

SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

No. 17-06

In re the Petition to Amend SCR 81.02

FILED

APR 17, 2018

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court
Madison, WI

On May 25, 2017, Attorneys John A. Birdsall and Henry R. Schultz filed a rule petition on behalf of the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Wisconsin Association of Justice, and a number of individuals. The petition asks this court to amend Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 81.02 (Compensation) to: (1) change the hourly rate of compensation for court-appointed lawyers from \$70 to \$100 per hour; (2) include a provision in SCR 81.02 indexing future compensation rates to annual cost of living increases; and (3) "include a provision specifying that any payment for legal services rendered pursuant to an appointment by the State Public Defender under Wisconsin statutes section 977.08 of an hourly rate less than the rate set forth in Supreme Court Rule 81.02 is unreasonable."

The court discussed this petition at some length at open conference on June 22, 2017 and voted to request additional information from the petitioner, solicit public comment, and schedule a public hearing.¹ After the court's discussion, the petitioners

¹Documents filed to date in this matter may be viewed on the court's rules website, <https://www.wicourts.gov/scrules/1706.htm>.

asked the court to schedule the public hearing in the spring of 2018. The public hearing has been scheduled in the Supreme Court Room in the State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin, on May 16, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

Letters to interested parties were sent March 7, 2018, with comments due April 4, 2018. A request to extend the comment period has been received, considered by the court, and granted.

IT IS ORDERED, that any comment to the rule petition should be filed by May 1, 2018, with the Clerk of Supreme Court, Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules, P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688. The petitioners may file any response to the comments by May 4, 2018.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 17th day of April, 2018.

BY THE COURT:

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court

