

Carrie Janto - Hourly Rate for Public Defender-Appointed Attorneys**RECEIVED**

APR 26 2018

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

From: Randall Paulson <attyrepaulson@hotmail.com>
To: "carrie.janto@wicourts.gov" <carrie.janto@wicourts.gov>
Date: 4/26/2018 11:05 AM
Subject: Hourly Rate for Public Defender-Appointed Attorneys

To the Honorable Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I respectfully urge you to take action on the pending petition to require the State Public Defender to increase its hourly rate. This has been longstanding problem and it is getting worse by the day.

I was a staff attorney in the public defenders office for over 27 years. I worked a three-year stint as a liaison to the private bar attorneys. I set up training events for them, tried to help them with various issues, and looked into billing, conduct and performance issues.

The vast majority of private bar attorneys are diligent, caring, ethical practitioners. They deal with clients whose troubles and backgrounds often cause them to be challenging, to put it charitably. I think fewer and fewer attorneys every year are able to take cases at the meager hourly rate. They are either leaving the private bar rolls completely or sharply curtailing the number of cases they accept.

Some are holding out for appointments from the counties. This is leading to a dual system of indigent appointments. But the counties lack the infrastructure to support, educate and monitor attorneys.

The problems are judicial in nature and the judiciary needs to assert itself and require the sum-sufficient resources to fulfill its function. Thank you for considering my views.

Randall E. Paulson
Paulson Law Office
2266 N. Prospect Ave. Suite 450
Milwaukee WI 53202-6333
Office: 414-202-9447 Fax: 414-755-0692
www.attyrepaulson.com