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May 2, 2018

clerk@wicourts.gov and
carrie.janto@wicourts.gov

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

Re: Rule Petition 17-06

Dear Clerk:

I write this letter on behalf of the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Wisconsin Association of Justice and a number of other individuals in the public, private and academic sector, who are petitioning for consideration of Rule Petition 17-06 filed May 25, 2017 and to comment on the proposed Rule Petition 17-06.

I join with the petitioners in the adoption of proposed Rule Petition 17-06. Wisconsin's county appointed public defenders work tirelessly protecting the fundamental rights of individuals and providing effective legal representation for those who cannot afford the services of a private lawyer. Yet, lawyers who provide publicly supported legal services to indigent and low-income persons have not received a pay increase for the last 40 years. The last time salaries were increased was in 1977 while other elected public officials have received pay increases over the last 40 years. The current hourly rate for the county appointed public defender in Wisconsin is \$40.00 per hour, which is far beneath what is considered "reasonable" attorney's fees.

Enclosed is a chart I prepared to contrast the competitiveness of salaries of certain publicly elected officials in relation to county appointed public defenders. Based on this comparison, salaries for county appointed public defenders have not kept pace with the U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics CPI inflation index while salaries of certain public officials in Wisconsin have increased by 325%. I have also included my private sector rate since 1990, the year I was admitted to the Bar, to the present. My rate over the last 28 years has increased by 516%. Everyone has seen an increase over the last 40 years in the public and private sectors except county appointed public defenders. Our county appointed public defenders have earned an increase.

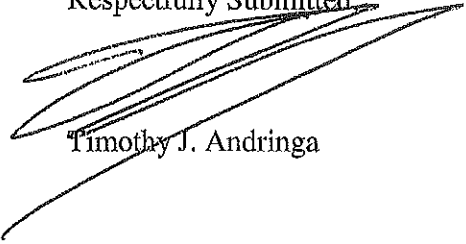
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On behalf of the petitioners, I strongly urge the adoption of Rule Petition 17-06. Taking this most important step will show that Wisconsin not only values its county appointed public defenders but also the legal services they provide to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter and for the reasons outlined in this letter, I urge the Court to adopt Rule Petition 17-06.

Respectfully Submitted,



Timothy J. Andringa

TJA:jtl
cc: Attachment

**SALARY COMPARISON BETWEEN CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS
AND PUBLIC DEFENDER OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS**

	Position	1977 Pay Rate	2018 Pay Rate	Approx. % Increase From 40 Years Ago
1.	County Appointed Public Defender	\$40/hr.	\$40/hr.	0% ¹
2.	State Senator	\$17,843.00	\$50,950.00	285%+
3.	State Assembly	\$17,843.00	\$50,950.00	285%+
4.	Chief Justice	\$55,299.00	\$154,000.00	278%
5.	Other Supreme Court Justices	\$48,919.00	\$146,000.00	298%
6.	Governor	\$44,292.00	\$144,423.00	325%
	Attorney Timothy J. Andringa	\$60/hr. ²	\$310/hr.	516%

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator: 1977 at \$40/hr is equivalent to \$170/hr in 2018.
² 1990 rate.