

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
SUPREME COURT
P.O. BOX 1688
MADISON, WISCONSIN
53701-1688**

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CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE SHIRLEY S. ABRAHAMSON

December 8, 2011

Mr. Mark Nook, Interim Senior VP for
Academic Affairs
University of Wisconsin System
1730 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

Mr. Kevin P. Reilly, President
University of Wisconsin System
1720 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Friends:

I am writing in connection with the court's consideration of the civil "Gideon" petition and at the suggestion of several justices. The civil "Gideon" petition seeks court appointment of counsel at government expense for indigent civil litigants under certain circumstances. For more information about this petition, #10-08, see our website at <http://wicourts.gov/srules/1008.htm>.

In addition to providing counsel for the indigent, we can further help them in judicial matters by providing them with knowledgeable, trained non-lawyers. The UW System, with its many campuses and programs, has numerous internship programs. These programs perform vital public services and provide significant educational experiences for your students. I would be interested in meeting with you or your designee to discuss the possibilities of placing undergraduate and graduate student interns in the court system in the communities in which the campuses reside. We have some experience with such internship programs and would be interested in expanding these programs with you.

If I am not communicating with the proper office I would appreciate your advising me and forwarding this letter to the proper person.

I would appreciate hearing from you. Until then, my best wishes for the holiday season and for a good new year.

Sincerely,



Shirley S. Abrahamson

cc: All justices
Julie Rich
Clerk of Supreme Court - Rules Petition 10-08 file