



Hall County Public Defender

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Dear Members of the Judicial Resources Committee,

I am writing to urge the Committee to find that a continued need exists within the 9th Judicial District to fill the vacancy due to Judge Arthur Wetzel's retirement, and if recommendation is made as to the primary office location, that location be Hall County.

While docket numbers may reflect a temporary decrease in pending cases, that snapshot does not accurately reflect the long-term realities of this district and specifically Hall County. In my over twenty years of experience practicing within this judicial district, it has been the norm—rather than the exception—for our County Court Judges to carry substantial and often overwhelming caseloads. In fact, there have been multiple instances in the past where Hall County was required to rely on judges from other districts and Buffalo County to assist with docket management due to volume and scheduling demands.

Based on this historical pattern, I believe the present reduction in numbers is temporary and that case filings will return to what has long been considered “normal” levels for this district. Until any decrease in cases is sustained consistently over several years, it is premature to conclude that the need for this judgeship no longer exists. Maintaining adequate judicial resources is critical to ensuring timely access to justice, efficient case resolution, and fairness for litigants.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee find that with the retirement of Judge Arthur Wetzel, there is a judicial vacancy in the 9th Judicial District and the primary office location for this vacancy should be Hall County. Thank you for your time, careful consideration, and continued service to our judicial system.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vicky A. Kenney".

Vicky A. Kenney
Hall County Public Defender