## Wisconsin Circuit Courts Americans with Disabilities Act – Title II Public Programs, Services and Activities

The Wisconsin Court System is committed to full implementation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), which are comprehensive civil rights laws for individuals with disabilities. Court system programs, services and activities should be readily accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities.

No individual will be refused participation in a service, program, or activity solely because the individual has a disability, needs an accommodation or because a building is inaccessible. Reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be made so that individuals with disabilities are not denied access. However, courts are not required to make accommodations that would result in a fundamental alteration of court programs and services or an undue financial or administrative burden.

Effective communication with individuals with disabilities is essential. With sufficient notice, auxiliary aids and services will be provided to ensure effective communications with individuals with disabilities. When an auxiliary aid or service is required, the court system will give primary consideration to the choice expressed by the individual. Auxiliary aids and services may include sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, real-time captioning, readers, or similar assistance.

If you would like to request an accommodation, begin by contacting the Clerk of Circuit Court in the county where your case is filed. Please make the request well in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. The clerk may refer some requests to the judge for determination.

If your request is denied, you may contact the District Court Administrator for that county. The District Court Administrator may help pursue the matter with the proper officials, who may include the judge, the county ADA coordinator, or the Chief Judge of the Judicial District. Each county also has its own ADA policies and grievance procedures applicable to county facilities, staff and services.

The Deputy Director of State Courts for Court Operations serves as the ADA State Coordinator for the Circuit Courts, providing technical assistance and information on accessibility. Contact Diane Fremgen, 110 East Main Street Room 410, Madison, WI 53703-3356; telephone: 608-266-3121, TRS: 711 or 1-800-947-6644, email: <u>diane.fremgen@wicourts.gov</u>.

 For more information on the ADA, see the court website: http://wicourts.gov/services/public/ada.htm