

WALTER L. CAUBLE
CHRISTOPHER L. CAUBLE
RACHELE R. SELVIG

CAUBLE, CAUBLE & SELVIG, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
111 S.E. SIXTH STREET
PO BOX 398
GRANTS PASS, OR 97528

TELEPHONE (541) 476-8825
TOLL FREE (888) 870-8825
FACSIMILE (541) 471-1704

E-mail rselvig@thecaublefirm.com
www.thecaublefirm.com

MAX C. WHITTINGTON

LOUIS F. SCHULTZ, JR.
(1923-2004)

RAYMOND J. SALISBURY
(1925-2009)

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol H-480
Salem, OR 97310

Re: Letter of Support for HB 2605 (New Judgeship for Josephine County)

Dear Chairman Barker,

I write on behalf of the Josephine County Bar Association in support of the creation of a new judgeship in Josephine County pursuant to pending HB 2605.

First, the lack of a sufficient number of judges in Josephine County subjects attorneys and their clients to considerable obstacles in obtaining timely adjudication of disputes. Each week, civil trials are set in third or fourth place behind criminal and juvenile trials which have priority for the Court's time. Since two or three other cases must resolve for every trial date before a civil trial earns its turn, this means that civil trial dates are extremely unreliable. This also means that civil trials are frequently set over. As such, the length of time between initiating a case and reaching trial is often more than two years in Josephine County; other counties staunchly require trial to take place within twelve months of the initiation of the case, but such expediency is almost unheard of here.

Josephine County's shortage of judges also affects the length of time people must wait before hearings to occur and the amount of time the Court can devote to an issue. It is not infrequent for parties to have to wait three months for a hearing date, and for hearings to be set over because the Court has inadequate time to hear the evidence and arguments to be presented.

The amount of time it takes to reach hearing or trial, the lack of dependability for the dates that do get scheduled, and the Court's struggles to find time to adequately consider disputes have a profound impact on the citizens of Josephine County and negatively affect our citizens' respect and belief in our Court. As an attorney practicing in Josephine County and other counties in the state, I see the direct impact of the shortage of judges in Josephine County and the disparity with other counties caused by it every day.

Second, a positive reason to choose Josephine County for a new judgeship is that the courthouse facilities are capable of handling another judge immediately—a courtroom, judge's chambers, and judicial assistant's office are ready and waiting. No alterations or additions are necessary.

Cauble, Cauble & Selvig, LLP
February 9, 2017
The Honorable Jeff Barker
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Page 2

Because our citizens need another judge to help address their disputes in a timely, reliable, and comprehensive manner, and the courthouse is ready to accommodate another judge, the Josephine County Bar Association respectfully supports a new judgeship in Josephine County.

Very truly yours,



CAUBLE, CAUBLE & SELVIG, LLP

Rachele R. Selvig
President, Josephine County Bar Association