



We Listen, We Support, We Transform Lives

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February 6, 2014

Clerk of the Supreme Court

Attention: Deputy Clerk---Rules

P.O. Box 1688

Madison, WI 53701-1688

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices,

I am writing you today to express my support for the Petition 13-14 to Amend SCR 60.04 of the Wisconsin Code of Judicial Conduct to address self-represented litigants.

I work as a Legal Advocate for The Women's Community in Wausau, Wisconsin. We are an advocacy agency and operate an emergency crisis line and shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It has been my personal experience that many of these victims have no other option but to represent themselves in family and civil court proceedings, such as injunction hearings. This can be a very frightening and intimidating experience for them, particularly if it is their first time in court and they do not have the means to hire an attorney.

The proposed change to the Judicial Code of Conduct will be an effective modification, making legal proceedings less confusing and more manageable for self-represented litigants. In addition, it will give judiciary more leeway and clarity as to their role in hearings with pro se litigants, facilitating the presentation of all the facts and allowing judges to make knowledgeable and fair decisions.

In conclusion, I fully support Petition 13-14 to amend SCR 60.04. As an advocate who frequently assists clients in obtaining orders of protection, I can confirm this will have a positive impact on these individuals. The change will help to safeguard and empower victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault, while preventing the discouragement of participating in complex legal procedures.

Sincerely,

Kory Kleinschmidt

Transitional Living Program Legal Advocate

The Women's Community, Inc.



