

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 1:15 p.m. on April 5, 2000 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Dave Gregory - Excused  
Representative Andrew Howell - Excused  
Representative Tom Klein - Excused  
Representative Candy Ruff - Excused  
Representative Jonathan Wells - Excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Honorable Patrick Brazil, Chief Judge, Kansas Court of Appeals

Hearings on **HB 3051 - Increasing the Court of Appeals to 14 Judges, increasing by one each year to 2003**, were opened.

Honorable Patrick Brazil, Chief Judge, Kansas Court of Appeals, appeared in support of the proposal. He expressed that there was a serious need to add to the Court of Appeals. It's time for the Legislature to address the needs of the Court.

He informed the committee that it's been 13 years since the court was expanded. They have continually relied on the use of district court judges (30 - 40 each year) to augment their panels so they can handle the number of cases filed each year. Having the district court judges sit on the Court it has caused them to have a backlog of cases. (Attachment 1)

The Kansas Bar Association & Kansas Trial Lawyers Association did not appear before the committee but provided written testimony supporting the bill. (Attachments 2 & 3)

Hearings on **HB 3051** were closed.

**HB 3051 - Increasing the Court of Appeals to 14 Judges, increasing by one each year to 2003**

Representative Carmody made the motion to report HB 3051 favorably for passage. Representative Crow seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.