



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

Your Practice. Our Purpose.®

In the matter of:

The petition of the State Bar of Wisconsin
proposing revisions to SCR 10.03(3) and
SCR 10.03(5) relating to classes of membership
and membership dues and reduction of dues.

SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM FOR REVISION OF SUPREME COURT RULE 10.03(3) AND 10.03(5)

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

Filed with the Clerk of Court Diane Fremgen
Clerk of Supreme Court
110 E. Main Street, Suite 215
Madison, WI 53703

The State Bar of Wisconsin petitions the Court for a revision to Supreme Court Rule 10.03(3), relating to classes of membership in the State Bar and 10.03(5), relating to membership dues and reduction of dues for certain activities. On December 7, 2012, the Board of Governors approved the filing of this petition on a vote of 33 to 5. Language for this petition was approved by consent on April 19, 2013.

EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

Presently, Emeritus Status members, who are age 70 and over, pay only the client protection fee of \$20. Presently an active status member pays the full amount of State Bar dues which for FY 14 will be \$224. In addition, active members pay all Supreme Court assessments costs which include \$166 for the Office of Lawyer Regulation and the Board of Bar Examiners, \$50 for WisTAF and \$20 dollars to the client protection fund.

The State Bar of Wisconsin is seeking these modifications to the status of State Bar members to take into consideration those members of the profession who have chosen to practice longer into their careers. The current emeritus membership category provides one option as an alternative to

active membership for members who reach the age of 70. Should our members chose to continue to practice longer into their careers, the State Bar believes this two-step emeritus category is a more equitable mechanism to share the costs of those bar services senior members are likely to be using as attorneys actively engaged in the practice.

This petition would make the following changes to State Bar of Wisconsin emeritus membership status:

- Full emeritus membership would begin at the age of 75 and over. These members will pay no State Bar dues or court costs. They will only pay the \$20 client protection fee. This group will be classified as Emeritus.
- Those members age 70 until 75 will be subdivided into two categories:
 - Active Emeritus - Defined as those in the age group of 70 until 75 who bill more than 800 hours annually. These members will be required to pay full State Bar dues and Supreme Court assessments.
 - Senior Emeritus Attorneys - Defined as those in the age group of 70 until 75 who bill less than 800 hours annually. They will pay half State Bar dues, half of the court assessments, the \$20 client protection fee, and the \$50 WisTAF charge.
- An attorney in the “Active” or “Senior” Emeritus age group will self-select his or her category.

All attorneys classified under the Emeritus status who are not paying dues or Supreme Court costs at the time of implementation will not be affected by the change and continue to pay no dues or Supreme Court costs.

The proposed effective date would be for the 2014 fiscal year.

ACTIVE NEW MEMBERS

This petition also seeks to provide extended economic relief for attorneys who have recently entered the practice of law. The petition would extend from three to five years a one-half dues reduction to those first entering practice.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of June 2013.



Kevin G. Klein
President, State Bar of Wisconsin
PO Box 7158
Madison WI 53707-7158
State Bar No. 1002932