

March 28, 2019

Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Rule Petition 19-01 relating to making the record

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring an accurate record in Wisconsin courtrooms. I have been a court reporter for 35 years and currently hold two part-time positions as an official court reporter, one in Fond du Lac County and one in Winnebago County. I write to convey my personal experiences with digital audio recording (DAR) that I believe are relevant as you consider making DAR an official means of taking the verbatim record in Petition 19-01.

In Winnebago County one of our court commissioners recently went from using a live steno court reporter to using the DAR system, therefore, when transcripts are requested the official court reporters are preparing the transcripts. I've had first-hand experience where the DAR system has either failed or not captured the entirety of the proceedings; one juvenile hearing where the father addressed the court and I had to use "inaudible" throughout because he wasn't near a microphone; another instance where the DAR system wasn't working at all and I was asked to bring my steno machine to the court commissioner's courtroom to take the proceedings.

I have also transcribed numerous proceedings held before our family court commissioners who have used electronic recording for years in their courtrooms and many of these transcripts are replete with the "inaudible" parenthetical.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my experiences regarding DAR when considering Petition 19-01. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

[Electronically signed by /s/ Holly J. Ford]

Holly J. Ford
N7526 Sandy Beach Rd.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Cc: Hon. Randy Koschnick