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February 11, 2014

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

**RE: Petitioner 13-14 to Amend the Judicial Code to Address Self-Represented Litigants**

Dear Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I have reviewed Petition 13-14 referenced above to amend SCR 60.04, as well as the materials created in support of the Petition. I am a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Board of Governors, serving District 16, and I strongly support this Petition.

I have practiced in Minocqua since 1979, and currently spend a significant amount of my practice time acting as a mediator in divorce actions, including as guardian ad litem when custody of minor children is an issue. I regularly work with pro-se litigants in those arenas.

The gap appears to be widening, in my opinion, between those who can afford legal representation at any cost, and those who cannot afford any legal representation. Even those individuals who need to avail themselves of the legal system, and who are considered to be middle class, often find themselves able to afford legal representation at the outset of their proceedings, but quickly learn that they cannot continue their legal quest using the benefit of legal counsel indefinitely. As a result, the courts more and more have seen, and will continue to see in greater proportion in the future, parties in pending matters who do not have the resources to have legal representation.

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I have had the honor to appear before many circuit court judges in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Price, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, and Marathon Counties in my years of practice, and have never felt to be placed at a disadvantage by the Court when the opposing party was appearing pro se, but I have seen differing approaches by the Courts in how to best deal with pro-se litigants. I believe that the proposed amendment to SCR 60.04 will provide the Courts with guidance and ultimately will result in more consistency between the various circuits.

I fully endorse this Petition, and urge the Court to give it favorable consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

HARROLD, SCROBELL & DANNER, S.C.

*/s/ John E. Danner*

John E. Danner

JED: jd

Original & nine copies by U.S. Mail.

Electronically Delivered 2-11-14

CC: Access to Justice Commission, Margaret J. Vergeront