

**Carrie Janto - Petition re: Private Bar Rate Increase**

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**From:** Craig Johnson <cjohnson@unionyeslaw.com>  
**To:** <clerk@wicourts.gov>  
**Date:** 4/27/2018 9:38 AM  
**Subject:** Petition re: Private Bar Rate Increase

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APR 27 2018

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
OF WISCONSIN

To Whom it May Concern:

This is in regard to the petition for an increase in the State Public Defender private bar rate increase. I am an attorney in private practice in Milwaukee County. Although my practice is concentrated in Southeast Wisconsin, I receive numerous email each week from SPD offices around the state asking me to consider taking appointments on criminal matters – sometimes several hours away from my home county. In my mind, this means several things. First, criminal defendants (and courts, and victims, and witnesses) are waiting, sometimes for lengthy periods of time, for the appointment of attorneys for these cases. This cannot be helpful for any of the involved parties. For defendants, it presumably means waiting, possibly in custody, for their day in court. The same is true for victims. For courts, it means calendars filled with meaningless, and costly “calendar calls” and status dates. Second, assuming the SPD eventually finds attorneys from far-away counties to take these cases, extra money is spent for reimbursement for travel time for these attorneys.

I rarely take any out-of-county appointments, as the reimbursement rate is simply too low to justify doing so. I assume you have heard from many attorneys in this regard. Please add my voice to those imploring the Court to take a meaningful and necessary step by granting this petition and providing a remedy to a long-standing brake on justice in our state.

Thank you.

Craig R. Johnson  
Attorney at Law  
Sweet & Associates  
2510 E. Capitol Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
414-332-2255  
414-332-2275 (Fax)

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