

## Judicial Circuit Redistricting Issue

AOC Announcement:

[http://courts.ky.gov/Documents/JudicialRedistricting/NR\\_Redistrictingannouncement\\_122016.pdf](http://courts.ky.gov/Documents/JudicialRedistricting/NR_Redistrictingannouncement_122016.pdf)

Redistricting Plan:

<http://courts.ky.gov/Documents/JudicialRedistricting/KYJudicialRedistrictingPlan.pdf>

Minton Remarks to Legislature's State Government Committee – October 2016

<http://courts.ky.gov/Documents/Newsroom/CJremarksStateGovCmte102616.pdf>

### Brief Overview:

Martin County is currently a member of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit – The “Big Sandy” Circuit - with Johnson and Lawrence Counties. Chief Justice Minton’s current proposal to the legislature removes Martin from the Big Sandy Circuit and places it an hour away with Pike County in the 35<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

County Bar Associations, Local Governments, and Business leaders in Martin, Johnson and Lawrence Counties unanimously and **strongly** object to this change.

### Issue Points:

*“The [Judicial Workload Assessment] committee [JWAC] overwhelmingly voted for what has come to be known as “Plan A,” which the Supreme Court will consider during a meeting in early November.”*

*– Chief Justice Minton in legislative committee comments, October 2016.*

- In November, the Supreme Court ignored the work of the JWAC by going against the original “Plan A” proposal to keep the 24<sup>th</sup> Circuit intact.
- The Supreme Court arbitrarily made revisions to “Plan A” proposal – which was overwhelmingly supported by judges, prosecutors and practitioners – ostensibly to preserve a judicial circuit in the home county of Supreme Court Justice Sam Wright. Better, more appropriate alternatives to redistricting were reflected in “Plan A”.
- Since the Supreme Court ignored the “overwhelming” support of the committee created by Chief Justice Minton to study the issue, **this proposal is not ready to be made into law.**
- This proposal is incomplete and not ready. **NO LEGISLATIVE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN** on the Judicial Plan until the Judicial Workload Assessment Committee’s overwhelming choices can be reflected in the proposal.

**BY THE NUMBERS:**

<b>By the Numbers:</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Circuit</b>	<b>Family</b>
<b>"Plan A" – Big Sandy Circuit</b>			
Existing 24 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Need:	1.45	1.15	1.28
Current Judges:	2	1	1
<i>Judicial Capacity currently consumed, as a %</i>	27.5%	-15%	-28%
<b>Minton Plan</b>			
Need in New 24 <sup>th</sup> Circuit:	1.15	0.93	0.91
Judges Proposed in 24 <sup>th</sup> :	1	1	1
<i>Wasted excess judicial capacity in new 24<sup>th</sup> Circuit</i>	-15%	7%	9%
Need in New 35 <sup>th</sup> Circuit:	1.82	1.6	1.46
Judges Proposed in 35 <sup>th</sup> :	2	2	2
<i>Wasted excess judicial capacity in new 35<sup>th</sup> Circuit</i>	9%	20%	27%

**CURRENT 24<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT – The Big Sandy Circuit**

- All 3 county seats in the Big Sandy area - Martin, Johnson and Lawrence counties - are all accessible to each other within a 20-30 minute drive on four-lane highway, making the courts readily accessible to all.
- The Big Sandy Circuit Mirrors historical economic trends of local commerce in the Big Sandy Region between Inez, Paintsville and Louisa.
- Judicial Caseloads from the NSCS study support leaving the Big Sandy Circuit intact.





