



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

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January 19, 2018

To:

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Representative Terese Berceau
Representative Jonathan Brostoff

Re: Rule Petition 17-06, In re petition to amend SCR 81.02

Greetings:

I am assisting the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its consideration of rule petition 17-06 filed May 25, 2017, by John A. Birdsall on behalf of the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, et. al. The petition proposes an amendment to Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 81.02, by increasing the hourly rate of compensation for court appointed lawyers from \$70 to \$100, indexing future compensation rates to annual cost of living increases, and also specifying that the payment of an hourly rate less than the rate set forth in SCR 81.02 for legal services rendered pursuant to appointment by the State Public Defender under Wis. Stat. § 977.08 is unreasonable.

At the open rules conference on June 21, 2017, the court engaged in a preliminary discussion of this matter and voted to obtain written comments and schedule a public hearing.

The court deemed it advisable to inform each of you of this matter and to invite you to submit written comments before the hearing or to appear at the public hearing, which will be conducted on May 16, 2018.

On January 19, 2018, the court also sent the petitioners a number of questions and requested a written response by March 16, 2018.

A copy of the petition and any written submissions filed in connection with the petition can be found on the court's website at <https://wicourts.gov/scrules/1706.htm>.

If you have specific questions or other comments regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 608-261-6642, or by email at julie.rich@wicourts.gov.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Julie Anne Rich
Supreme Court Commissioner

cc: Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack
Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Michael J. Gableman
Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley
Justice Daniel Kelly
John A. Birdsall, Esq.
Henry R. Schultz, Esq.