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Governor Tim Walz
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Suite 130
St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: tim.walz@state.mn.us

RE: Essential Legal Services During COVID-19 Restrictions

Dear Governor Walz:

The Minnesota Association for Justice extends our thanks and appreciation to you and your administration for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. The thoughtful and collaborative approach taken to this unprecedented health and economic crisis has given Minnesotans much needed confidence in our government.

As the situation unfolds and you are mandated to consider further restrictions on our business and personal interactions, we would like to add our voice to those organizations asking that you designate legal services as an essential business enterprise. Making certain our citizens can protect their constitutional and legal rights during a crisis is a core function of government - possibly even more so during a crisis when our persons and property face heightened risk.

It is a certainty that our courts, at all levels, will be asked to make a multitude of critical decisions affecting Minnesotans over the coming weeks. Lawyers are an indispensable element in the courts' decision-making process, and thus our involvement should be classified as essential. Further, designating the practice of law as an essential service is consistent with Federal COVID-19 guidelines and several state "shelter-in-place" directives.

Thank you for considering this request as you lead Minnesota forward.

Sincerely –

/s/ Michael Hall, III
Michael Hall, III

cc. Chris Schmitter (Chris.Schmitter@state.mn.us)
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