

From: Christopher Paulsen
To: Janto, Carrie; Bergum, Susan
Date: 4/30/2018 8:05 AM
Subject: Fwd: Wisconsin Justice Initiative - raising the \$40.00 hourly fee to \$100.00

>>> "Bob Thorson" <bobthorson@sbcglobal.net> 4/27/2018 6:36 PM >>>
04/27/2018

Dear Clerk,

The purpose of this email is to encourage the State Supreme Court to support raising the \$40.00 per hour fee to \$100.00 hourly fee. I have a law office in Chippewa Falls and one paralegal as an employee. I am fortunate that she is so good at her job, but under the present hourly rate I cannot afford to increase her retirement or give her the appropriate raise that she deserves. Other businesses have shown interest in her and I would understand if she went elsewhere. When I first started my practice in 1982 the SPD hourly rate was \$65.00 in-court and \$55.00 out-of-court

Every week I get emails from the various SPD offices that are beyond the counties surrounding Chippewa County. Regularly, these emails come from Sawyer, Portage, Washburn, Marathon and occasionally, Lincoln County. As things are now, I can barely justify going to Clark County, which is 70 miles one way. That results in a two and a half hour roundtrip and takes up most of a morning or afternoon. The present hourly rate is for travel is \$25.00. Several weeks ago I received a call from LaCrosse County as well. Since LaCrosse is not a rural county, I asked why there wouldn't be a sufficient number of attorneys there and was informed that only a limited number of attorneys are qualified for A, B or C felony charges. Several years ago I did take a homicide case in Douglas County, but insisted that the defendant be brought down to the Chippewa County jail which did occur. I cannot imagine an attorney being able to do a serious felony long distance or without an experienced office staff.

This week I had a revocation hearing in Eau Claire County. The client's first question to me was would zealously represent him since the hourly rate is only \$40.00 per hour. So, despite the Attorney-Client Privilege (which is to convince a client that he can be open with his or her attorney so that the attorney can zealously represent him or her within the bounds of the law) clients still have an uneasiness about appointed attorneys due to the \$40.00 hourly rate. It took time to convince the client of this.

It is getting worse and if nothing is done, it will not get better.

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APR 30 2018

**CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN**

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

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