



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
Leaders in the Law. Advocates for Justice.

MEMORANDUM

To: Wisconsin Supreme Court
From: John F. Wilcox, Senior Lawyers Division President-Elect
Date: January 14, 2014
Re: Petition 13-09 - Emeritus and New Member Dues

The Senior Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Wisconsin shares its support of petition 13-09. The Division believes that this petition is a step in the right direction for the following reasons:

- It is reasonable for those who are continuing to practice and who can avail themselves of the services of the Bar, to continue to pay dues to take part in those services.
- The two-tiered structure of Emeritus status allows those who are winding down their practices to have the opportunity to pay less than full dues.
- The attorneys who have Emeritus status now will be grandfathered in. Some of these people may have made plans for their careers based on the current rules and the Board felt it would be unfair to change the requirements after the fact.
- The additional income to the Bar may help it provide Emeritus members with resources and services to assist them in their practice and help prepare them for eventual retirement.

While some Division members told the Board that they felt that they had earned Emeritus status by their long tenure in the Bar and should not be required to continue to pay dues, the Senior Lawyers Division Board felt that the petition should be supported.

For the above stated reasons and to help the Bar with its present financial deficit, the board voted to support the petition.