



COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. ONE

Collin County, Texas
Judge Corinne Mason
2100 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 20364
McKinney, TX 75071
972-548-3860

June 26, 2015

Bill Bilyeu
2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192
McKinney, TX 75071

Re: Start date for County Court at Law Number Seven

Dear Bill:

I am writing to request that the Commissioners consider staffing County Court at Law Number Seven as soon as it is established in September of this year. Back in the spring when we formally requested the new court, we were actually already in need of one court and seriously close to needing a second. We have continued to fall behind on the disposition of cases and each month we get further behind.

There is a precedent for staffing a court prior to the actual judge being elected. Both Judge Walker and Judge Rippel had their courts up and running prior to them taking the bench. While Judge Walker's staff, held over once Judge Lewis retired, Judge Rippel's court was staffed with new hires for the positions of court administrator and court reporter. A visiting judge was used for each of the courts, the sheriff provided the bailiffs, and the County Clerk provided the civil and criminal clerks. The new employees were hired collectively by the County Court Judges with the understanding that their positions were temporary and not guaranteed. There was no shortage of applicants for these jobs.

Both Judge Rippel and Judge Walker reported that they were grateful to come into courts that were already established and functioning. After visiting with Stacey Kemp she also expressed her desire to have the time to get the new court staffed with a civil and criminal clerk as soon as possible. In addition, if the new court is established in September, it will allow the other county courts time to divide their caseloads, have the cases transferred to the new court, and have the dockets ready to go immediately once the new judge is elected.

Staffing Court Seven as soon as it is established in September would make the transition of the new court more effective for all those involved. Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Corinne Mason
Local Administrative Judge
County Courts at Law

cc: Judge Barnett Walker, Judge Lance Baxter, Judge David Rippel, Judge Dan Wilson, Judge Jay Bender