

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Hon. John E. Barker, Chair
Hon. Charles Macheers, Vice Chairman
Hon. John Carmichael, R.M. Member

March 5, 2015
3:30 p.m.
Room 112-N

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2112

Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members, please accept this written testimony in support of HB 2112.

My name is John Purvis and I am a practicing attorney in the Kansas 8th Judicial District. My home and office are in Abilene, where I also serve as President of the Dickinson County Bar Association.

The practice of law has changed over the last decade with the advent of electronics and the ways in which we process and use data. Instead of photos developed by dropping off film, and motions typed with carbon paper, we are using video taken on a small cell phone, and using computers with data projectors, to show judges and juries, in full graphic detail, what we are presenting.

Our Law Library is a very important resource for our local Bar and the general public. Funds for that should remain in place.

There are, however, major deficiencies in many courtrooms related to the operations of that court. These deficiencies can work against the public's access to justice. Defendants take photos and video of everything. It is common for them to video as they are attacked during a domestic violence crime. Their access to justice is hindered if the courtroom is not equipped to download and show an electronic video file. It is also common for people to be threatened using e-mail or text messages.

In many courtrooms the audio system is so poor you cannot hear the other party. Our population is aging which shows that quality audio and video facilities are important.

Allowing additional courtroom uses for the fund makes good sense. I urge the committee to pass this bill because it allows the local people to improve their courtroom facilities if there are funds available once the law library is supported. We are asking for the ability to be good stewards of the funds and court facilities in our county.

Thank you for your consideration.

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