STATE OF WISCONSIN IN THE SUPREME COURT

In the Matter of the Petition of the State Bar of Wisconsin Regarding Membership of the Executive Committee Of the State Bar of Wisconsin

PETITION 26-___

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

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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

The State Bar of Wisconsin (the "State Bar") respectfully petitions the Wisconsin Supreme Court (the "Court") to add the State Bar's elected secretary and treasurer to the membership of the Executive Committee. On June 10, 2026, the Board of Governors (the "BOG") voted unanimously in favor of filing this Petition.

Adding the secretary and treasurer to the Executive Committee is a logical extension of their roles as elected officers of the State Bar. The Executive Committee exercises the authority of the Board of Governors between Board meetings and often discusses matters that directly affect the organization's governance, finances, operations, and member-facing decisions. Because the secretary and treasurer already carry officer-level responsibilities and are expected to understand and speak to the work of the organization, their inclusion would help ensure that all elected officers are informed and able to respond appropriately when members raise questions or concerns.

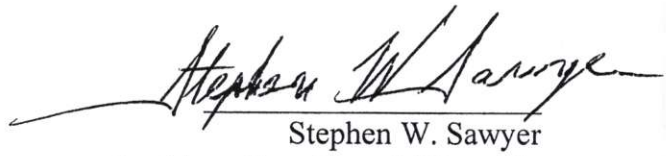
This change also reflects practical experience. Past officers have noted that it can be difficult to serve effectively as secretary or treasurer while being outside the regular Executive Committee discussions, particularly when those discussions involve financial matters, governance issues, or decisions that may later require explanation to members or the Board. Including the secretary and treasurer would provide them with the context needed to fulfill their roles as statewide elected officials more fully, while also strengthening continuity and communication among the State Bar's elected leadership.

In recent years, the secretary and treasurer have already been invited to participate in Executive Committee meetings in anticipation of this change. Formalizing their membership would align the Supreme Court rules governing the State Bar with that emerging practice and recognize that the Executive Committee functions most effectively when all elected officers are part of the same discussions, receive the same information, and share responsibility for supporting the organization between Board meetings.

CONCLUSION

The State Bar Board of Governors asks that this matter be scheduled for consideration to formalize the membership of the Executive Committee during the June 2027 Board of Governor's meeting.

STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN



Stephen W. Sawyer
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