

SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

NOTICE

This order is subject to further editing and modification. The final version will appear in the bound volume of the official reports.

No. 19-25

**In the Matter of the Petition to Amend
Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 12.07(2) (a),
Relating to the Annual Assessment of
Attorneys for the Wisconsin Lawyers'
Fund for Client Protection**

FILED

MAR 8, 2021

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court
Madison, WI

On December 23, 2019, Attorney Benjamin T. Kurten, on behalf of the Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection ("the Fund"), filed a rule petition asking the court to amend Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 12.07(2) (a) to increase the annual assessment of attorneys for the Fund to provide sufficient income for payment of eligible claims.

The court voted to seek written comments and schedule a public hearing. A letter soliciting comments was sent to interested persons on January 29, 2020. The court received two comments, from the State Bar of Wisconsin and from Attorney William Weigel, both supporting the petition.

A public hearing notice issued on September 4, 2020 and the court conducted a public hearing via videoconference on October 6,

2020.¹ Attorney Benjamin T. Kurten, presented the petition to the court on behalf of the Fund. Mr. Denis Donohue and Attorney Peter Sorce, members of the Board of Administrative Oversight, spoke in favor of the petition.

At an ensuing closed administrative rules conference, the court voted to grant the petition and to revise the rule as requested. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that effective July 1, 2021:

SECTION 1. Supreme Court Rule 12.07(2)(a) is amended to read:

(2)(a) *Annual assessments.* Commencing with the state bar's ~~2013~~ 2022 fiscal year, every attorney shall pay to the fund an annual assessment of \$~~20~~ 25. An attorney whose annual state bar membership dues are waived for hardship shall be excused from the payment of the annual assessment for that year. An attorney shall be excused from the payment of the annual assessment for the fiscal year during which he or she is admitted to practice in Wisconsin

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the above amendments be given by a single publication of a copy of this order in the official publications designated in SCR 80.01, including the official publishers' online databases, and on the Wisconsin court system's website. The State Bar of Wisconsin shall provide notice of this order.

REBECCA GRASSL BRADLEY and BRIAN HAGEDORN, JJ., dissent.

¹ The public hearing was initially scheduled on April 2, 2020 but was cancelled by order dated March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 8th day of March, 2021.

BY THE COURT:

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court

