

March 19, 2019

Wisconsin State Supreme Court
c/o Clerk of Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688
Re: Rule Petition 19-01
In re Petition for the Amendments Relating to Court Reporters and
Making the Record (as amended on February 22, 2019)

To the Honorable Justices of the State Supreme Court:

We are writing to comment on the above petition. While we appreciate the issues the petition addresses, as circuit court judges, we have several concerns.

First, is the addition of the word “primarily” in SCR 68.12(3). We note that this term is not defined. We are concerned this may eliminate a judge’s input on a reassignment of a court reporter. We understand that reporters have to be periodically reassigned to assist other courts. However, what are the criteria for determining the kinds or length of reassignments? While we agree that the judges need not have veto power, it is important that we have some involvement regarding the assignment.

Our second concern is the use of DAR. We echo the concerns of court reporters and their associations, as noted in comments already on file regarding this issue. While we keenly understand the problem of a shortage of court reporters, there are limitations to DAR that can only be solved by a court reporter. Just as the Wisconsin

Bar Association is encouraging young attorneys to practice in Northern Wisconsin, the courts should encourage the recruitment and development of new verbatim court reporters.

Thank you for considering our comments when deciding on the petition.

Walworth County Circuit Court Judges

Kristine E. Drettwan

Daniel S. Johnson

Phillip A. Koss

David M. Reddy