

March 13, 2020

Bill Weigel
603 Jenna Drive

RECEIVED Verona, WI 53593

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

MAR 13 2020

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Re: Petition 19-25 (WI Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection)

Chief Justice and Justices:

I write in support of Petition 19-25, as a Wisconsin lawyer and as a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Client Protection.^{1 2} The petition proposes raising the annual client protection fund assessment from \$20 to \$25. The proposal is appropriate, reasonable and quite modest in amount. The petition is supported by the State Bar.

Client protection funds serve an important and unmet need for victimized clients of lawyers who have acted dishonestly. It is and should be a source of pride for states and state bars who support and elevate their respective funds. As Chair Kurten points out, funds in nearby states enjoy operational reserves superior to Wisconsin's. The same is true for many jurisdictions throughout the country.

In my day job, I've firsthand seen the positive impacts of Wisconsin's well-managed client protection fund. This includes not just compensated claimants, but also from public and media learning that such a fund exists and is robustly supported.

Adoption of the proposal will mitigate the fund's occasional inability to fully and timely pay claims, and will publicly underscore the Court's support for this most worthy of client protection initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,



¹ Now re-named the ABA Standing Committee on the Protection of the Public in the Provision of Legal Services.

² I am writing individually, and not speaking for of my employer, the Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR), which has not weighed in on the petition.