

District Court of Minnesota
Ninth Judicial District

KOREY WAHWASSUCK
Judge of District Court



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Grand Rapids, MN 55744
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February 9, 2017

Mr. Michael Johnson,
Senior Legal Counsel
State Court Administration
125H Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Public Hearing on Recognition of Tribal Court Orders and Judgments

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Please let this letter serve as my written request to make an oral statement to the Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on General Rules of Practice at the public hearing on March 31, 2017.

Prior to my appointment as a District Court Judge, I served as Tribal Attorney for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for over two years, followed by over seven years as Judge of the Leech Lake Tribal Court. I am a member of the Minnesota State Court/Tribal Court Forum, chair the 9th District Equal Justice Committee and serve as the 9th district representative for the Committee for Equality and Justice; I serve as faculty for the Statewide Children's Justice Initiative ICWA training faculty; I served as a member of the Indian Law & Order Commission's Tribal Advisory Committee; and I formerly served on the Minnesota Supreme Court's Drug Court Initiative, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. I am one of the founding members of the first joint tribal-state jurisdiction Drug/DWI courts in the nation, the Cass County/Itasca County/Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Wellness Courts, and continue to preside over the Itasca County/Leech Lake Wellness Court. I am also a part of Project T.E.A.M. ("Together Everyone Achieves More"), funded through a

Mr. Michael Johnson

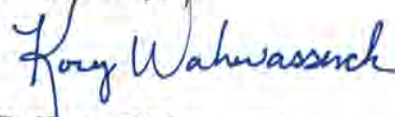
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grant from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to provide training and technical assistance to other jurisdictions wishing to replicate the joint jurisdiction model developed in Minnesota. To date, Project T.E.A.M. has helped establish joint jurisdiction courts in the states of California, Alaska, and we are currently working with Montana to develop a tribal-federal collaboration. I am licensed to practice law in Minnesota, Missouri, and Kansas, and have practiced in tribal courts throughout the country, as well as in federal court.

My professional experience and background working in both tribal courts and state courts, in a variety of capacities and on a wide range of cases, gives me unique insight into both state and tribal jurisprudence. I would be honored to provide information to the committee on why I support the proposed changes to Rule 10. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, or need further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Korey Wahwassuck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Korey Wahwassuck
Judge of District Court

KW:kw