

STATE OF WISCONSIN
SUPREME COURT
P.O. BOX 1688
MADISON, WISCONSIN
53701-1688

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CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE SHIRLEY S. ABRAHAMSON

December 8, 2011

Attorney Jim Brennan
President, State Bar of Wisconsin
PO Box 7158
Madison, WI 53707-7158

George Brown
Executive Director, State Bar of Wisconsin
PO Box 7158
Madison, WI 53707-7158

Dear President Brennan and Director Brown:

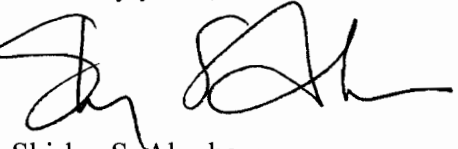
I am writing in connection with the court's consideration of the civil "Gideon" petition and at the suggestion of several justices. For more information about this petition, #10-08, see our website at <http://wicourts.gov/srules/1008.htm>.

I write to encourage the State Bar to develop, if feasible, additional CLE programs for lawyers on how to represent indigent persons in a variety of consumer protection and other relevant civil cases. I have discussed with the Board of Bar Examiners the feasibility of granting credit for such courses and credit for lawyers who, as a matter of pro bono, serve this community of indigent persons.

I know that the Bar does not favor mandatory pro bono for a number of reasons, and the Court does not appear interested in this approach. In addition to the CLE matters I raised above, do you have other suggestions for the Bar or the Court to increase pro bono activities of lawyers across the state?

In years past, MATC (now Madison College) gave courses to non-lawyers about the law and representing oneself in court. I do not know whether any such courses are available or whether the Bar might be interested in organizing such courses.

My thanks for your consideration and best wishes for a happy holiday season and good new year.

Sincerely yours,

Shirley S. Abrahamson

cc: All Justices
Jacquelynn Rothstein
Julie Rich
Clerk of Supreme Court - Rules Petition 10-08 file