



February 25, 2014

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

RE: Petition 13-10 (relating to Limited Scope Representation)

Dear Honorable Justices:

The Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission supports Rule Petition 13-10, as submitted by the Director of State Courts on behalf of the Supreme Court's Planning and Policy Advisory Committee. We believe this rule will improve access to justice for Wisconsin citizens, particularly those with low or moderate income.

Two individuals affiliated with the Access to Justice Commission served on the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) subcommittee that studied limited scope representation and developed the proposed rule: myself, a Supreme Court appointee to the Access to Justice Commission and the current Commission president, and Jeff Brown, the State Bar of Wisconsin Pro Bono Coordinator who provides staff support for the Access to Justice Commission.

As noted on the National Center for State Court's "Center on Court Access to Justice for All" website, "The vast majority of individual litigants cannot afford full service representation. Unprepared litigants increase the burden on the court in the form of incorrect documents, ignorance of procedures, and repeated continuances. Self-represented litigants consume a disproportional amount of staff and judicial time. By providing quality coaching, well-drafted documents and assisting in the more complex aspects of a legal matter, limited scope attorneys help streamline the process and reduce the burden on courts and their staff."

In addition to expanding the availability of legal assistance to individuals, the adoption of Rule Petition 13-10 may also improve business opportunities for lawyers. As noted in the August 2013 issue of the Illinois Bar Journal, following the Illinois Supreme Court's adoption of amended rules similar to those in Rule Petition 13-10, the amended rules "create business

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opportunities for lawyers by making it easier to represent clients for part, but not all, of a lawsuit or transaction.” In the 2012 book Limited Scope Legal Services: Unbundling and the Self-Help Client by Stephanie Kimbro, the author describes how solo practitioners and lawyers in small firms can expand the reach of their legal services through limited scope representation.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Rule Petition 13-10.

Sincerely,

Gregg Moore  
President, Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission