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APR 30 2018

From: Dale Pasell <dalepasell@hotmail.com>
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Date: 4/30/2018 1:40 PM
Subject: SPD Rate for Appointed Counsel

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Dear Honorable Justices,

I write in support of the Petition to increase the rate of compensation for private attorneys appointed by the State Public Defender.

I was a member of the State Public Defenders office for over 20 years, serving as a staff trial attorney, First Assistant in the La Crosse region, and also as Director of the Trial Division. I was elected as a State Circuit Court Judge in La Crosse county in 1999 and served in that capacity until my retirement at the end of 2014.

My experience and training lead me to believe that an increase in the rates of compensation for private attorneys is absolutely necessary to the effective and fair functioning of the criminal justice system in Wisconsin. The present system leads to intolerable delays in the administration of justice. The SPD has to search competent counsel from the dwindling supply of private attorneys willing to work at a rate of compensation where they are likely to actually lose money. It also raises questions concerning the quality of representation provided.

This impacts victims who see cases delayed time and again, the court system itself as cases are repeatedly called in court only to find the defendant still has been appointed an attorney, and those individuals accused of crimes who are entitled to competent representation. The adversary system simply cannot function fairly and justly unless a capable attorney can be appointed to provide representation.

I urge the court to raise the rates of appointed counsel as requested in the petition.

Sincerely,
Dale Pasell
State Circuit Court Judge (Ret.)

Sent from my iPhone