

March 14, 2019

Wisconsin Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Rule Petition 19-01 relating to making the record

Dear Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring an accurate record in Wisconsin courtrooms. I have been a court reporter for 28 years in both Minnesota and Wisconsin and I currently work in Douglas County, Wisconsin as an Official Stenographic Court Reporter. I write to convey my personal experiences with digital audio recording (“DAR”) that I believe are relevant as you consider making DAR an official means of taking the verbatim record in Petition 19-01.

Recently, we were in the middle of a trial when the sound system went out. Being a steno reporter, I was able to continue to report the proceedings without the use of the sound system. Without the amplification that feeds into the DAR system, a DAR reporter would not have been able to continue to “report” the proceedings. The trial would have had to have been adjourned until the sound system was functioning again. After the trial, calls were made and a sound system company sent a representative to diagnose and then fix the issue. Because there was a steno reporter available, we were able to complete the trial without interruption. Also, since the DAR system was installed in the courtroom I use, it has malfunctioned several times. These are personal examples of experiences I have had with the DAR system.

I appreciate your consideration of my experiences regarding DAR when considering Petition 19-01. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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