. It

details the policies and procedures successfully implemented throughout the Minnesota courts for the effective provision of meaningful language access.

The Plan will be administered by the State

Court Administrator's Office Court Interpreter Program, with assistance from the Judicial Branch District Interpreter Liaison Committee.

## Redesigned Court Integration Services Website Goes Live

On August 29, 2016, a redesigned Court Integration Services public website was launched. It is a subsite of the Minnesota Judicial Branch public website and focuses on electronic partner integrations with court information systems. The redesign was undertaken to improve communication with internal court staff and external justice

partners. The new site offers pages targeted to those working in three areas: Analysis, Development, and Business.

Court Integration Services is one of the technical means by which the Judicial Branch shares information electronically with government agencies across the state. The

information shared through integrations requires the partner to have a case management system or some other computer system to send data to or receive data from the court system.

MNCIS is the major source of data for sharing with partners. Examples of electronic

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Redesigned Court Integration Services Website  
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integrations using MNCIS data include hearing information sent to county attorney systems like MCAPS, providing the Department of Public Safety with court dispositions for driver's records, and receiving eFiled attorney assignments from the state public defenders.

Integration between systems increases efficiency because it reduces redundant entry in multiple systems and increases accuracy

by eliminating rekeying of data.

The Court Integration Services site is used by government agencies, internal court personnel, and the public to learn, research, and answer specific questions about technical or business uses of Court Integration Services. The redesign project was started to evaluate navigation on the site, to improve the site to clarify what is available through Court Integration Services,

and make more non-technical information available to those new to integration concepts. The redesign incorporated feedback from court staff and government partners to create a site that is responsive to their needs.

Feedback on the new site is welcome, and can be sent through the [Integration Services site contact form](#), or by email to [linda.emeott@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:linda.emeott@courts.state.mn.us).

## COURT INTEGRATION SERVICES

Analysis | Development | Business

Court Integration Services enables authorized agencies' systems to exchange information with the Minnesota Judicial Branch systems.

**Integrated eFiling**

Sending case updates



**Notifications**

Getting info as events occur

Getting info on demand

**Queries**

**How Do I...?**

- Find Integration Implementations
- eFile using eFS
- Learn About Integration Services
- Find Resources for Developers
- Find Integration Ideas for Local Agencies

**Frequently Used Resources**

- Getting Started with Integration Services
- Court Integration Services Technical Overview
- Court Integration Services Fast Facts
- Integrated eFiling Services Fast Facts
- Query Services Fast Facts
- Notification Services Fast Facts
- CourtXML Schema and Simple Types

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