



State of Nebraska
District Court of Nebraska
 Fourth Judicial District

JUDGE LEANNE M. SRB
 HALL OF JUSTICE
 OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68183-0410
 402-444-6936
 FAX 402-996-8010

AMANDA VODVARKA
 BAILIFF

MARY MCKEEVER RPR, CRR
 STENOGRAPHER

November 10, 2025

Judicial Resources Commission
 c/o Kara Nielsen
 State Capital Building
 P.O. Box 98910
 Lincoln, NE 68509
 Kara.nielsen@nejudicial.gov

RE: Request to Declare Judicial Vacancy

Dear Justice John R. Freudenberg and Members of the Commission:

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of the request of the Judges of the Fourth Judicial District Court that the Judicial Resources Commission determine the existence of a judicial vacancy in the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District. The vacancy is due to Judge Derek R. Vaughn being appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court effective November 2025. The Judges are requesting that the Judicial Resource Commission add this issue to its Friday, November 21, 2025 annual meeting agenda.

When a Judge is appointed to another bench, other District Judges manage that Judge's cases, in addition to their own cases, until the Judicial Resources Commission declares a vacancy and a Judge is appointed.

Additionally, the 2024 Nebraska Judicial Branch Weighted Caseload Report concluded this District Court has a need for **18.96 judges**. The 2024 Annual Fiscal Year Caseload Report for the Fourth Judicial District Court reflects the existence of over 12,300 cases filed for the 2024 fiscal year. These numbers reflect the trend this judicial district is experiencing in attaining pre-COVID level case filings. By category for fiscal year, 2024 are as follows:

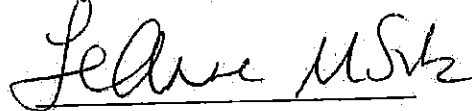
Criminal Felony Class 1:	491
Criminal Other:	3,355
Problem Solving Court:	185
Domestic Relations:	3,760
Protection Orders:	2,344
Civil:	2,094
Appellate Action:	61
Administrative Appeals:	14
TOTAL CASES:	12,304

Accordingly, the Judges of the Fourth Judicial District Court respectfully request that the Judicial Resources Commission declare that a judicial vacancy exists in the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District due to the appointment of Judge Derek R Vaughn to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Please accept this letter as submitted testimony from the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District in support of declaring a vacancy.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Very Sincerely Yours,



LeAnne M. Srb
Presiding Judge
Fourth Judicial District

CC: Judge Peter C. Bataillon
Judge J. Russell Derr
Judge Marlon A. Polk
Judge Timothy P. Burns
Judge Duane C. Dougherty
Judge Kimberly Miller Pankonin
Judge Shelly R. Stratman
Judge Horacio J. Wheelock
Judge James M. Mastellar
Judge Tressa M. Alioth
Judge T. Olon Engleman
Judge Jeffrey J. Lux
Judge Molly B. Keane
Judge Katie L. Benson
Judge Ryan M. Lindberg
Sheri Larsen, Douglas County District Court Administrator