



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

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April 3, 2017

RECEIVED

APR 05 2017

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Attn: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688
110 East Main Street, Suite 215
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Petition 16-09 (Petition to Amend SCR 40.05)

To the Honorable Justices:

The State Bar of Wisconsin's Board of Governors voted unanimously on February 10, 2017 to support Petition 16-09 related to proof of practice. The State Bar's Indian Law section has expressed support, and the section's comments are attached for your consideration.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs Director Lisa Roys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis W. Deisinger".

Francis W. Deisinger, President
State Bar of Wisconsin

Indian Law section comments:

January 12, 2017

RE: Comment in Favor of Rule Petition 16-09

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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Dear State Bar Board of Governors:

Sheko:li, greetings. My name is Nicole M. Homer. I am the Chairperson of the Wisconsin State Bar's Indian Law Section (ILS).

The ILS is made up predominantly of Wisconsin state licensed attorneys who practice Indian Law. This includes many attorneys who work in-house for federally-recognized tribes, such as myself. The mission of our section is set forth in our by-laws, and is as follows:

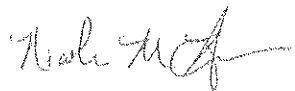
[t]he Purpose of this Section is to bring together members of the State Bar of Wisconsin who have a special interest in the field of Indian law; to encourage communication and exchange of ideas between attorneys who encounter Indian law issues or practice in the field of Indian law, including attorneys in private practice, and attorneys who work in government and industry; to participate in the presentation of educational seminars on Indian law; to disseminate information concerning Indian law developments through meetings, programs and publications; to further the development and improvement of Indian law by commenting, where appropriate, on proposed state and federal legislation; and to provide support and assistance to attorneys in their relations with any individual, group or other lawful entity that is involved with issues of concern to American Indians.

As such, the ILS believes that it has an obligation to comment on Rule Petition 16-09. The future of our membership depends on the ability to have reciprocity. There are 567 federally recognized tribes in the United States, and tribal attorneys are just as likely to move across state borders as any other attorney in this country for much of the same reasons. Many of the tribes in Wisconsin are in rural and impoverished areas- the very areas that Wisconsin has been actively supporting attorneys to move to.

We offer our support of Rule Petition 16-09. Those of us who are tribal attorneys do not work within a tribal law silo. Instead, we are required to be able to move fluidly between tribal, state, and federal law issues and cases. Tribal attorneys have a presence in state/tribal forums, committees, and policy groups across Wisconsin's three branches of government. Most, if not all, of the 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin require their in-house attorneys or hired counsel to be licensed in Wisconsin because the laws and policies of this state affect each of those tribes.

We believe the amendment proposed in Rule Petition 16-09 is needed to accurately reflect the legal work tribal attorneys do on a daily basis. And ultimately, it is the fair and just manner to address reciprocity. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 715-284-3170 or nicole.homer@ho-chunk.com. Thank you for taking the time to consider our support of this much needed amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicole M. Homer".

Nicole M. Homer
Chair, Indian Law Section
State Bar of Wisconsin