

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2007

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN



RACINE COUNTY COURT HOUSE
1931

730 Wisconsin Avenue

RACINE, WISCONSIN

53403

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH NO. 1
GERALD P. PTACEK
JUDGE

PHONE 414-636-3333
Racine County Courthouse Toll Free
1-800-242-4202

December 17, 2007

Clerk of Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Petition 07-11, Discretionary Transfer of Civil Cases to Tribal Court

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

On behalf of the Committee of Chief Judges, I wish to communicate our support of Petition 07-11, the discretionary transfer of civil cases to tribal court. The Committee of Chief Judges reviewed a draft of this petition in April of 2007.

There are eleven federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin and tribal courts continue to expand and assist the state in resolving disputes. Many of these cases begin in state court, and not all judges know or understand their authority to either transfer the case or refuse to do so based on these standards. This proposal provides circuit judges in all judicial districts with enumerated standards to be considered in the allocation of jurisdiction between state and tribal courts. It provides guidance to judges in districts where formal protocols may not exist, but where cases involving a tribal member may arise.

The standards proposed will also help further necessary cooperation and communication between state and tribal courts. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Gerald Ptacek

Chief Judge

Committee of Chief Judges