



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF COURT COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners

Telephone (608) 266-7442

January 8, 2026

Via E-mail Distribution

To: Interested Persons – See Attached List

Re: Rule Petition 25-04, In re Amendment of SCR 40.04 and 40.14 Relating to the Wisconsin Bar Examination

Greetings:

We are assisting the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its consideration of Rule Petition 25-04, filed on December 17, 2025, by the Board of Bar Examiners (BBE). This rule petition asks the court to amend Supreme Court Rules (SCR) 40.04 and 40.14, relating to the administration, content, and fees for the Wisconsin Bar Examination. The petition proposes, *inter alia*, replacing the current bar examination with the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE), replacing the Wisconsin essay portion of the current exam with a Wisconsin law and practice educational component, allowing applicants to transfer existing qualifying UBE scores, and increasing the fees for administering the examination. The BBE proposes that these changes take effect in time for the July 2026 bar examination.

You have received this letter because you or your agency or organization potentially have an interest in this matter.

At a closed administrative conference on January 7, 2026, the court discussed this matter and voted to obtain written comments and schedule this matter for a public hearing. A notice of public hearing will issue in due course. Please note, the court may take any action on a rule petition it deems appropriate, including any of the following:

- (a) Adopt the rule proposed, or a modified version, without further comment.
- (b) Reject the rule proposed without further comment.
- (c) Refer the rule petition to another entity for its review and recommendation.
- (d) Request further information or analysis from the petitioner or interested persons or entities.

Any comment to the rule petition should be filed by January 29, 2026, with the Clerk of Supreme Court, Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules, P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688. A courtesy copy of the response, in Microsoft Word format, should be e-mailed to clerk@wicourts.gov. Please see

the comment guidelines at the court's website at <https://www.wicourts.gov/srules/process.htm>. The petitioner may file a response to the comments by February 12, 2026.

A copy of the petition can be found on the court's website at <https://www.wicourts.gov/srules/pending/2504.htm>. Court communications on the petition and any written comments filed with the clerk's office will be posted on the website

If you have specific questions regarding this matter, you may contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688, by telephone at 608-261-6642, or by e-mail at tim.barber@wicourts.gov and Bridget.Schoenborn@wicourts.gov.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Timothy M. Barber and Bridget Schoenborn
Supreme Court Commissioners

cc: Chief Justice Jill F. Karofsky
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Rebecca G. Bradley
Justice Rebecca F. Dallet
Justice Brian Hagedorn
Justice Janet C. Protasiewicz
Justice Susan M. Crawford
Jacquelynn B. Rothstein, Director, Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners

List of Interested Persons

Badger State Sheriffs' Association, Attention: Executive Director
Board of Administrative Oversight, Attention: Rene L'Esperance, Chair
Board of Bar Examiners
Chief Circuit Court Judges
Circuit Court Judges
Clerk of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, Samuel A. Christensen
Court of Appeals, Attention: Chief Staff Attorney
Court of Appeals Judges
Director of State Courts, Honorable Audrey K. Skwierawski
Deputy Director of State Courts, Office of Court Operations: Amber Peterson
Court Operations: Ann Olson, Krista Miller, Trent Koerner, Meg Sternitzky
Department of Administration, State Prosecutors Office
District Court Administrators
Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, Attention: Katy Borowski, Executive Director
Hamilton Consulting Group, Attention: Rebecca Hogan, R.J. Pirlot, Adam Jordahl
Legal Action of Wisconsin, Attention: Deedee Peterson, Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Attention: Colleen Foley, Executive Director
Marquette University Law School, Attention: Joseph D. Kearney, Dean
Office of Lawyer Regulation, Attention: Timothy Samuelson, Director
Office of State Public Defender, Attention: Jennifer Bias
Office of State Public Defender, Attention: Steve Knudson
Office of the Attorney General, Attention: Josh L. Kaul
Preliminary Review Committee, Attention: Barry Boline, Chair
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Jill Rothstein, Executive Director
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Lisa Roys, Advocacy & Access to Justice Director
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Dan Denker Gartzke, President
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Ryan M. Billings, Past-President
State Bar of Wisconsin, Attention: Stephen Walter Sawyer, President-Elect
University of Wisconsin Law School, Attention: Daniel Tokaji, Dean; Myra Sun, Exec. Asst.
Western District Bar Association of Wisconsin, Attention: Katelynn Williams
Wisconsin Asian American Bar Association, Attention: Julius Kim, President
Wisconsin Association for Justice, Attention: Bryan Roessler, Executive Director; Jim Rogers,
Government Affairs Director
Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers
Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Attention: Peter McKeever
Wisconsin Association of Judicial Court Commissioners, Attention: Susan Schaubel
Wisconsin Bankers Association, Attention: Kris Cleven, Vice President-Legal
Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association, Attention: Regina Kolbow, Stacy Kleist
Wisconsin Counties Association, Attention: Marcie Rainbolt
Wisconsin Defense Counsel, Attention: Jenni Kilpatrick, Executive Director; Andrew Hebl,
President
Wisconsin District Attorneys Association, Attention: Greta Mattison, Executive Director
Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association, Attention: David Pruhs, Deputy Family
Court Commissioners; Lisa Krueger, Family Court Commissioner; Peggy Miller, Family
Court Commissioner
Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association, Attention: Pamela M. Ritger
Wisconsin Judicare, Inc., Attention: Beth Ann Richlen, Executive Director
Wisconsin Judicial Commission, Attention: Jeremiah VanHecke
Wisconsin Judicial Council, Attention: William C. Gleisner, III, Chair
Wisconsin Judicial Council, Appellate Procedure Committee: Hon. Rachel Graham, Chair

Wisconsin Justice Initiative, Inc., Attention: Margo Kirchner
Wisconsin Juvenile Court Clerks Association, Attention: Lisa Milella
Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association, Attention: Honorable Robert Kupfer
Wisconsin Newspaper Association, Attention: Beth Bennett, Executive Director
Wisconsin Registers in Probate Association
Wisconsin Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association, Attention: Sandy Schueller
Wisconsin State Attorneys Association, Attention: John Gelhard
Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, Attention: Honorable Gregory Gill, Jr.
Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association, Attention: Honorable Gwendolyn Topping, President