

John N. Claussen Attorney At Law



PO Box 2239, Terre Haute, IN 47802
812-299-1900

Divorce, Child Custody, Criminal Law & Expungement

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Interim Study Committee on
Courts and the Judiciary Representative

Dear Senators,

I am delighted for the opportunity to express my opinion with regard to the Vigo County Courts and I'd like to express my firm support in adding an additional Superior Court to Vigo County. Over the last two to three years, there has seemingly been a substantial increase in the Juvenile Court docket. While the magistrate and staff have done an excellent job in navigating the caseload, many times I have found that even when a "short" continuance is needed, a case may be pushed out for the better part of a year, due to docket congestion. CHINS matters take priority over other matters, leaving very little time for other juvenile cases, such as high conflict custody cases. This causes significant delay in getting cases resolved which, as a result, leaves many families without closure for extended periods of time.

An additional court would be of monumental benefit in freeing up the Juvenile Court docket, allowing for more flexibility in scheduling hearings on emergency matters, high conflict custody matters as well as CHINS matters. It would also ensure more timely resolution in these cases.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

/s/ John N. Claussen

CLAUSSEN LAW OFFICE
PO BOX 2239
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47802
John@claussenlawoffice.com
812-299-1900