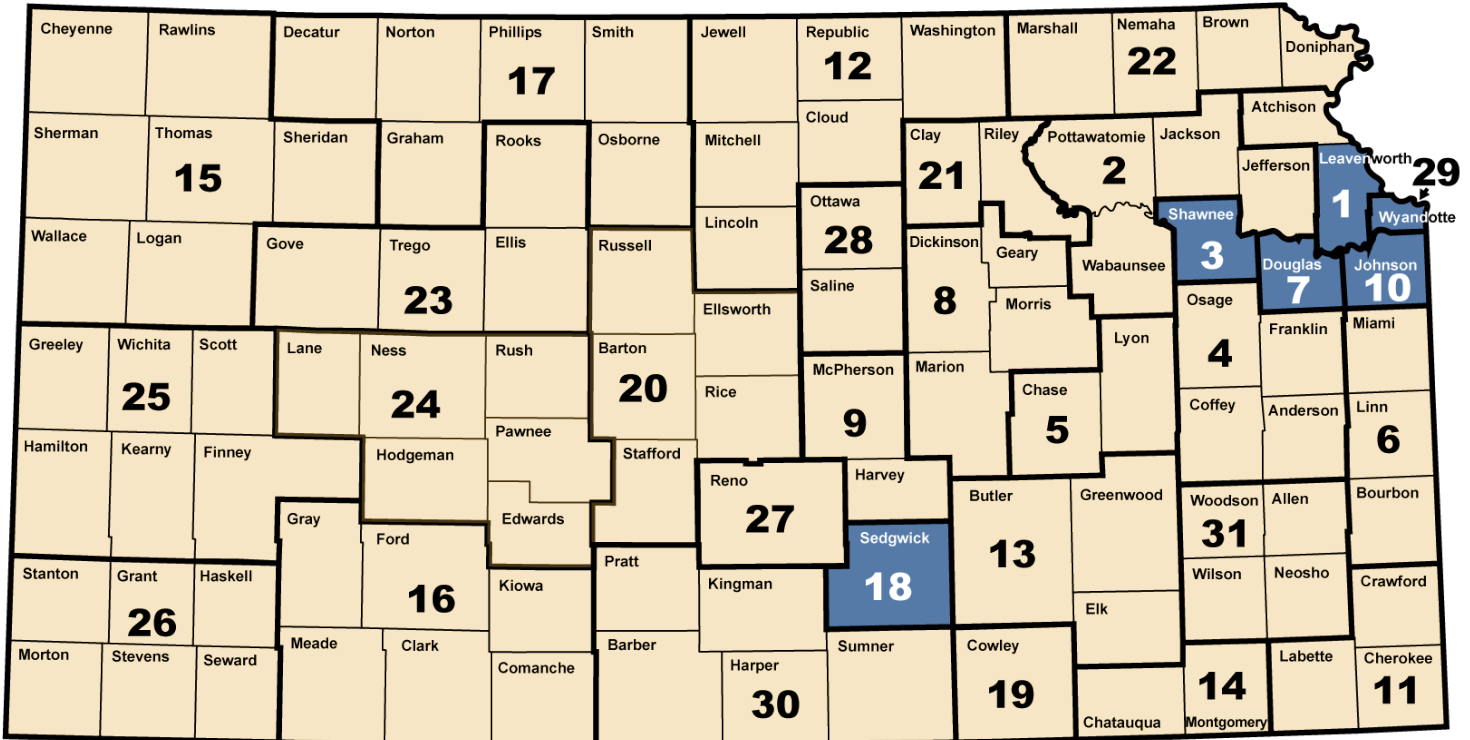




KANSAS Rural Justice Initiative

Examining unmet legal needs across rural Kansas

11-30-22



Darkened counties show where 80% of Kansas attorneys live. The same counties are home to 50% of Kansans. Counties are grouped by judicial district.

7980
active
practicing
attorneys

80%
attorneys
living in
6 counties

1578
attorneys in
99 counties

2.9
million
Kansans

50%
Kansans
living in
6 counties

1.25
million
Kansans in
99 counties

Rural Justice Committee Charge

Within 18 months of the Supreme Court order creating the Kansas Rural Justice Initiative Committee, the committee will deliver a report with initial recommendations to the Supreme Court.

As part of its report, the committee will:

- Collect information and data about unmet legal needs across rural Kansas, including considerations for rural counties with different population densities.
- Study pertinent statistical trends related to Kansas' population and demographics, including those specific to attorneys and other professionals

who support court and court-adjacent programs.

- Study rural incubator programs directed at professionals, including programs highlighted by the National Center for State Courts Rural Justice Collaborative, to determine whether those programs or elements of them may be useful to a coordinated Kansas effort.
- Examine court-based and court-adjacent programs used in other states to bolster availability of attorney services in rural areas.
- Identify strategies to provide attorney services remotely in rural areas.

- Examine existing rural attorney recruitment projects in Kansas to make recommendations for supporting and expanding those projects.
- Identify options for using nontraditional means to resolve legal issues in rural environments, including alternative dispute resolution.
- Assess judicial best practices that facilitate meeting legal needs across Kansas and identify impediments to implement those best practices.
- Recommend any necessary changes in law, regulation, or rule to improve attorney service availability in rural Kansas.

Kansas Rural Justice Initiative Committee Members

Justice K.J. Wall, chair
Kansas Supreme Court

Judge Kim R. Schroeder
Kansas Court of Appeals

Chief Judge Daniel Creitz
31st Judicial District

Chief Judge Kevin Berens
15th Judicial District

District Judge Tom Drees
23rd Judicial District

District Judge Richard Marquez
25th Judicial District

District Magistrate Judge Regine Thompson
12th Judicial District

Senator Elaine Bowers
District 36

Representative Tory Blew
District 112

Stephen Angermayer
Attorney, Pittsburg

Paige Bangerter
Attorney, Dodge City

Andrew Bolton
Attorney, Louisburg

Stacey Blakeman
Assistant Dean of Career Services
University of Kansas

Ashley Comeau
Attorney, Plainville

Alan Cobb
Kansas Chamber of Commerce

Aaron Cunningham
Attorney, Hays

Timothy Demel
Attorney, Beloit

Shirley Fessler
Director of Outreach and Accessibility
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and
Domestic Violence

Wendee Grady
Assistant General Counsel
Director of Legal Foundation
Kansas Farm Bureau

Marilyn Harp
Executive Director
Kansas Legal Services

Joslyn Kusiak
Attorney, Independence

Shawn Leisinger
Associate Dean for Centers and External
Programs / Externship Director
Washburn University School of Law

Angela Meyer
Attorney, Pittsburg

Joshua Ney
Jefferson County Attorney

Charles Peckham
Attorney, Atwood

Trisha Purdon
Office of Rural Prosperity
Kansas Department of Commerce

Brad Ralph
Attorney, Dodge City

David Rebein
Attorney, Dodge City

Wendy Rohleder-Sook
Assistant Professor of Political Science
and Director of Pre-Law / Legal
Studies Fort Hays State University

Ann Sagan
Director of Special Projects
Kansas Board of Indigents' Defense
Services

Sally Shattuck
Attorney, Ashland

Brien Stockman
Attorney and Dane G. Hansen
Foundation Representative

Etta Walker
Attorney, Sharon Springs

Jake Worcester
Kansas 4-H Foundation

Jill Zimmerman
Kansas Agriculture and Rural
Leadership Program