
From: Mike Ablan <mike@Ablan.com>
To: Julie Rich <Julie.Rich@wicourts.gov>
Date: 8/29/2019 3:48 PM
Subject: RE: Rule petition on OLR process

Julie,

With all due respect to the efforts of the review committee, I disagree with the proposed changes. It is abundantly clear that an enormous amount of effort has been put in to these proposed changes.

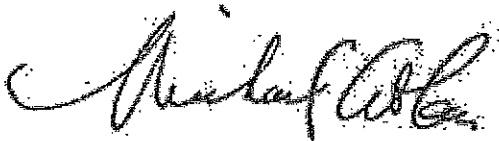
The theory for eliminating district committees because they do not meet enough is counterintuitive. As a participant in our district (Crawford, LaCrosse, Richland, Vernon, Monroe, Trempealeau, Jackson, Clark, Buffalo and Pepin counties), I do not care if I am called upon less often. I think I've served for about 14 years. Although I don't relish the work I appreciate what it brings to the profession at large. I care about my colleagues very much. I care about my clients very much. The work that we do can be very challenging but this gives us an opportunity to ensure that the public maintains a high respect for our noble profession, while at the same time protecting the client and helping the attorney to understand the problems that exist. We are dealing with one of the most important decisions that can be made in an attorney's life and it will affect the attorney's spouse, children nieces and nephews, and friends and colleagues.

Streamlining that procedure can adversely affect all of the interested persons and I'm not sure what we are saving. We are volunteers. As the memorandum states district committees "are valued but not called upon often enough". I don't want to speak for my colleagues but I certainly don't mind this downside. It's a poignant opportunity to interact with nonlawyers who are always impressed with the effort that is put into getting it right. We shine as objective investigators and problem solvers.

Concerning the added penalties for an attorney failing to respond to the 20 day request for cooperation, etc.; I disagree with automatic suspension or automatic anything. I disagree with all arbitrary penalties. We need to exercise discretion. After all that is our training.

We are dealing with attorneys that often are experiencing severe depression, drug or alcohol addiction, severe family tragedies, physical or mental shortcomings or a combination of those. They get to us because they are not acting like lawyers should. To me, it would be, merciless and inappropriate to expect them to do an about-face when they get this notice. I think it would have the opposite effect especially when this proposed procedure now shifts the "onus" onto the attorney. That is the opposite of what we should be doing, at least, until we learn why the attorney is behaving unprofessionally.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,



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