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October 10, 2007

Dear BOS Chairperson,

I am writing today to request your county's assistance in a pressing matter. Woodbury County is being sued in federal district court concerning the strip search policy in their jail.

At issue in this case is the circumstances under which a county can have a "blanket" strip search policy. Such a policy says, for instance, that all those who have been arrested for anything more serious than a simple misdemeanor will be strip searched.

This issue should be of particular interest to all Iowa counties. There is no controlling precedent in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals as far as the use of blanket strip search policies in these circumstances. So if Woodbury County loses, the strip search policies of many other Iowa counties could be subject to legal challenge.

In July 2007 Woodbury County requested ISAC's assistance in this litigation. On September 20, 2007, the ISAC Board of Directors voted unanimously to authorize me to send out this letter seeking funds for the Woodbury County litigation.

Specifically, we are requesting that every county contribute the modest amount of \$150.00. This money will be used by Woodbury County to pay their out-of-pocket expenses for expert witnesses and deposition costs. Woodbury County estimates these costs will total \$15,000. This money is needed to help guarantee that Woodbury County is in the best possible position as they prepare for a March 2008 trial date.

Just to clarify:

- This money will be used to pay costs that Woodbury County would otherwise bear alone – there is no insurance to cover these costs;
- 100% of the money contributed will go to Woodbury County;
- This money will not be used to pay lawyers or settlement costs or judgments.

I hope that your county will help support Woodbury County's fight, which impacts all Iowa counties. Please send your \$150.00 checks as soon as possible to ISAC, hopefully by December 1, 2007, made payable to the "ISAC Multi-county Fund."

If you have any questions, please contact David Vestal at ISAC.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly A. Painter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kim Painter
ISAC President