



Jim "Luigi" Schmitt

Milwaukee County Supervisor - 19th District

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October 14, 2010

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

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2010

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Re: Supreme Court Rule Petition 10-03

Dear Justices:

Supreme Court Rule Petition 10-03 is set for a public hearing on October 19, 2010. The petition asks the Court to amend Supreme Court Rule 81.02. The proposed amendment includes changing the hourly rate of compensation for court-appointed lawyers to \$80 and indexing that rate to the Consumer Price Index.

Milwaukee County opposes these changes. The County is facing unprecedented fiscal difficulties and cannot afford to fund additional state mandated costs. In such a time of tight budgets, any increase in costs for attorney fees will result in a corresponding decrease in the ability to provide other important services.

Milwaukee County Circuit Courts already spend \$4.5 million to provide court-appointed attorneys in a variety of cases. State funding to the County for this function has not increased for over 15 years. While it is difficult to determine the precise increase in this amount that the amendment will create, the changes proposed in Petition 10-03 will certainly result in a significant rise in overall costs to the County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim "Luigi" Schmitt
19th District Supervisor
Chairman Intergovernmental Relations

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