



LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE TRIBAL COURT

Paul Day, Chief Judge
Megan Treuer, Deputy Judge
Dynell Morris, Court Clerk
Tom Dahl, Judicial Law Clerk

Vacant, Associate Judge
Jacquelyn Wright, Court Administrator
Amanda Richardson, Court Clerk

March 3, 2021

House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee
Attn: Chair Becker-Finn and Minority Lead Peggy Scott

Re: Civil Legal Services Funding

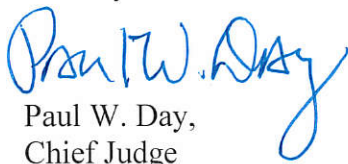
Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Minority Lead Scott,

I am writing in support of fully funding the appropriation request made by Civil Legal Services for the upcoming biennium. As Chief Judge of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court, I regularly have civil legal aid attorneys appearing in cases before me. Attorneys from Anishinabe Legal Services and Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota are professional, well-skilled, and provide zealous advocacy for their clients. The majority of attorneys providing representation to individuals before the Leech Lake Tribal Court come from civil legal aid programs.

As Chief Judge and as a former civil legal aid program Executive Director, I am aware of the great importance of civil legal aid to our community, and to the entire state of Minnesota. Civil legal aid helps to close the justice gap, promote family safety, ensure individuals' basic needs are met, and helps the Court system operate more effectively and efficiently.

Due to resource limitations, civil legal aid is not able to meet the enormous demand for their services, and is not able to offer competitive salaries relative to other public sector law firms. It is important to fund civil legal aid I support and encourage fully funding their request.

Thank you.


Paul W. Day,
Chief Judge