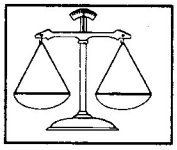
Leo Dobrovolny, District Judge
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court Reporter
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November 4, 2026

As one of the District Judges in the 12th Judicial District which includes Banner County, I offer some insight into the need for District Court Clerk services in Banner County. Most of my cases are in Scotts Bluff County, but I serve the entire district (the panhandle plus Grant County) and will on occasion preside over a Banner County case. I have served as a district judge in the 12th district for 19 years.

As a judge, my main concern with the Clerk of the Court is that the Clerk's office and the judges have a strong line of communication and establish procedures consistent with existing laws and operating rules. We strive to have the courts in each county seat operate in similar fashion, as all four district judges frequently handle cases all over the district.

District Court has some marked differences from County Court, both in terms of cases which each has jurisdiction of, and how files are kept and information is processed and retained.

Dianne Lana is a skilled and respected Clerk Magistrate who I have known for many years and occasionally work with on cases that move between our courts. I have no doubt she would have the capability to administer district court matters in Banner County, given time and training.

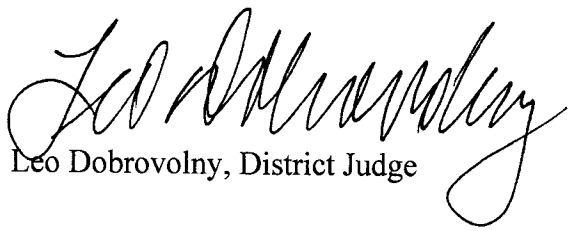
My understanding is that Darla Simpson, the Clerk of the District Court for Scotts Bluff County, has been serving in the role of Deputy District Court Clerk for Banner County pursuant to a resolution by your Board. She and I talk several times each day coordinating the business of the Court. Needless to say, there is no learning curve as she has been doing this job for over ten years. I believe she remains willing to continue her current arrangement serving Banner County. As far as I know, the current arrangement is working well for all involved with the courts.

I also have concern with supervisory administration located in Lincoln, consisting of state government rather than county government. The Clerk of the District Court, as we know, is an elected county official. While there is legal authority to have the job performed by someone other than an elected county official, I fear that procedures different than what we use now would be implemented without much local input.

When I came to western Nebraska (Alliance) from Omaha 47 years ago, not long after I heard a phrase told to me by a rancher from Antioch, Nebraska. It makes sense and I use it often. That

phrase is: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

I am willing to try and answer questions if there are any.



Leo Dobrovolny, District Judge