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May 20, 2019

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

RE: Petition 19-16 to Amend Wis. Stat. Chapter 802

Dear Honorable Justices:

I am writing in support of Petition 19-16 filed by Quarles & Brady LLP. The Petition requests that the Court amend the Rules of Civil Procedure to restore the important role of ghostwriting in limited scope legal representation.

I have chosen to engage in pro bono legal work throughout much of my career. I was deterred from continuing my pro bono work after 2018 amendment of Wis. State. Sec. 802.05(2m). I became worried that disclosing my name and bar number on documents drafted in a brief legal advice clinic setting would potentially raise future appearances of conflicts of interest in my private practice. I was also concerned that clients might make edits to documents after I drafted them but before they were filed with the court. Legal services are expensive and the clients I have served at pro bono clinics rely on limited scope representation like ghostwriting to access justice. Without it, parties often go wholly unrepresented through the legal process causing delay, confusion, and inefficiency in the court system.

The ghostwriting tool gave me the freedom to provide pro bono help in brief legal advice clinics without managing a pro bono caseload outside of the clinic setting. I hope the rule will be restored to allow me to fully engage in this type of pro bono work again. Our low-income community members need it.

Sincerely,

IVANOVIC LAW OFFICES

Ksenija Kokanovic
Attorney at Law

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