

**AGENDA**

Eau Claire County

• **Committee on Administration** •

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Courthouse - Room #1278

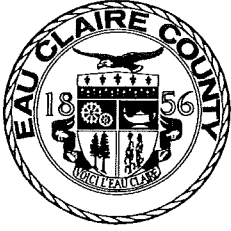
721 Oxford Avenue • Eau Claire

1. Call meeting to order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Public Comment
3. Resolution 19-20/118 – Affirming the County Board’s commitment to build and complete the construction of the 6<sup>th</sup> courtroom by May 31, 2022 – **Discussion/Action**
4. Adjourn

*Next Regular Meeting – April 14, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.*

Prepared by: Samantha Cole

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839- 6945 (FAX) 8391669 or (TDD) 8394735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.



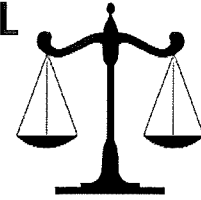
**CORPORATION COUNSEL**

*Timothy J. Sullivan*

**OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL**

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
721 OXFORD AVE., SUITE 3520  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703**

PH: (715) 839-4836 Fax: (715) 839-6243



**ASSISTANT  
CORPORATION COUNSEL**

*Sharon G. McIlquham  
Richard A. Eaton  
Charles R. Ellefsen, III*

March 11, 2020

**FACT SHEET 19-20.118**

This resolution authorizes moving forward with the construction of the 6<sup>th</sup> courtroom, in the space located on the second floor of the courthouse that was formerly the county board room.

On March 9, 2020, the Director of State Courts announced 12 counties that will receive new circuit court judge spread out over a three-year period. Eau Claire County provisionally was considered to be in the second group of counties because we 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.” The second group of counties will be formally announced after November 14, 2020. In order for Eau Claire County to remain in the second group of counties to receive a new circuit court judge we will need to demonstrate a commitment to have the courtroom facilities completed prior to the May 31, 2022 deadline. This resolution states Eau Claire County’s commitment to have the courtroom and facilities completed and ready prior to May 31, 2022.

Attached is a copy of the letter from the Director of State Courts.

Timothy J. Sullivan  
Corporation Counsel



# Supreme Court of Wisconsin

DIRECTOR OF STATE COURTS

P.O. BOX 1688

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

Patience D. Roggensack  
Chief Justice

16 East State Capitol  
Telephone 608-266-6828  
Fax 608-267-0980

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](mailto:tyler.brandt@wicourts.gov)).

2  
3 AFFIRMING THE COUNTY BOARD'S COMMITMENT TO BUILD AND COMPLETE  
4 THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> COURTROOM BY MAY 31, 2022.  
5  
6

7 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is one of several counties that has been in consideration by  
8 the Wisconsin Legislature and Supreme Court for the creation of an additional branch of the circuit  
9 court. The Eau Claire County Board County Board has already budgeted the necessary funds and  
10 designated space, the old county board room on the second floor of the courthouse, to be converted  
11 into the a Branch 6 courtroom; and,  
12

13 WHEREAS, the construction of the 6<sup>th</sup> courtroom was previously placed on hold by the  
14 County Board pending the decision of the legislature to fund additional judges, and the Supreme  
15 Court naming Eau Claire County as one of the counties to receive and additional judge; and,  
16

17 WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, and consistent with 2019 Act 184, the Supreme Court of  
18 Wisconsin through the Director of State Courts, announced the names of 12 counties that are in line  
19 to receive an additional circuit court branch, spread out over 3 years. It was announced that Four  
20 counties will receive a new judge in the year 2021, four counties will be named after November  
21 2020 for the year 2022, and four counties will be named after November 2021 for the year 2023:  
22 and,  
23

24 WHEREAS, Eau Claire was one of the four counties that were named as being considered  
25 for a new circuit court branch effective August 1, 2022. In doing so the Director of State Courts  
26 stated: "The four counties named have demonstrated judicial need, county board resolutions of  
27 support and a commitment to have facilities ready before the statutory deadline of May 31, 2022.  
28 Counties unable to meet these requirements in a timely manner will be removed from  
29 consideration;" and,  
30

31 WHEREAS, in order for Eau Claire County to remain in the second group of four  
32 counties to receive an additional circuit court branch in 2022 it will need to show a commitment  
33 to and the completion of the courtroom and the facilities for a 6<sup>th</sup> courtroom prior to May 31,  
34 2022.  
35

36 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors  
37 approves the expenditure of the necessary funds, including those that were previously segregated  
38 and placed on hold for the planning and construction of a new courtroom and the facilities  
39 needed for a Circuit Court Branch 6, to be located on the second floor of the Courthouse in the  
40 space previously designated as the county board room; and,  
41

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors  
43 authorizes moving forward with the development of architectural plans and the construction of  
44 the 6<sup>th</sup> courtroom and facilities with all factors in the timing of the construction being considered  
45 such that the courtroom and facilities will be fully completed and ready prior to the May 31,  
46 2022 deadline imposed by the Director of State Courts so as to allow the County to remain on the  
47 list for consideration for an additional judge in the year 2022; and,  
48

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded by the  
50 County Clerk to the Five Circuit Court Judges of Eau Claire County, and Randy R. Koschnick,  
51 Director of State Courts, Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20

ADOPTED:

---

---

---

---

---

---

Committee on Administration

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.