

January 16, 2018

Clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Re: Rule Petition 17-09, In the Matter of the Petition for Amendment to SCR 10.03(4)(b)2 relating to Pro Hac Vice applications

Dear Honorable Justices,

I am writing in support of Petition 17-09, filed by the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission (“the Commission”). The Petition requests that the Court increase the fee for Pro Hac Vice admission from \$250 to \$300, with the \$50 increase allocated to the Commission.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is the designated Protection and Advocacy system for people with disabilities and the only statewide provider of civil legal aid in Wisconsin. People with disabilities and mental illness face particular threats to their rights and additional barriers to access to justice. The vast majority of the clients on whose behalf we advocate are poor and cannot afford quality legal representation. DRW is often the only provider of free, high-quality legal assistance for more than 150,000 low-income Wisconsinites with disabilities. While we provide advocacy to thousands of clients every year, we turn away thousands more who we simply cannot help due to lack of resources.

We support this Petition, because the Access to Justice Commission has been an important partner in the ongoing effort to address Wisconsin’s justice gap. The Commission’s work has included the perspective of the disability community and has been a collaborative effort among Wisconsin’s legal aid providers and supporters of access to justice from all perspectives. DRW has supported the Commission’s efforts to educate policymakers and introduce legislation that would expand resources available to the network of legal aid providers. We have supported the Commission’s work to expand opportunities for the private bar to address the justice gap through pro bono service.

While the Commission has received financial backing from the State Bar of Wisconsin, it now needs additional operating funding to continue its good work.

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Thus, I strongly urge the Court to authorize the requested increase in pro hac vice fees to provide the funding necessary to continue the operation of Wisconsin's Access to Justice Commission.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have. Thank you for this opportunity to support the Commission.

Very Truly Yours,



Daniel Idzikowski
Executive Director

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