
T H E M I N N E S O T A
C O U N T Y A T T O R N E Y S
A S S O C I A T I O N

January 9, 2023

Senator Erin Murphy
3211 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Murphy:

I write on behalf of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association to express our appreciation for your leadership as Chief Author of SF 33 to support the Attorney General's Budget Request for additional capacity in the Criminal Division. As you know, the Attorney General's Criminal Division plays a critical role in helping County Attorneys across the state in difficult criminal cases when County Attorneys seek that assistance. The Attorney General's office has helped our greater Minnesota County Attorneys in homicide cases but due to the lack of Criminal Division staff has not been able to accept requests for assistance in other cases involving violent crime, white collar crime, financial exploitation, federal habeas corpus petitions, and multi-county prosecutions of drug or human trafficking. The budget request will address the issue of capacity and inadequate Criminal Division resources for the Attorney General to adequately respond to County Attorneys' requests in these difficult cases.

Attorney General Ellison has personally visited with County Attorneys, listened to their concerns and responded to those concerns by including funding for additional resources to gradually build his office's capacity to aid our greater Minnesota County Attorneys enforce the law in their jurisdictions. While our County Attorneys do an admirable job of prosecuting cases typical of their communities, many serve in small offices and, in some cases, with part-time staff. In the rare instance of a serious crime occurring in these greater Minnesota counties, it is often beyond the experience and resources of these small offices to properly prosecute the case. A group of experienced prosecutors from the Attorney General's office to respond to a request for assistance is in the best interests of public safety.

We thank you again for your leadership of this important bill that supports an increase in the Attorney General's budget request.

Thank you for your support of the public safety needs in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Robert Small
Executive Director

cc: Attorney General Ellison

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