



**MICHAEL O. BOHREN**  
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February 11, 2014

Clerk of the Supreme Court  
Att: Deputy Clerk Rules  
P.O. Box 1688  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1688

Re: Petition 13-14 to amend SCR 60.04, to address self-represented litigants

Chief Justice Abrahamson and Justices,

I write today in support of the Petition amending SCR 60.04 to emphasize the ability of the trial court to take an a more active role in ensuring that our courts achieve justice. My perspective is multi-faceted, Circuit Judge for 14 years having served in all areas (criminal, civil, family and juvenile), and 25 years in private general practice involved in the same areas.

In practice I frequently was engaged with *pro se* litigants, and witnessed the identical circumstances that bring the matter before the Court. As a Circuit Judge I have presided over hearings involving *Pro Se* litigants on both sides, and between counsel and the *Pro Se*.

The over arching concept of fairness in the Courtroom and the Judges' need to ensure fairness is the underpinning of both the current Rule and the proposed amendment. Court dynamics are changing with greater *Pro Se* litigation. Clarifying the Rule will provide additional guidance to the trial court and strengthen our commitment to fairness.

I support the Rule Amendment, because it maintains our Courts' commitment to fairness, and also encourages trial courts to be vigilant insuring that all participants in the court process have access to a fair hearing. In light of our adversary system, the proposed SCR 60.04(1)(i), section 5 of the Petition, goes far to assure Judges that in providing a fair and balanced hearing, impartiality is not lost.

Thanking you, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael O. Bohren".

Michael O. Bohren  
Circuit Court Judge  
Branch 1