



Minnesota  
State Bar  
Association

600 Nicollet Mall  
Suite 380  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

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February 14, 2023

**Re: Judicial Branch Budget Request**

House Judiciary Finance & Civil Law Committee Members:

The Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) is a voluntary professional association representing 13,000 attorneys statewide. The MSBA deeply appreciates the efforts of Chair Becker-Finn and the committee to advance legislation this session that would provide much-needed funding increases for public defenders and civil legal services. Now, as you turn your attention to the Judicial Branch's budget request, we urge you to make necessary investments to ensure that Minnesota's courts can overcome a variety of challenges and continue to be held in high regard.

Courts are a foundational aspect of American life, essential to securing the rule of law and ensuring public safety. After persevering through the Covid-19 pandemic, our court system is faced with recruitment and retention challenges, a pandemic-induced backlog of cases, and ongoing technology needs. The MSBA is confident that properly funded courts could meet those challenges while being careful stewards of taxpayer funds.

Minnesota's justice system allows citizens to peacefully resolve their disputes and protect their rights, families, and businesses. But only an adequately funded court system can provide those opportunities at the level Minnesotans expect and deserve. The MSBA therefore urges you to support the Judicial Branch's budget request, which will help sustain a well-functioning justice system and preserve access to justice for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

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

Bryan Lake, MSBA lobbyist