



CHAMBERS OF
HANNAH C. DUGAN
JUDGE

Milwaukee County Courthouse
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1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
BRANCH 31

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Governor Tony Evers
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707
c/o Mel Barnes, Legal Counsel mel.barnes@wisconsin.gov

Dear Governor Evers,

For the past nine years of service, it has been the honor of my life and a daily blessing to be entrusted by Wisconsinites as their elected judge; to fairly administer justice to the thousands of people who have come before me, uphold our laws and the Constitution, and keep our community safe.

During this last decade, I have served behind the bench and beyond the bench. Behind the bench I have presided over thousands and thousands of cases – with a commitment to treat all persons with dignity and respect, to act justly, deliberatively, and consistently, and to maintain a courtroom with the decorum and safety the public deserves. Beyond the bench I have attended hundreds and hundreds of community events, listening to Milwaukee County residents voice their justice system experiences and concerns -- as jurors, witnesses, litigants, victims, and justice-impacted citizens who care about our courts.

As you know, I am the subject of unprecedented federal legal proceedings, which are far from concluded but which present immense and complex challenges that threaten the independence of our judiciary. I am pursuing this fight for myself and for our independent judiciary. However, the Wisconsin citizens that I cherish deserve to start the year with a judge on the bench in Milwaukee County Branch 31 rather than have the fate of that Court rest in a partisan fight in the state legislature.

Therefore, Governor, with a heavy heart, I submit to you this letter of resignation and respectfully request that you give it immediate effect. My faith in God and in our legal system leads me to trust that in the long run justice will be served for our independent judiciary and for me.

As always – Forward and On Wisconsin,

Hannah C. Dugan
Hon. Hannah C. Dugan
Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Branch 31