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OF WISCONSIN**Carrie Janto - Supreme Court Petition-Raising the \$40 per hour rate**

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**From:** "Hughes, Steven" <hughess@opd.wi.gov>  
**To:** <clerk@wicourts.gov>, <carrie.janto@wicourts.gov>  
**Date:** 4/27/2018 8:58 AM  
**Subject:** Supreme Court Petition-Raising the \$40 per hour rate

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I am writing to join many others in respectfully requesting that the \$40 per hour public defender rate for appointed counsel be determined to be unreasonable. I am a public defender in Eau Claire county and I have noticed the struggles our office has had in finding counsel. Many individuals constitutional and statutory rights cannot be effectively pursued due to lack of counsel. I have seen our staff make hundreds of calls in attempts to find attorneys for indigent individuals, many of which who are in custody and begging for an attorney. I have seen it take over a month in some cases to an appoint an attorney for some clients at no fault of the client.

What is the point of having constitutional and statutory rights if an indigent individual cannot receive an attorney to effectively advocate for them. We are a country with the highest incarceration rate in the world and live in the state with the most racially discriminatory criminal justice system. We also have the lowest monetary rate for public defender appointed counsel in the nation. Something has to change. Raising the public defender rate is one small step in that direction.

I am respectfully requesting that the appointed counsel rate be raised to allow individuals to receive an effective attorney promptly. The thoughts in this e-mail are on my behalf and do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Defenders Office.

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