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From: Christopher Paulsen
To: Janto, Carrie; Bergum, Susan
Date: 4/19/2018 4:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: In re Petition 17- 06, To Amend SCR 8102

>>> Thomas Donegan <tdonegan2013@gmail.com> 4/19/2018 3:24 PM >>>
In re Petition 17- 06, To Amend SCR 8102:

>
> It is my understanding that our Supreme Court will be holding a public hearing
> to consider a petition to raise the current rate of pay for attorneys who accept
> Public Defender appointments, Based on my 20 years of service as a Milwaukee
> County Circuit Court Judge, I strongly support the petition.
>
> The current rate of \$40.00 an hour, which was in effect when I took the bench
> in 1992, is abysmally low. Good, experienced attorneys did not want to take these cases
> because they felt they were in a bind between providing aggressive, effective representation
> and simply making a living. The \$40.00 an hour rate usually did not cover their costs. They,
> the attorneys, deserve better, and certainly the poor and the outcast who are their clients
> deserve the same access to justice that other defendants receive.
>
> Apparently, the legislature has chosen not to provide a remedy to this egregious situation.
> Possibly, they see this as simply a budgetary issue. Our Supreme Court, however, must see
> the potential Constitutional issues that arise when people are denied effective representation
> because our Wisconsin court system refuses to pay reasonable attorney fees.
>
> I sincerely hope that the Court will take this opportunity to improve on the present rate of Public
> Defender pay. It is obviously the right and fair thing to do.
>
>
> Sincerely,
> Hon. Thomas P. Donegan
> Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge (Retired)