

September 27, 2010

Donald J. Christl, Esq.

Supreme Court of Wisconsin
c/o Clerk of Supreme Court
Attn: Ms. Carrie Janto
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

FILED

SEP 30 2010

**CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN**

Honorable Justices:

Re: Rule Petition 10-04 - Establishing
Standards and Procedures for
Permanent Revocation

Although a member of the Preliminary Review Committee, I submit this letter as an individual and as an attorney practicing in Wisconsin.

The integrity of the lawyer disciplinary process requires adoption of Rule Petition 10-04. Without it, the current disciplinary structure fails to meet the perception of many and fails to complete the graduated collection of sanctions available to protect the public.

Perception. Most laymen, and many attorneys, have expressed shock upon learning that "disbarment" could prove temporary. Most articulated that committing certain violations of the Supreme Court Rules or certain crimes disqualifies an attorney from ever again practicing law. The expectation particularly applies to violations that, if committed before admission to the bar, would disqualify a person from receiving a professional license in the first place. Essentially, egregious transgressions of the law or the Rules of Professional Conduct so sully an individual's character as to render that person unfit ever to practice again.

Precedent. Other states authorize their disciplinary bodies to impose permanent revocation upon the commission of certain violations. A similar pattern exists in most states' criminal laws; individuals convicted of felonies permanently lose rights granted others. You have established a schedule of sanctions for Wisconsin attorneys violating your Rules or the laws governing them. The absence of permanent revocation from the sanctions renders the list incomplete. Acknowledging your ability permanently to revoke a license provides you and OLR a complete and symmetrical schedule of

Supreme Court of Wisconsin
September 27, 2010
Page 2

sanctions, ranging from diversion or a private reprimand up to permanent revocation. In the eyes of the public and many attorneys, Wisconsin's sanctions, without the option of permanent revocation, prove incomplete.


Proposal. You have appropriately assumed the responsibility of disciplining the Bar. Petition 10-04 asks that you complete the authority you have assumed by acknowledging the ability, upon demonstration of a sufficiently egregious violation, permanently to revoke the miscreant's professional license. (The discretion to apply that sanction will, of course and appropriately, remain solely with the Court.)

In light of the above considerations, I join those urging adoption of Petition 10-04, thereby enhancing the Court's ability to protect the public by completing the schedule of sanctions available to it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

REINHART4618588DJC:CFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reinhardt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.