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June 25, 2019

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P. O. Box 1688
110 East Main Street, Suite 215
Madison, WI 53701

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 engaged in pro bono legal work throughout my career. I have been inhibited from fully engaging in my pro bono work after 2018 amendment of Wis. Stat. §802.05(2m). I became worried that disclosing my name and bar number on documents drafted in a brief legal advice clinic setting would potentially raise future appearances of conflicts of interest in my private practice. Legal services are expensive and the clients I have served at pro bono clinics 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 expense for the court system.

The ghostwriting tool gave me the freedom to provide pro bono help in brief legal advice clinics without managing a pro bono caseload outside of the clinic setting. I hope the rule will be restored to allow me to fully engage in this type of pro bono work again. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael P. Malone

:MPM