



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF COURT COMMISSIONERS

110 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 440

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703

Nancy A. Kopp
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Commissioners

Telephone (608) 266-7442

July 7, 2015

To: Interested Parties – See Attached List

Re: Rule Petition 15-01, In re Matter of the Review of the Office of Lawyer Regulation

Greetings:

I am assisting the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its consideration of rule petition 15-01 filed by Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson on February 6, 2015.¹ The petition proposes creation of Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 21.22, relating to periodic review of the Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys and of the organization, operation, and procedures of the lawyer discipline system, including the Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR), District Committees, Preliminary Review Committee, Referees, and Board of Administrative Oversight. The petition also proposes creation of SCR 21.23, relating to the creation, structure, and procedures of a Lawyer Regulation Review Committee which would undertake the comprehensive review. Specific issues a review committee might consider may be identified at the hearing.²

You have received this letter because you or your agency or organization has been identified as potentially having an interest in this matter. A copy of the petition can be found on the court's website at <http://wicourts.gov/scrules/pending.htm>.

Consistent with standard practice, the court has scheduled and will conduct a public hearing and an open conference on September 21, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., to discuss this matter further. Please note, the court may take any action on a rule petition it deems appropriate, including any of the following:

¹ Effective May 1, 2015, Patience Drake Roggensack succeeded Shirley S. Abrahamson as Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

² A number of administrative rule matters relating to the lawyer regulatory system have been considered or are pending. *See, e.g.*, Rule Petition 13-04 (relating to referees in the lawyer regulatory system); Rule Petition 13-05 (relating to enforcement of lawyer disciplinary orders); Rule Petition 13-06 (relating to stipulations in lawyer disciplinary proceedings); Rule Petition 13-12 (relating to public notice of formal investigations); Rule Petition 14-05 (relating to a lawyer misconduct rule); Rule Petition 14-06 (relating to exercise of OLR discretion); Rule Petition 14-07 (relating to electronic banking procedures for attorney trust accounts); Rule Petition 15-03 (relating to rules of professional conduct for attorneys).

- (a) Adopt the rule proposed, or a modified version, without further comment.
- (b) Reject the rule proposed without further comment.
- (c) Circulate the rule petition for comment without a public hearing.
- (d) Schedule the rule petition for public hearing.
- (e) Refer the rule petition to another entity for its review and recommendation.
- (f) Request further information or analysis from the petitioner or interested persons or entities.

Any comment to the rule petition should be filed by August 14, 2015, with the Clerk of Supreme Court, Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules, P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688. If possible, email a Microsoft Word version of your response to clerk@wicourts.gov. See comment guidelines at the court's website at <http://wicourts.gov/scrules/petitioncomment.htm>. The petitioner shall file any response to the comments by August 28, 2015.

If you are interested in appearing in person at the public hearing, please notify the Deputy Clerk for Rules by August 28, 2015, at clerk@wicourts.gov or 608-261-4302.

You might wish to consult the court's website at <http://wicourts.gov/scrules/supreme.htm> to follow this rule petition. Court communications on the petition and any written comments filed with the clerk's office will be posted on the website.

If you have specific questions or other comments regarding this matter, please contact me by mail at Post Office Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688, by telephone at (608) 261-6642, or by email at julie.rich@wicourts.gov.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Julie Anne Rich

Supreme Court Commissioner

cc: Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack
Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice N. Patrick Crooks
Justice David T. Prosser, Jr.
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Michael J. Gableman

List of Interested Parties for Supreme Court Rules Matters

Badger State Sheriffs Association, Attention: Executive Director
Board of Bar Examiners
Chief Circuit Court Judges
Christian Gossett, Winnebago County District Attorney
Circuit Court Judges
Court of Appeals, Attention: Chief Staff Attorney
Court of Appeals Judges
Diane M. Fremgen, Clerk of Supreme Court
Director of State Courts
Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, Attention: Katy Borowski, Executive Director
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Attention: Kimberly Walker, Executive Director
Marquette Law School, Attention: Joseph D. Kearney
Office of Lawyer Regulation, Attention: Keith Sellen, Director
Office of State Public Defender, Attention: Kelli S. Thompson
Office of the Attorney General, Attention: Brad D. Schimel
Shelley M. Fite, Attorney
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: George Brown, Executive Director
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Lisa Roys, Public Affairs Director
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Ralph M. Cagle, President
Steven Levine, Attorney
U.W. Law School, Attention: Margaret Raymond
Western District Bar Association of Wisconsin, Attention: Lynn M. Stathas
Wisconsin Asian Bar Association, Attention: Robin Dalton
Wisconsin Association for Justice, Attention: Bryan Roessler, Executive Director
Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers, Attn: DeAngela Luna
Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Attention: Peter McKeever
Wisconsin Association of Judicial Court Commissioners, Attention: Alice Rudebusch
Wisconsin Bankers Association, Attention: Attorney John Knight
Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association, Attention: Pam Radtke
Wisconsin Counties Association, Attention: David Callender
Wisconsin Defense Counsel, Attention: Jane Svinicki, Executive Director
Wisconsin District Attorneys Association, Attention: Margaret Drees, Executive Director
Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association, Attention: Sandra Grady, Exec. Secretary
Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association, Attention: Micabil Diaz Martinez
Wisconsin Judicare, Inc., Attention: Kimberly Haas, Executive Director
Wisconsin Judicial Commission, Attention: Jeremiah VanHecke
Wisconsin Judicial Council, Attention: April Southwick
Wisconsin Juvenile Court Clerks Association, Attention: Joy Pecha
Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association, Attention: Honorable Scott Letteney
Wisconsin Newspaper Association, Attention: Executive Director
Wisconsin Registers in Probate Association, Attention: Nancy Dowling
Wisconsin Sheriff & Deputy Sheriff Association, Attention: James I. Cardinal, Exec. Dir.
Wisconsin State Attorneys Association, Attention: Nancy Wettersten
Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, Attention: Honorable Mary M. Kuhnmuensch
Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association, Attention: Eugene White-fish, President

List of Additional Interested Parties – if any

Attorneys representing respondents in pending (or recent) OLR matters

Ben Kempinen, Professor, University of Wisconsin Law School

Board of Administrative Oversight, Attn: Rod W. Rogahn, Chair

Current referees in the lawyer regulation system

Dean Dietrich, Attorney

District Committee Chairs

Margaret Raymond, Dean, University of Wisconsin Law School

Michael McChrystal, Professor, Marquette University Law School

Preliminary Review Committee, Attn: Francis H. LoCoco, Chair

Special Investigative Panel Members

Special Preliminary Review Panel, Attn: Thomas A. Cabush, Chair

Tim Pierce, Ethics Counsel, State Bar of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Supreme Court Commissioners