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MAR 30 2017

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

2134 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
March 27, 2017

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P O Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Dear Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

The reputation of the Wisconsin Supreme Court is low. I have heard it called by an attorney "the most corrupt in the country." Perceived corruption in the Wisconsin Supreme Court has received national attention, for example: <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/why-the-supreme-court-should-take-on-political-corruption-in-wisconsin> and <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-destruction-of-the-wisconsin-supreme-court>

Regardless of whether you consider yourselves honorable and independent jurists, the public perception is that the entities and individuals on whom you rely for campaign contributions will receive favorable treatment when they come before your court.

I urge you to, at the very least, accept the recommendations outlined in the petition by 54 retired judges to require judges to recuse themselves from cases involving major contributors. Ideally, I would ask you to work towards a system that insulates the Wisconsin Supreme Court from the appearance of corruption by an appointive process whereby Justices are chosen from a list prepared by an independent panel of retired judges or other legal experts, rather than by an election process that favors candidates acceptable to the moneyed interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



John N. Koch