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Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1688

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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

RE: Rule Petition 19-01 relating to making the record

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I have been a stenographic court reporter for over 29 years, both in California and Wisconsin. The first 25 years of my career in California, I was a freelance reporter for depositions and arbitrations. During my last several years in California, I transitioned into the courtroom and, since moving to Wisconsin four-and-a-half years ago, I have been a full-time official reporter in Oneida County for the Honorable Michael H. Bloom. Needless to say, I have seen many changes in the field of court reporting over that period of time.

I am writing to you today because I feel a very vital part of DAR is not being considered - the transcription of the audio recording. I have transcribed my share of digital audio recordings, and what is always touted as the shining example of DAR is the ability to have four microphones recording simultaneously but on different tracks, thereby enabling the transcriber to single out only one microphone if necessary.

While in theory this sounds wonderful, in a practical sense it simply doesn't work. The system still records ambient noise in the room on each track, so although all other microphone tracks are muted, the noise in the room is still quite audible, making the ability to single out an audio track completely moot.

I understand completely why this rule petition is being proposed. I am very concerned the use of DAR will compromise the ability to produce a usable transcript of the proceedings, and court reporters who transcribe these recordings should not be required to certify the transcript the same way transcripts are certified by a court reporter who stenographically reported the proceedings.

Thank you kindly for your consideration of my experience while determining what action to take on Petition 19-01.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Penfield

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