

Upper Peninsula Judges Association

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Resolution 0001-2021

Date: May 18, 2021

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 356/HOUSE BILL 4656

The Upper Peninsula Judges Association supports the Senate Bill 356/House Bill 4656, which would restore the 25th Circuit in Marquette County to two judges. Marquette County was served by two Circuit judges for approximately 40 years, until legislation passed in 2011 or 2012 reduced it to one judge by attrition. That reduction took effect on January 1, 2017.

Marquette County serves the most populous county and has the highest caseload in the Upper Peninsula. Since the 2011 legislation, felony cases have more than doubled. The Marquette County judges have worked together to serve all courts through a concurrent jurisdiction plan, but even with cooperation across courts, the caseload has become overwhelming. In addition, the county has also been unable to consider development of a Veterans Court, given the limited judicial resources. As with most counties in the Upper Peninsula, Marquette County has no law clerks, and no quasi-judicial officers to serve the felony docket in Circuit Court. To serve the public and handle the caseload effectively, the 25th Circuit Court needs two judges.

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Upper Peninsula Judges Association supports Senate Bill 356/House Bill 4656.



Honorable Christopher Ninomiya– UPJA President