



Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.

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January 10, 2018

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules
PO Box 1688
Madison WI 53701-1688

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2018

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Re: Rule Petition 17-09, In the Matter of the Petition for Amendment to SCR 10.03(4)(b)2
relating to Pro Hac Vice applications

Dear Clerk:

I am writing in support of Rule Petition 17-09 filed by James Gramling, President of the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission. The Petition requests that the Court increase the fee for admission via Pro Hac Vice under SCR 10.03(4)(b)2 from \$250 to \$300. The \$50 increase would be allocated to the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission.

On behalf of Wisconsin Judicare, I fully support the Petition as proposed. The Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission, created by the Supreme Court in 2009, has made great strides in expanding access to this civil justice system for unrepresented low-income Wisconsin residents since its inception. Wisconsin Judicare is a civil legal aid program providing legal services to low-income individuals in Wisconsin's northern 33 counties and all 11 federally recognized Native American tribes. As such, Wisconsin Judicare works closely with the Access to Justice Commission and benefits from the Commission's work.

Although Wisconsin Judicare is not represented on the Commission through a Commission member, we have coordinated with the Commission to organize an outreach event in Wausau, which brought together foundations, public officials and other community organizations focusing on the need for local financial support for civil legal aid. This event resulted in the collaboration between Wisconsin Judicare and a local private foundation to commit to providing a staff attorney to address housing and homelessness in Marathon County.

Wisconsin's Access to Justice Commission was a key supporter of continuing and protecting the Congressional Legal Services Corporation funding in 2017, while efforts were underway to remove funding from the new fiscal budget. Additionally, Wisconsin Judicare launched a website that provides free legal answers to individuals in Wisconsin in 2014. In 2016, the State Bar and the Access to Justice Commission and other stakeholders launched an upgraded version

of that service, Wisconsin Free Legal Answers, which allows low-income individuals to submit questions for review by volunteer attorneys.

It is collaborations such as these which are an integral part of serving the needs of the poor in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission is a vital component of this system, which is why Wisconsin Judicare supports Petition 17-09. The Commission requires funds in order to continue the impactful work it has begun.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Haas, J.D.
Executive Director

KH/mn

cc: James Gramling, Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission