

NO.

8L-511

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

In the Matter of the Redistricting of the County) Petition
Courts of the First Judicial District)

TO THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

The Judicial Planning Committee respectfully reports and recommends to the Supreme Court that it redistrict the county courts of the First Judicial District as follows:

- DISTRICT A: Goodhue County
- DISTRICT B: Dakota County
- DISTRICT C: Scott and Carver Counties
- DISTRICT D: LeSueur, McLeod and Sibley Counties

It is further recommended that the location of chambers of the county court judges within the First Judicial District remain as presently constituted.

DATED:

May 12, 1981

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
JUDICIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

By:



Gerald W. Kalina, Chairman
Redistricting Subcommittee

IN RE: FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

APPENDIX

The Judicial Planning Committee respectfully forwards the "Redistricting Proposal - First Judicial District", prepared by the judges of the First District. This proposal, which sets forth the rationale of the redistricting scheme, has been reviewed and adopted by the Judicial Planning Committee.

REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Judges of the First Judicial District propose that the following county court election districts be established:

- A. Goodhue County
- B. Dakota County
- C. Scott and Carver Counties
- D. LeSueur, McLeod and Sibley Counties

January 26, 1981

Respectfully submitted

Esther S. Feldman
District Administrator
First Judicial District

M E M O R A N D U M
REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The objective of redistricting is supposed to be to improve the quality, the promptness and the efficiency of judicial services for all litigants and all classes of cases.

The litigants, the attorneys and the judges in the First District believe that this objective has been met by the administrative operation of judicial assignments. The Chief Judge, by the authority of M.S.A. 484.69 (3) has issued an order granting all Judges in the First Judicial District the authority and jurisdiction to handle any matter rising in the District in accordance with the calendaring policies of the District. Pursuant to this order, there is regular and frequent inter-change of Judges made between district and county court and across the counties. For all assignment and administrative purposes, the First District has been operating as one unit with coterminous district and county court boundaries.

Although it is efficient and effective to have the ability to assign judges wherever the judicial resources are required, there is adamant opposition to the concept of the county court election boundaries being expanded to be coterminous with the District Court. This opposition is expressed by the attorneys in every county except Dakota. The Judges and attorneys in Goodhue, Scott, Carver, McLeod, LeSueur and Sibley Counties believe that if the county court election boundaries are

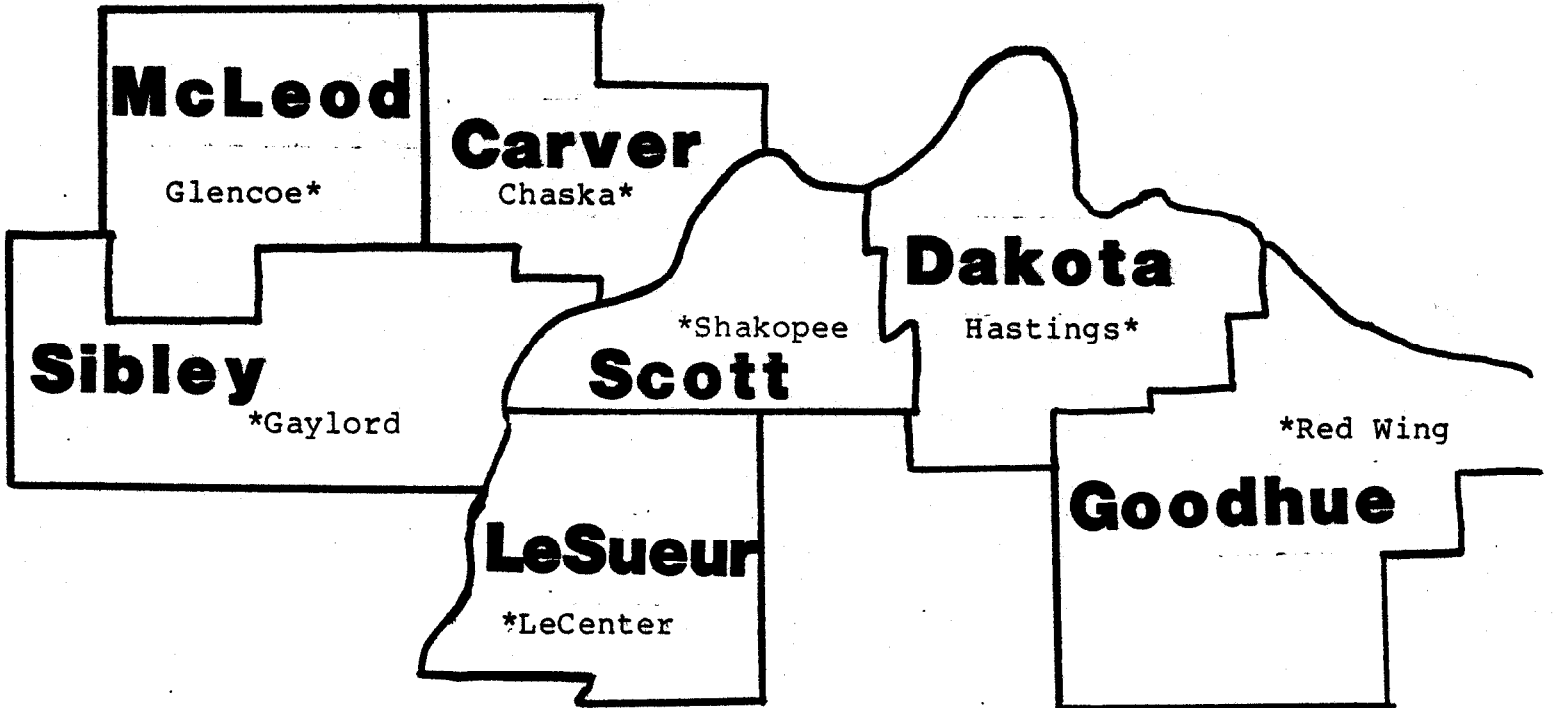
coterminous with election boundaries of the District Court, that the judicial appointments and elections will tend to be concentrated in Dakota County, and that the smaller counties will not have a resident Judge representing their community on the Bench. They state that their belief is based on the fact that 4 of the 5 District Judges reside in Dakota County and that 51% of the District's population is in Dakota County. Therefore, no county in the judicial district deems it appropriate to share an election district with Dakota County. During the process of determining a redistricting proposal, the Judges attempted to include the characteristics the Redistricting Committee recommended for inclusion in any proposed plan:

- A. County Court districts to contain at least 3 county court judges.
- B. Each County Court Judge should serve a population of 20,000 to 25,000.

The Judges determined that in order to avoid sharing an election district with Dakota County and to include both of the above mentioned characteristics in a Redistricting Proposal resulted in Goodhue County being in an election district with a non-contiguous county or counties. The Judges deemed it preposterous to have Goodhue County in an election district with no common boundary. Therefore, the Judges of the First Judicial District propose the following Redistricting Plan:

- A. Goodhue County
- B. Dakota County
- C. Scott and Carver Counties
- D. LeSueur, McLeod and Sibley Counties

REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL
 FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



	<u>PROPOSED ELECTION DISTRICTS</u>			
	A	B	C	D
COUNTIES	GOODHUE	DAKOTA	SCOTT & CARVER	LESUEUR, MCLEOD AND SIBLEY
POPULATION*	38,735	194,252	80,505	68,492
# COUNTY JUDGES	1	5	4	3
# PEOPLE PER JUDGE	38,735	38,850	20,126	22,830

*State Demographer's preliminary 1980 census figures.