

District Judges

ROBERT A. COONEY
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
86th Judicial District Court
GRAND TRAVERSE - LEELANAU - ANTRIM COUNTIES

February 12, 2021

Leelanau County Board
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Suttons Bay, MI 49682

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
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Traverse City, Michigan 49684
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LEELANAU COUNTY
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ANTRIM COUNTY
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Bellaire, Michigan 49615
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Dear Leelanau County Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Hubbell's desire to increase Tristan Chamberlain's pay. I have known and worked with Tristan Chamberlain for the better part of six years. In his first year as an intern, he helped my office with Derek Bailey's trial. He had already spent dozens of hours analyzing the phone and computer data, and asked if he could help. During trial, we used the data he found to help impeach Mr. Bailey's testimony.

About 4-5 years ago, I attended a meeting in Lansing with about 100 people, composed of elected prosecutors and judges from across the state. Tristan Chamberlain was there as a representative of the Community Corrections Advisory Board. The meeting presenters told the audience that they needed to change their policies and budgets to always have a prosecutor on duty 24/7, and a defense attorney on duty 24/7. That way an arrested person could be bonded out immediately. Out of that entire group of prosecutors and judges, only Tristan spoke up. He said that didn't make any sense; it would be a huge burden to small counties, requiring double the attorneys for no reason.

Tristan does what he thinks is right. He believes that Defendants are usually just regular people who have made mistakes. There are times when he is practicing in front of me in court that he speaks up on behalf of the defendant. He is more concerned with helping people and giving them a chance to prove themselves, than imprisoning them.

Tristan Chamberlain is a great asset to Leelanau County and the region. I fully support a wage increase for Tristan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob A Cooney".

Robert A. Cooney

RECEIVED

FEB 16 2021

LEELANAU COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR