



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

Leaders in the Law. Advocates for Justice.

April 27, 2020

Clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 East Main Street, Suite 215
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Response to Request to Modify SCR 30.03

Dear Honorable Justices,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the petition. Given the necessity to respond quickly, I provide these comments as President of the association and not on behalf of the Board of Governors.

The State Bar recognizes the challenges brought on by our current health emergency. We continue to stand ready to assist the Court in addressing problem areas and are thankful that the Court has responded quickly to protect Wisconsinites and the stakeholders of the legal system.

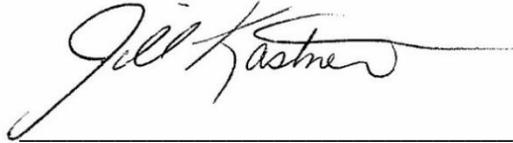
The safety of potential admittees to the State Bar is of great concern. We thank the Court for its leadership in providing appropriate alternatives for the admission of Wisconsin law school graduates through the Court's March 25 order. The Petition now before the Court seeks to address the issue of those who need to take the Wisconsin Bar Exam.

We are in receipt of Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiner (BBE) Director Rothstein's response and understand it is the BBE's intent to hold an examination in September. While we encourage BBE to make contingencies for additional accommodations that may be necessary for certain bar-takers, particularly those with disabilities or underlying health concerns, a 60 to 90 day delay in the bar examination seems to be a workable and reasonable alternative, given the information currently available.

The proposal set forth in the petition, however, leaves many unanswered questions. The State Bar's Board of Governors is on record as supporting the diploma privilege as providing appropriate training of Wisconsin specific law and preparation for practice in this state for those who have chosen to attend Wisconsin law schools. The purported "Emergency Diploma Privilege" requested by the Petitioners seems to misunderstand Wisconsin's time-tested Diploma Privilege. It is unclear how unknown and undeveloped credits in Wisconsin law can replace the semester-long courses taught in the respective law schools, much less in the limited time-frame provided. That said, should the Court determine alternative relief is necessary for those who have registered for the July exam, the State Bar stands ready to assist the Court in helping to develop and/or implement whatever relief is granted with a focus on ensuring the integrity of our process and the standards of admission to practice in our state.

If you have any questions, please contact Executive Director Larry Martin or Advocacy & Access to Justice Director Lisa Roys.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jill M. Kastner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jill M. Kastner, President
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