

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COURT UNIFICATION PLAN

1. Unification.

The District Courts and the County Courts of the Third Judicial District shall be unified into one trial court, to be known as the District Court.

2. Effective Date.

De facto unification shall be implemented pursuant to the terms hereof effective September 1, 1983.

Unification shall be effective one year following certification to the Secretary of State of this intention to reorganize, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 487.191.

This intention to reorganize shall be certified to the Secretary of State upon 10 days' notice to all judges, only upon the filing of a report to the judiciary committees of the Legislature by the Commission created by Laws 1983, Chapter 359, favorably recommending such reorganization of the trial courts of Minnesota.

This intention to reorganize may be rescinded upon notice to all judges, only in the event the report to the judiciary committees of the Legislature by the Commission created by Laws 1983, Chapter 359, recommends contrary to such reorganization of the trial courts of Minnesota, and then only by action of a majority of the District Judges or a majority of the County Judges taken within 10 days of notice to all judges of the filing of such report.

This intention to reorganize shall be effective in all of its terms upon each judge of the district and his successors.

3. Functional Organization.

The District Court shall be organized into four divisions:

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a. Criminal Division. | c. Family Division.  |
| b. Civil Division.    | d. Probate Division. |

4. Administrative Organization.

For administrative purposes the district shall be divided into four subdivisions:

- a. The Northwest (Rice, Waseca, Steele)
- b. The Southwest (Freeborn and Mower)
- c. The Central (Dodge, Olmsted, Fillmore)
- d. The Eastern (Wabasha, Winona, Houston)

5. Judicial Chambers.

The four subdivisions shall have chambered judges as follows:

- a. The Northwest. . . . .5 judges
- b. The Southwest. . . . .5 judges
- c. The Central. . . . .7 judges
- d. The Eastern. . . . .5 judges

6. Case Assignments.

Division of the caseload shall be determined by the judges in each subdivision, subject to the following:

- a. No judge will provide more than 80% of the judicial service in any one county.
- b. Case assignments shall be made with the objective of having no judge provide more than 80% of the judicial service with respect to the contested cases in any one division.
- c. Any present judge of the district may decline assignment to act in any case involving subject matter or jurisdiction not now regularly or normally assigned to him, except in exigent circumstances when he is satisfied that another judge is not available and that the public interest would not be served.
- d. The procedure for specific case assignments and case scheduling shall be established in each county by the judges serving that county, in cooperation with the Clerk of Court.

7. Administrative Structure.

There shall be a Chief Judge and an Assistant Chief Judge, elected by all of the judges of the district in accordance with current statutes.

The judges of each subdivision may, in their discretion, elect one of their number to serve as the administrative chief for that subdivision, with such title, for such term, and upon such terms and conditions as they shall determine.

8. Meetings.

The judges of the district shall meet quarterly. They shall meet specially upon the call of the Chief Judge or the Assistant Chief Judge.

The judges of each subdivision shall meet upon the call of the administrative chief of that subdivision, or, if there be no administrative chief, upon the call of any of their number.

The judges of each subdivision shall meet upon the call of the Chief Judge or Assistant Chief Judge of the district.

9. Court Reporters.

Each judge may appoint a Court Reporter, in accordance with existing statutes and Court Rules.

10. Law Clerks; Court Services Officers.

Law Clerks and (except in Community Services counties) Court Services Office personnel shall be selected and assigned by the judges in each subdivision.

The number of Law Clerks and Court Services staff persons, and the salaries to be paid to each, shall be determined by the judges in each subdivision, in accordance with existing statutes.

The judges in each subdivision may designate one or more of their number to assume supervisory and/or administrative responsibilities for the Law Clerks and/or for the Court Services staff persons, and to serve as liaison between all such persons and the judges of the subdivision.

11. Seniority.

In all situations where decisions, rights or privileges shall depend upon judicial seniority within the district, seniority shall be established as follows:

a. First, those judges who were District judges as of the date hereof, in order of their seniority as of that date.

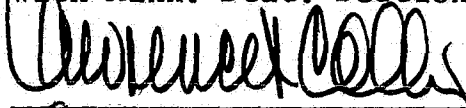
b. Second, and next, those judges who were County judges as of the date hereof, in order of their seniority as of that date.

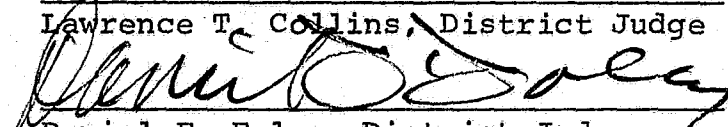
c. Third, and next, those judges who take office, in order, after the date hereof.


STATE OF MINNESOTA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

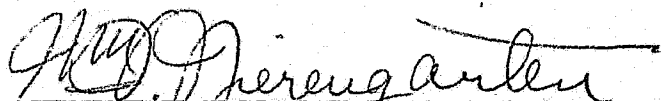
INTENTION TO REORGANIZE

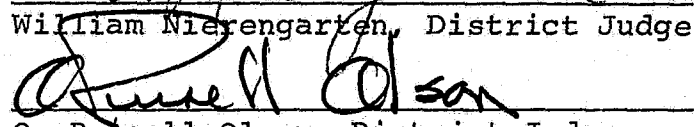
We, the undersigned District Judges and County Judges, respectively, hereby express our intention to reorganize the trial courts of the Third Judicial District into one general trial court to be known as the District Court, pursuant to the following Court Unification Plan and in accordance with Minn. Stat. Section 487.191:

  
Lawrence T. Collins, District Judge

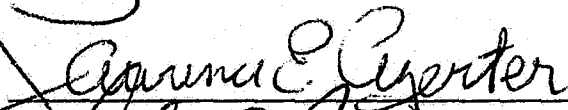
  
Daniel F. Foley, District Judge

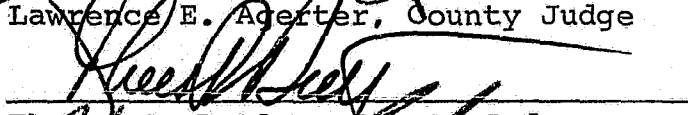
  
James L. Mork, District Judge

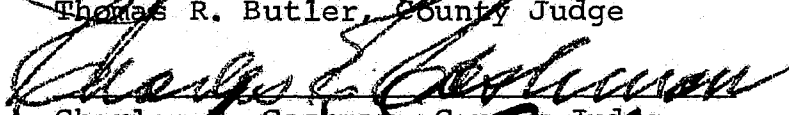
  
William Nierengarten, District Judge

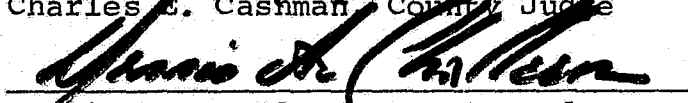
  
O. Russell Olson, District Judge


Urban J. Steimann, District Judge

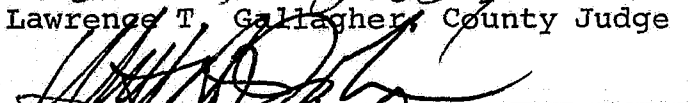
  
Lawrence E. Aderter, County Judge

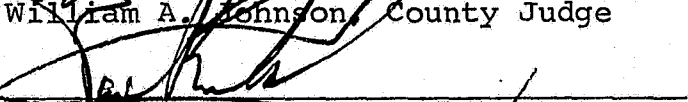
  
Thomas R. Butler, County Judge

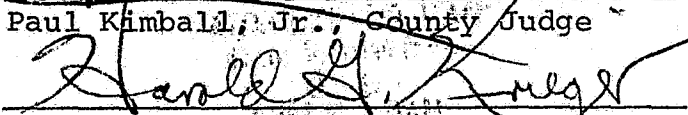
  
Charles E. Cashman, County Judge

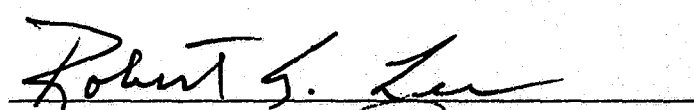
  
Dennis A. Challeen, County Judge

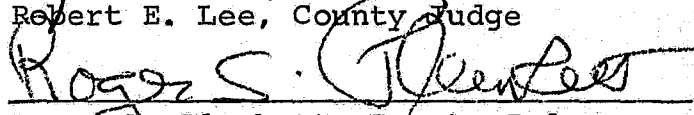
  
Lawrence T. Gallagher, County Judge

  
William A. Johnson, County Judge


  
Paul Kimball, Jr., County Judge

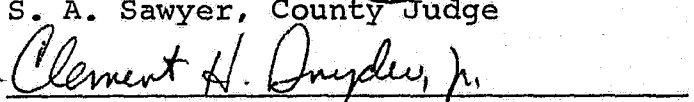
  
Harold G. Krieger, County Judge

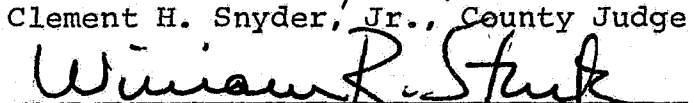
  
Robert E. Lee, County Judge

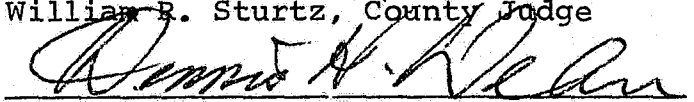
  
Roger S. Plunkett, County Judge

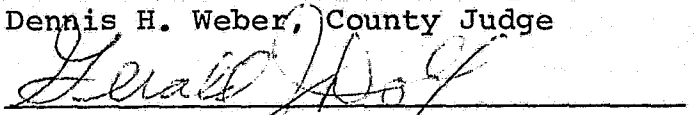
Gerard W. Ring, County Judge

  
S. A. Sawyer, County Judge

  
Clement H. Snyder, Jr., County Judge

  
William R. Sturtz, County Judge

  
Dennis H. Weber, County Judge

  
Gerald J. Wolf, County Judge

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1983.

