

Mark G. Petri

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February 5, 2021

Sent via email only

Chief Justice Patience D. Roggensack
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Rebecca F. Bradley
Justice Rebecca F. Dallet
Justice Brian Hagedorn
Justice Jill J. Karofsky
16 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

clerk@wicourts.gov

Julie.rich@wicourts.gov

Subject: Support for Petition 20-06

Dear Chief Justice and Justices,

I write as Chairman of the Emeritus Task Force of the State Bar of Wisconsin to express my support for Petition 20-06 for the reasons previously set forth in the Memorandum submitted by the State Bar in support of this Petition.

In doing so, I emphasize that the Task Force carefully crafted the proposed new Membership Structure to meet the General Public's needs and rightful expectations of members of the State Bar, while also recognizing differing circumstances of the various State Bar Membership Categories. The Task Force's first and most important priority was meeting the public's expectation that actively practicing lawyers maintain their professionalism and knowledge of the law through appropriate Continuing Legal Education. The Task Force also recognized that many otherwise fully retired attorneys want to and would be of great service to the General Public through "Qualified Pro Bono Organizations." These "Qualified Pro Bono Organizations" as you know provide specialized legal training to their attorneys in the specific areas of the law that they provide and they *properly supervise* their attorneys. Finally, the Task Force recognized that existing Emeritus members reasonably relied upon their current membership status and the rules

in place at the time; thus, concluded that a reasonable transition to the new Emeritus Membership category should be one in which only on a “going forward” basis our members as of a certain age (i.e. age 75 per our proposal) if still actively practicing should be allowed a glide path to full retirement with appropriately declining CLE requirements. Once retired and no longer practicing, they like anyone else 70 or above and in a similar circumstance, would then be able to elect the new Emeritus status, and with that no CLE requirement and no State Bar dues.

All these interests and issues (and others) were carefully crafted to create the proposed new State Bar Membership Structure outlined in the Petition that will serve both the public and the state bar for many decades to come.

I am proud of the work that the Emeritus Task Force and the State Bar of Wisconsin Board of Governors have accomplished and hope the Court will adopt the carefully crafted and reasonable Membership Structure set forth in the Petition before this Court.

Thank you for your consideration of taking this whole project over the “finish line.”

Sincerely,

/s/ *Mark G. Petri*

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