

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for  
JUSTICE SYSTEM  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Date:** March 5, 2002

**Place:** Rm 24

**Convened:** 9:35 AM

**Recessed:**

**Reconvened:**

**Adjourned:** 10:50 AM

**Present:** Senators Angelo-CH, McKean-VC, Dvorsky-RM, Fraise, Maddox  
Representatives Horbach-CH, Eichhorn-VC, Bell-RM, Cormack, Jacobs, Larkin, Manternach,  
Richardson, Shey, Tremmel

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

Representative Horbach called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum established.

Representative Eichhorn moved to pass the minutes from the last meeting. The motion carried.

Representative Horbach recognized Chief Justice Louis Lavorato of the Iowa Supreme Court for a discussion of the court's budget. Chief Justice Lavorato thanked the committee for inviting him. He then discussed the steps he felt were needed to balance the court's budget and streamline the court system. He discussed that the courts were doing as much as they could with the resources available to them. He addressed the misconceptions surrounding clerk of court offices and the weighted caseload formula which was applied to each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties. He reiterated that the clerk of court offices will not consolidate. All ninety-nine will remain open.

Chief Justice Lavorato expressed his concern for court's budget in light of recent cuts and especially for fiscal year 2003.

Questions followed.

A handout on the weighted caseload formula was distributed.

Representative Horbach recognized Chief Justice Lavorato for final comments. Chief Justice Lavorato thanked the committee again for their time.

Representative Horbach recognized Beth Lenstra of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau for comments on changes the LFB would like to make to the bill shell.

Representative Cormack moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Beth Danzer, Chair's Secretary