



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 3086</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Judiciary</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/6/2026 11:27 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am in Support of this Bill for an additional Associate Circuit Judge for Miller County. I would like to see an Amendment that instead of the Governor Appointing this Judge, that the Newly Created Seat be Elected by the Voters of Miller County.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANIELLE DRAKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:43 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

My name is Danielle Drake and I am a lawyer who practices primarily in the 26th Circuit, particularly in Camden and Miller Counties the most often. We are desperate need for an additional judge in this County for cases to be able to be heard. It is often months before we can get any hearings, even when the issues truly are emergency cases of custody or property issues. The impact it has on our clients is detrimental and often the wait times for trials are 6 months in advance. The amount of litigation that is contested in Miller County creates a high-level need that doesn't necessarily equate to the size of the county in terms of population. This would be a much-needed reprieve for our county.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GERARD "JAY" HARMS JR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 8:06 AM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

HB 3086 authorizes the creation of an additional associate circuit judge position in Miller County within the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit. The bill explicitly provides that this judgeship shall not be included in the statutory formula used to determine when additional associate circuit judges are authorized under §478.320, RSMo.

Missouri law already establishes a uniform framework for evaluating judicial need through the statewide judicial workload formula. That system exists to ensure that expansions of the judiciary are based on measurable case volume, objective workload analysis, and consistent statewide standards rather than circuit-specific statutory exceptions.

HB 3086 authorizes a new judgeship while simultaneously exempting that position from the formula designed to determine whether additional judicial capacity is warranted. When new judgeships are created outside the existing workload framework, it raises important questions regarding transparency, consistency in judicial resource allocation, and adherence to the system the legislature has already established for evaluating judicial need.

Before authorizing additional judicial positions through statutory carve-outs, it would be important for the legislature to review the relevant workload data for the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit and determine whether the circuit's caseload meets the criteria established under §478.320.

Judicial expansion should be guided by objective workload analysis applied consistently across all circuits. Authorizing new judgeships while exempting them from that analysis risks undermining the uniform process Missouri has established to determine when additional judicial resources are justified.

For these reasons, HB 3086 warrants careful reconsideration.

**Legislative Notice:**

HB 3086 creates an additional associate circuit judge position while expressly excluding that position from the judicial workload formula established under §478.320, RSMo. Because Missouri law provides a uniform framework for evaluating the need for additional judges based on objective caseload and workload metrics, legislative consideration should include whether the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit has been evaluated under those standards and whether the available workload analysis supports the creation of an additional judgeship.

Missouri already has a statutory system designed to determine when additional judges are necessary.

**Creating new judgeships while exempting them from that system undermines the purpose of the formula itself.**