Supreme Court of Wisconsin

OFFICE OF COURT COMMISSIONERS
110 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE 440
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703

David W. Runke
Mark A. Neuser
Timothy M. Barber
Bridget J. Schoenborn
Commissioners

Telephone (608) 266-7442

November 20, 2026

To: Interested Persons – See Attached List

Via E-mail Distribution

Re: Rule Petition 26-05, *In re Amendment to SCR 40.04(1)(b), Legal Competence Requirement: Bar Examination*

Greetings:

I am assisting the Wisconsin Supreme Court with its consideration of Rule Petition 26-05, filed on September 15, 2026, by Rebecca Clancy. This rule petition asks the court to amend SCR 40.04(1)(b) to eliminate certain requirements that graduates of non-ABA-approved law schools must meet to take the Wisconsin bar examination. Specifically, the petition seeks to eliminate the requirements that a non-ABA-approved law school graduate applicant must first: 1) pass a bar examination in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia; and 2) be admitted to practice law in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia to be eligible for admission by examination in Wisconsin.

You have received this letter because you or your agency or organization potentially have an interest in this matter. A copy of the petition can be found on the court's website at *https://www.wicourts.gov/scrules/pending/2605.htm*.

The court conducted a preliminary discussion of this matter at a closed administrative conference and voted to obtain written comments and schedule a public hearing. The public hearing will be scheduled for a date to be determined. The court will meet in open conference after the hearing to discuss the rule. 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 December 10, 2026, with the Clerk of Supreme Court, Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules, P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688. Additionally, please e-mail a Microsoft Word version of your comment to *clerk@wicourts.gov*. Please see the comment guidelines at the court's website at *https://www.wicourts.gov/scrules/process.htm*. The petitioner may file any response to the comments by December 21, 2026. You might wish to consult the court's website at *https://www.wicourts.gov/scrules/index.htm* to follow this rule petition. 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, please contact me by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688, by telephone at 608-266-7442, or by e-mail at *bridget.schoenborn@wicourts.gov*.

Sincerely,
/s/
Bridget Schoenborn
Supreme Court Commissioner

cc: Chief Justice Jill J. Karofsky
Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet
Justice Brian K. Hagedorn
Justice Janet C. Protasiewicz
Justice Susan M. Crawford
Justice Chris Taylor
Rebecca Clancy

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
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, Steve Knudson, Bridget Krause and Jaclyn Shelton
Office of the Attorney General, Attention: Josh L. Kaul
Preliminary Review Committee, Attention: Duffy Dillon, 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: Winn S. Collins
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: Bobbi Petersen
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 Commissioner; 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: Natalie Zibolski
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: Quinn Williams
Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, Attention: Honorable David Borowski
Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association, Attention: Honorable Michelle Greendeer-Rave, President