

**Carrie Janto - Comment on Petition 17-06****RECEIVED**

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**Subject:** Comment on Petition 17-06

To the Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court,  
 I am writing in urgent support of Petition 17-06.

Our criminal justice system is in crisis. I personally feel like I am watching a crash in slow-motion, except it is our criminal justice system that is out of control.

Currently, more and more counties are having a difficult time finding attorneys willing to take appointments at below market rates to represent indigent defendants. I personally have been asked to take appointments from counties over an hour away and I have never taken an SPD appointment.

Ironically, the actual costs imposed by the below market rates is very high because justice delayed is justice denied:

- to the defendant who faces pre-conviction confinement, job loss and extended stress while waiting for an attorney to be appointed to their case;
- to victims who wonder when they might have some closure and face needless delays because the defendant does not have an attorney; and
- to the county and the State who bear the extra costs of having to hire attorneys to travel for hours just to get to the courthouse steps.

One cannot underestimate the toll an open criminal case extracts on all involved in the criminal justice system.

Placing blame at this point accomplishes nothing - it is time to fix the problem caused by the below market rates paid to appointed attorneys by increasing the rates.

Thus, by increasing the rates, this Petition will increase the pool of available attorneys willing to represent indigent defendants. Moreover, this Petition will limit the damage sure to be caused if we do not start to get control of our criminal justice system. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Chad A. Lanning

President-Elect, Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers



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