

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2004 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Marti Crow- excused
Representative Dan Williams- excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes
Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Doug Sebelius, Attorney, Norton, Kansas

The hearing on **HB 2495 - eliminating the requirement of one judge per county, reassignment based on caseload as determined by the Supreme Court**, continued.

Doug Sebelius, Attorney, Norton, Kansas, opposed the proposed bill. He stressed that each county has always had, in some form, one judge per county to make decisions in that county each day. If access to the courts are lost, it denies people justice. He believes that District Magistrate Judges can handle 80 percent of all cases.

Representative Davis questioned if Mr. Sebelius would support keeping one judge in each county while eliminating a judge in counties where there were two assigned. He responded at least it would be preserving the one judge per county promise.

The hearing on **HB 2495** was closed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2004.