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COURT OF APPEALS  
WISCONSIN**Carrie Janto - SPD Fees**

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**Date:** 4/26/2018 9:30 AM  
**Subject:** SPD Fees  
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I am writing to express my sincere hope that the State of Wisconsin understands the critical importance of raising the SPD rate. As a criminal defense attorney practicing for over 15 years, I can tell the Court that the current SPD rate has created a constitutional crisis as it relates to the defense of the indigent people of our community. The Constitution demands that EVERY person has a fundamental right to effective assistance of counsel. As a result of the \$40/hr rate, the qualified criminal defense attorneys capable of providing effective representation are not taking appointments or are taking only a very limited number of cases because most cannot afford to take these cases. Many of us are solo or small firm practitioners and simply do not have the financial resources available to take these cases at these rates. The rates as currently set, create a situation that is tantamount to pro bono work. As a result, the pool of attorneys willing to take these cases often lack the skill and expertise necessary to provide effective representation. I think many of us would be inclined to take more SPD cases if the rates were commensurate with our expertise and skill level. Until that changes, the indigent people of our community, will be left with subpar and constitutionally deficient representation.

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