



Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association

Serving Wisconsin Courts

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January 21, 2016

Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 East Main Street, Suite 215
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 43701-1688

Re: Petition 14-03 (Electronic Circuit Court Filings)

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Rule Petition 14-03, scheduled for public hearing on February 23, 2016.

The Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association continues to strongly support this pending rule petition. Since the Court last took up consideration of this petition in March of 2015, we have seen many more circuit courts enable electronic filing, from 28 at the end of 2014 to 51 today. In addition, at least 23 counties have already taken the extraordinary step of implementing paperless records management across all case types, not just the few that are currently eligible for efilng. More counties plan the transition to completely paperless records management over the course of 2016. We Clerks of Court fully embrace the benefits and efficiencies that will accrue via efilng, even as we can personally attest to the challenge that moving away from paper records retention has posed, for our staff and for our judiciary.

Part of what makes this a challenging transition is the sheer volume of paper that is still coming into our offices from those who could efile but choose not to, or from those who cannot efile because the system isn't enhanced yet for case types beyond civil, family, and small claims. All of this paper must be run through scanners, which consumes more staff time than simply dropping the paperwork into a file folder. Yet, our paperless counties are fully engaged in this process due to the promise of the long term efficiencies that will be realized through the fullest utilization of efilng across all case types. This promise can only be realized through the implementation of mandatory efilng.

I will also note that the Dane County courthouse recently hosted an efilng seminar for our Bar Association. The response was overwhelming, with over 300 attorneys in attendance. Clearly, there is ample external interest in moving to efilng. What is needed now is motivation. This rule will provide that.

We urge the adoption of Rules Petition 14-03.

Sincerely,

Carlo Esqueda
Dane County Clerk of Circuit Court
President, Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association