



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

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Hon. Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 20-04

DATE: March 9, 2020

TO: All Justices and Judges
Non-Judicial Court Personnel

FROM: Randy R. Koschnick, Director of State Courts

SUBJECT: 2019 Act 184, Judgeship Bill

On March 5, 2020 the Governor signed 2019 Act 184 into law, which gives the Director of State Courts the authority to create twelve new circuit court branches over the next three years. The law requires demonstrated judicial need, a county board resolution, and the necessary infrastructure to support an additional circuit court branch, or that such infrastructure will be established by May 31 of the year in which the new judge is seated.

Calumet, Dunn, Jackson, and Marathon counties have significant judicial need, county board support, and all have facilities ready to support an additional branch. These four counties have been selected to receive a new circuit court branch effective August 1, 2021.

Act 184 requires the naming of the next four counties after November 14, 2020. Before selecting any additional counties, the Director of State Courts' Office will assess the continued partnership in regard to court commissioners, work with local officials, judges, and the district court administrators, to ensure the county meets the statutory requirements for a new circuit court branch.

Eau Claire, Langlade, Vilas, and Waushara counties are being considered for a new circuit court branch effective August 1, 2022. These four counties have demonstrated judicial need, county board resolutions of support, and a commitment to have facilities ready before the statutory deadline of May 31, 2022. Counties unable to meet these requirements in a timely manner will be removed from consideration.

Act 184 requires the naming of the final four counties after November 14, 2021. It is anticipated, based on the above requirements that Adams, Clark, Manitowoc, and Sawyer counties will be selected as the remaining four counties.

If you have any questions regarding Act 184, please contact your district court administrator or Tyler Brandt (tyler.brandt@wicourts.gov).