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February 5, 2014

Clerk of Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk---Rules
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RE: Petition 13-14 to Amend SCR 60.04

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to support the proposed petition to amend the judicial code of conduct: SCR 60.04.

My support for the amendment comes from my 12 years of working with victims of domestic and sexual abuse. It has been my experience that the majority of abuse victims often are pro-se litigants because they lack the resources to obtain an attorney. As a result, pro-se litigants who have endured domestic and or sexual abuse often have to face their abuser in small claims, family, and or civil court. These hearings are daunting to victims of abuse for multiple reasons: facing their abuser, do not understand the process or procedure, do not understand the language that is being used by the Judge, and too often do not understand the rules of the courtroom. This leaves victims of abuse not able to defend themselves. Ultimately this is systemic re-victimization.

The proposed amendment shall afford pro-se litigants the ability to justly represent themselves and be less vulnerable to the systemic plethora of the justice system.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kristy P. Moran
Barron County Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate