



THE SUPREME COURT OF MINNESOTA
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER
25 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

CHAMBERS OF
A. M. KEITH
CHIEF JUSTICE

January 29, 1993

(612) 297-5454

Senator Gene Merriam
Minnesota Senate
122 Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Merriam:

As you may recall, \$10,000 was appropriated to the Supreme Court to study the need for a business court (1991 Laws, Chapter 345, Article I, Sec. 3). My staff surveyed state court systems nationally to determine the extent and nature of specialized court processes for business litigation. I have consulted with other members of the Supreme Court; judges on the Hennepin County bench (where most of the large commercial litigation is tried); the Conference of Chief Judges, representing all trial courts statewide; and the lawyers who supported the business court concept.

Based on the analysis of the information gathered, the Supreme Court has concluded that many of the concerns raised by the business court proponents could be addressed administratively, while others would not be solved by creating a new specialized court. As you know, the creation of a new, specialized court runs counter to the structural reforms of the state court system which the legislature and judiciary have jointly worked to accomplish over the past 20 years.

The Court having examined the need for a business court and after consultation with concerned individuals, does not require the monies appropriated. This is to advise you that I have directed my staff to cancel the \$10,000 appropriation to the general fund.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. M. Keith".

A. M. Keith
Chief Justice

sjr