



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF COURT COMMISSIONERS

110 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 440

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703

Nancy A. Kopp
Julie A. Rich
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Commissioners

Telephone (608) 266-7442

December 27, 2011

To: Jacquelynn Rothstein, Director
Board of Bar Examiners

Re: Rule Petition 11-08, In the Matter of the Petition to Amend SCR 40.02(2) and to Create SCRs 40.055 and 40.14(3)(i), Relating to the Legal competency requirements of graduates of law schools in other nations; fees

Dear Ms. Rothstein:

I am assisting the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its consideration of rule petition Rule Petition No. 11-08 which you filed on behalf of the Board of Bar Examiners on November 18, 2011. Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson has suggested that I seek additional information about the proposed amendments. Specifically, your response to the following issues or questions is sought at this time:

- How will the BBE evaluate character and fitness of applicants from foreign law schools?
- How many other states allow graduates of law schools from other nations to take their state bar exam?
- What happens if the foreign law school from which the applicant graduated is not accredited (see proposed SCR 40.055(1))?
- The petition provides certain procedures for individuals who hold a professional degree in law from a jurisdiction “whose jurisprudence is based on the principles of English common law” or who practice in a “common law jurisdiction.” How is common law defined?
- Comments received from the Legislative Reference Bureau are attached for your review. Please respond to the comments with any amendments you deem necessary.

Please file your response by January 15, 2012, with the Clerk of Supreme Court, Attention: Carrie Janto, Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688. If possible, e-mail a Microsoft Word version of your response to carrie.janto@wicourts.gov or clerk@wicourts.gov.

The court may request further information prior to a public hearing or open administrative conference. The court may take any action it deems appropriate, including any of the following:

- (a) Adopt the rule proposed, or a modified version, without further comment.
- (b) Reject the rule proposed without further comment.
- (c) Circulate the rule petition for comment without a public hearing.
- (d) Schedule the rule petition for public hearing.
- (e) Refer the rule petition to another entity for its review and recommendation.
- (f) Request further information or analysis from the petitioner or interested persons or entities.

You might wish to consult the court's Web site at <http://wicourts.gov/scrules/supreme.htm> to follow this rule petition. Court communications on the petition and any written comments filed with the clerk's office are posted on the Web site.

If you have specific questions regarding this request, please contact me at (608) 261-6641 or julie.rich@wicourts.gov.

Yours very truly,

/s/

Julie Anne Rich

Supreme Court Commissioner

cc: Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice N. Patrick Crooks
Justice David T. Prosser, Jr.
Justice Patience Drake Roggensack
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Michael J. Gableman

List of Interested Parties for Supreme Court Rules Matters

Chief Circuit Court Judges
Circuit Court Judges
Court of Appeals Judges
Court of Appeals, Attention: Chief Staff Attorney
Director of State Courts
Legal Action of Wisconsin, Attention: John F. Ebbott
League of Women Voters
Marquette Law School, Attention: Joseph D. Kearney
Office of Lawyer Regulation
Office of State Public Defender, Attention: Kelli S. Thompson
Office of the Attorney General, Attention: J.B. Van Hollen
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: James Brennan
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: George Brown
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Adam Korbitz
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Margaret Porco
U.W. Law School, Attention: Margaret Raymond
Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, Attention: Katy Borowski, Executive Director
Western District Bar Association of Wisconsin, Attention: Andrew Clarkowski

Wisconsin Asian Bar Association, Attention: Yer L. Vang
Wisconsin Association for Justice, Attention: Jane E. Garrott, Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers, Attn: Steven DeVougas
Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Attention: Peter McKeever
Wisconsin Association of Judicial Court Commissioners, Attention: Cedric Cornwall
Wisconsin Bankers Association, Attention: Attorney John Knight
Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association, Attention: Lonnie Wolf
Wisconsin Counties Association, Attention: David Callender
Wisconsin Defense Counsel, Attention: Jane Svinicki and Andrew C. Cook
Wisconsin District Attorneys Association, Attention: Diane Schlipper
Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association, Attention: Commr. Leo Grill
Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association, Attention: David A. Westrup, Treasurer
Wisconsin Judicare, Inc., Attention: Rosemary Elbert
Wisconsin Judicial Commission, Attention: James Alexander
Wisconsin Judicial Council, Attention: April Southwick
Wisconsin Juvenile Court Clerks Association, Attention: Vicki Gilbertson
Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association, Attention: Honorable JoAnn Eiring
Wisconsin Registers in Probate Association, Attention: Amy Franzen
Wisconsin State Attorneys Association, Attention: Quinn Williams/Nancy Wettersten
Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, Attention: Honorable Mary M. Kuhnmuench
Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association, Attention: Leland Wigg-Ninham, President

List of Additional Interested Parties – if any