



Hall County Attorney

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February 12, 2026

Judicial Resources Commission
c/o Nebraska Supreme Court
P.O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: Need for a County Court Judgeship in the Ninth Judicial District – Hall County

Members of the Commission:

I write in support of a determination that a judicial vacancy exists within the Ninth Judicial District and that the position should be filled in **Hall County**.

Hall County is one of the most active and demanding county court jurisdictions in Nebraska. The volume of filings alone places extraordinary pressure on the court, its staff, prosecutors, defense counsel, and law enforcement. Beyond the raw numbers, the *nature* of the caseload further distinguishes Hall County from many other jurisdictions in the state.

According to the Nebraska Judicial Branch's *FY 2025 County Court Annual Caseload Report*, Hall County's county court handled **approximately 13,683 total adult case filings** between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, making it one of the heaviest county court dockets in the state outside of the largest urban counties.

In addition, Hall County bears a large juvenile docket. Again, according to the Nebraska Judicial Branch's *FY 2025 County Court Annual Caseload Report*, Hall County's county court handled **approximately 459 total juvenile case filings** between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, making it one of the heaviest county court dockets in the state outside of the largest urban counties.

A comparison of the 3rd largest (Sarpy County – 213,530 residents), 4th largest (Hall County – 63,291 residents) and 5th largest (Buffalo County – 52,076 residents) counties in Nebraska illustrates that while Hall County's caseload is substantial and well above peer counties and warrants additional judicial resources.

Exhibit 17

Adult County Court / Court Filings (Misd., Traffic, Civil, etc.)	Total Juvenile Filings	Juvenile Abuse/Neglect (3(a)) Filings
13,683 – adult county court filings Hall County (Nebraska Judicial Branch)	397 – county court juvenile filings (Nebraska Judicial Branch)	62 – juvenile 3(a) filings (Nebraska Judicial Branch)
7,976 – adult county court filings Buffalo County (Nebraska Judicial Branch)	230 – county court juvenile filings (Nebraska Judicial Branch)	64 – juvenile 3(a) filings (Nebraska Judicial Branch)
22,952 – adult county court filings (Nebraska Judicial Branch)	~786 – separate juvenile court total (based on Sarpy Separate Juvenile Court FY 2024) (supremecourt.nebraska.gov)	~152 – separate juvenile 3(a) children (total for Sarpy Separate Juvenile Court in FY 2024) (supremecourt.nebraska.gov)

Abuse/neglect cases, status offenses, and juvenile delinquency matters require prompt hearings, intensive judicial oversight, and continuing review. These cases are time-sensitive and emotionally charged, often involving detention decisions, placement issues, and coordination with multiple agencies. The existing judicial resources are stretched thin in attempting to provide the level of supervision and timeliness these families and children deserve.

The county court must also manage substantial civil, small claims, probate, guardianship/conservatorship, and traffic caseloads. Each of these areas carries statutory timelines and public expectations for prompt access to the court. When judicial capacity is limited, scheduling delays inevitably follow, affecting litigants, victims, and attorneys alike.

Grand Island’s role as a regional hub compounds the workload. With major transportation corridors, a large workforce, and a growing and diverse population, Hall County experiences a steady inflow of cases that might otherwise be distributed across smaller communities. Law enforcement activity reflects this reality, and the court’s docket mirrors it.

The demand for judicial services in Hall County consistently exceeds the capacity that can reasonably be absorbed without another judge. Additional judicial resources would:

- improve timely access to hearings and trials,
- reduce backlogs and continuances,
- allow more meaningful attention to juvenile and problem-solving matters,
- enhance consistency in pretrial supervision and compliance, and
- promote overall efficiency for all justice system partners.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to find that a vacancy exists and to authorize that the open county court judgeship be filled in Hall County. Doing so will materially improve the administration of justice for the citizens of the Ninth Judicial District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marty Klein", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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