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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

RE: Petition 19-16 to Amend Wis. Stat. Chapter 802

Dear Honorable Justices:

I am writing in support of Petition 19-16 filed by Quarles & Brady LLP. The Petition requests that the Court amend the Rules of Civil Procedure to restore the important role of ghostwriting in limited scope legal representation.

I have chosen to engage in pro bono legal work throughout much of my career, and now as a Court Commissioner, I see the importance of pro bono work on a daily basis. We need more pro bono work, not less; and the current rule discourages just the type of pro bono work we need. Ghostwriting benefits the courts; it benefits the public; and it benefits the clients for whom the service is provided.

Legal services are expensive, and the clients I have served at pro bono clinics (and the parties I see in court on a daily basis) rely on limited scope representation like ghostwriting to access justice. Without it, parties often go wholly unrepresented through the legal process causing delay, confusion, and inefficiency in the court system.

I hope the rule will be restored to allow attorneys to fully engage in this type of pro bono work again. Our low-income community members need it.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Joshua B. Cronin