



Minnesota
State Bar
Association

600 Nicollet Mall
Suite 380
Minneapolis, MN 55402

March 24, 2022

Re: SF4040

Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

The Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) is a voluntary professional association representing 13,000 attorneys statewide. I write to express the MSBA's support for SF4040, in particular sections 1 and 2 of the bill.

Regarding section 1, the MSBA supports eliminating fees for uncertified court documents, which will increase transparency and accessibility. The Judicial Branch has designed a well-functioning, user-friendly records system, and we urge the Legislature to give members of the public free access to uncertified copies of court records.

Section 2 of the bill would allow properly vetted attorneys to access courthouses without any electronic or physical searches. We fully appreciate the need for some level of security screenings in courthouses, but for lawyers, a courthouse is their workplace. We also note that in addition to the background checks required by the legislation, all attorneys undergo a character and fitness evaluation as part of becoming members of the bar. We believe that this and the screening measures required by the bill will ensure a high degree of public safety. We encourage the Legislature to allow lawyers to be pre-screened for courthouse access so they can serve their clients without unnecessary delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Lake", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bryan Lake, MSBA lobbyist