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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT

OF WISCONSIN

September 18, 2013

Wisconsin Supreme Court Attention: Carrie Janto Box 1688 Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Petition 13-14 for amendment of SCR 60.04

Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

On behalf of the Committee of Chief Judges, I am submitting this letter in support of Petition 13-14. This petition requests amendments to the Code of Judicial Conduct to address the ethical responsibilities of a judge when working with self-represented litigants.

The Committee of Chief Judges heard a presentation on the proposed rule from Judges Margaret Vergeront and Mary Kuhnmuench of the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission in April 2013. The committee also received a briefing on the final proposal from Judge Vergeront in September 2013.

The Chief Judges would like to express unanimous support for this rule change. Given the many self-represented litigants that trial judges see on a daily basis, we believe these clarifications can be of significant assistance to the circuit courts.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely.

Judge Marý Wagner

Chair, Committee of Chief Judges