

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
IN THE SUPREME COURT**

**In the Matter of the creation of Supreme Court
Rules relating to the structure of the
Wisconsin Judicial College**

**PETITION 19-____
Memorandum in Support
of Petition**

The petitioner, the Honorable Lisa K. Stark, Dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, submits this memorandum in support of an administrative rule petition seeking creation of a rule within SCR Ch. 32 (Continuing Education for Wisconsin Judiciary) to define the Wisconsin Judicial College and codify the appointment process for its faculty.

Presently, these policies and procedures are not defined by rule, but are set forth in the Wisconsin Judicial College Sustainability and Planning Guide, a copy of which is attached to this Memorandum as Appendix A. Codifying these procedures will provide clarity and transparency to the process, and better ensure consistent application of these parameters to ensure the College sustainability and that it continues to adhere to its mission, which is "to provide a unique and interactive learning environment that will foster mentoring relationships, inspire participants, and provide them with the skill set to manage their judicial duties and their lives both on and off the bench."

As you are aware, the Wisconsin Judicial College is an annual judicial orientation and education program for Wisconsin State Court Judges. It has been providing quality judicial education to Wisconsin judges since 1959, and has developed into one of the premier judicial colleges in the country. The Wisconsin Judicial College is the only college in the country that annually brings new and experienced judges together for a unique and highly interactive learning experience.

Attendance is mandatory for circuit court judges under existing SCR 32.04 (Required programs). The proposed rule will better clarify that newly appointed or elected circuit court judges are expected to

attend the Judicial College, together with an associated two-and one-half-day New Judge Orientation that is next scheduled after the new judge's election or appointment. Thereafter, all circuit court judges are required to attend the week-long Judicial College at least once during every six-year term. The rule will clarify that Wisconsin court of appeals judges and supreme court justices may, but are not required to attend the Judicial College, space permitting.

The proposed new rule also codifies the faculty selection and appointment process for the Judicial College planning committee, including term lengths, and required or preferred experience. The planning committee is traditionally composed of its Dean, who is appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court for a six-year term, and who serves as chair to the planning committee, as well as six associate deans, each appointed by the chief justice for a three-year term. The proposed rule also includes membership guidelines that are intended to ensure the faculty reflects the gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of Wisconsin. As such, the college seeks to include an associate dean representing each of the following: Milwaukee County; A one-judge county; A northern Wisconsin county; Central Wisconsin or the Fox River Valley; Southwest Wisconsin; and Dane, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha or Rock Counties. The proposed rule also addresses how vacancies shall be filled, namely by the chief justice in the same manner as original appointments.

As this petition proposes a codification of existing procedures, and falls squarely within the court's administrative authority, the petitioner respectfully suggests that there is no particular need for a public hearing on this matter. The petitioner believes the Wisconsin Supreme Court can decide this petition in a closed administrative rules conference, without formal comment, but is certainly amenable to the court seeking public comment. If there is additional information that would inform the court's decision, I will be happy to provide it.

Respectfully submitted this ____ day of May, 2019.

Judge Lisa K. Stark
Dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College