

February 16, 2025

Paul Sorum
6251 13 Circle S
Fargo, ND 58104
701-219-5601

RE: HCR 3021 Relating to judicial branch and supreme court.

House Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
February 17, 2025 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
327B Room - ND State Capitol

Dear Judiciary Committee Chairman:

Please support HCR 3021. Today, when a district judge or an attorney violates the law or violates our constitutional rights, litigants have no recourse. There is no recourse because the North Dakota Supreme court is in a significant conflict of interest – it regulates and licenses the very attorneys who argue cases in front of them.

The result leaves citizens with no remedy at law when a district judge or an attorney violates the rules of procedure or violates the law because the North Dakota Supreme Court often ignores or goes along with these violations of the rules and the law.

Another affect of the North Dakota Supreme Court's authority over licensed attorneys is when government (state or local) launches a legal assault on a citizen defendant. Such a defendant usually has difficulty hiring an attorney because most North Dakota attorneys will not take a case to defend against the government for fear they will lose their license to practice. This is a sad but true fact.

I have attached a brief in case number Civil No. 53-2023-CV-00400. This case is on remand from the North Dakota Supreme Court. This brief explains the violations of our rights at the hands of the District Judge and the opposing attorney who will not comply with the requirements of the law. The North Dakota Supreme Court ignored historical facts on appeal (they denied that the State of North Dakota owned the bed of all of Lake Sakakawea before N.D.C.C. § 61.33.1 was passed!) The North Dakota Supreme Court also ignored the multiple violations of the rules of procedure, violations of statutes, the many violations of our constitutional rights to due process and equal protection. This system leaves us with no recourse to restore our constitutional rights.

Please vote yes to recommend this much need resolution to fix our judicial system and restore justice to North Dakota.

Thank you,

/s/ Paul J. Sorum