

March 14, 2019

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

RE: Rule Petition 19-01 relating to making the record

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring an accurate record in Wisconsin courtrooms. I have been a court reporter for 40 years and currently work in Milwaukee County as an Official Court Reporter. I write to convey my personal experiences with digital audio recording (“DAR”) that I believe are relevant as you consider making DAR an official means of taking the verbatim record in Petition 19-01.

I have been the official reporter in one instance where there was construction going on outside while the hearing was taking place. It was very difficult to hear. In addition, while it is necessary to transport prisoners throughout the day, sometimes during the hearings I can hear the iron doors opening and closing as the witness speaks. In these instances, it was necessary to have witnesses repeat testimony because of the noise level, or I did not hear what was stated as the doors closed. I believe elevating DAR to become the official record would be a mistake whereas having a steno reporter would be invaluable in these instances because it allows the court reporter to have the testimony repeated to make a verbatim record.

I appreciate your consideration of my experiences regarding DAR when considering Petition 19-01. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Peoples, Court Reporter, Br. 2
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