

August 22, 2022

Clerk of Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Petition 22-03 Eviction Record Retention

Dear Honorable Justices,

I am writing in support of Petition 22-03 related to reducing the length of time eviction records are held. I am a resident of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, and I have experienced firsthand the impact of evictions and eviction records through my service on various boards, commissions and task forces. These include the Rock County Board of Supervisors, six years on the Beloit Equal Opportunities Commission, the last two as chairperson, eight years on the Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and recently on the Beloit Area Task Force on Homelessness. I have also on occasion accompanied tenants to their court hearings concerning eviction proceedings to be of support, and to better understand the eviction process.

To accuse landlords of not renting to anyone who has “eviction” anywhere in their CCAP search is ludicrous. The methods landlords use to screen tenants and the importance assessed to legal, financial and character information surely varies; however, the changes in the law in 2018 are not adequate to address the stigma too often attached when “eviction” does come up on a search. The pressure of a tight housing market exacerbates the impact on a potential renter. The additional time, money and energy necessary to secure shelter only makes the disparities borne by minorities and lower-income persons more extreme.

Therefore, I urge you to adopt Petition 22-03 to reduce the harm of eviction records by reducing the length of time they are held. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule.

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