

To: Clerk of Wisconsin Supreme Court
From: Attorney Lucy Cooper
Date: April 20, 2018
Re: Petition 17-06

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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

I am writing in support of the Petition of the Wisconsin State Bar seeking a raise in lawyer compensation for representing indigent defendants from \$40.00 per hour to \$100.00 per hour. Even if the Court does not get all the way to \$100 (which it should, SOME substantial raise in hourly rate is warranted.

The current \$40.00 rate is the lowest in the country and has not been raised in decades.

\$40.00 per hour does not even cover overhead for a lawyer who maintains any kind of office.

Essentially, the state is relying on lawyers to do the cases of indigent defendants *pro bono*. The constitutional right to counsel in criminal cases is seriously undermined.

This simply is not right.

Thank you for your attention.

Lucy Cooper -Retired Attorney and Court Commissioner