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03/06/2012

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIRLEY S. ABRAHAMSON
SUPREME COURT

March 6, 2012

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson
The Supreme Court of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2012
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Re: Legal Assistance in Civil Matters
Rule Petition #10-08

Dear Chief Justice Abrahamson:

Madison College President Bettsey Barhorst forwarded your letter of February 7, 2012, regarding legal assistance in civil matters, Rule Petition #10-08, to me as Paralegal Program Director at Madison College.

The Madison College Paralegal Program is approved by the American Bar Association. The program offers students two program options, a two-year Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree, and a two-semester Post-Baccalaureate Certificate. Both program options include a required 3-credit Paralegal Internship course in which students spend a minimum of 140 hours at a legal site placement. At present, students select from more than ninety offices within the Madison College district that welcome our student interns.

Numerous site placements focus on providing legal assistance to indigents in both civil and criminal matters. For more than a decade, Madison College paralegal interns have logged site placement hours at the following sites that provide these critical legal services:

- ARC – Wisconsin Disability Association, Inc.
- Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups
- Community Justice Inc.
- Dane County Circuit Court, Branch 7
- Dane County District Attorney's Office
- Frank J. Remington Center – University of Wisconsin Law School
- Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
- Rock County Courthouse
- Sauk County Child Support Agency
- United States Probation Office, Western District of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Office of Legal Counsel

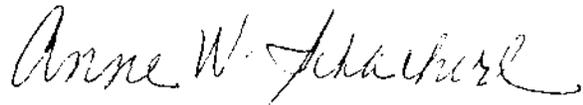
- Wisconsin Department of Justice
- Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office – Madison Office
- Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office – Appellate Bureau
- Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office – Wausau Trial Division

In addition to the placements listed above, Madison College Paralegal Program students have interned with Justices at the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as well as private sector law firms and in corporate legal departments. The internship site placement is consistently ranked as a highpoint of their paralegal training in our students' evaluations of the program.

It would be our privilege to work with the Court and supervising attorneys to provide additional internship opportunities to our students and address the need of indigents for legal assistance in civil matters. It is the mission of the Madison College Paralegal Program to provide the training required for program graduates to "hit the ground running" when they enter the workplace. Working under the direction of supervising attorneys, program graduates are trained to perform legal research, draft pleadings and memoranda, and conduct client interviews. As per American Bar Association standards, all Madison College paralegal course curricula include applicable ethics rules.

Thank you for contacting the Madison College Paralegal Program. Please let us know how we can assist the Court in this important endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



Anne W. Schacherl
Paralegal Program Director
aschacherl@matcmadison.edu
608.246.6631

cc: Bettsey L. Barhorst, Madison College President
Terrance S. Webb, Madison College Provost
Bryan M. Woodhouse, Interim Dean – Business and Applied Arts
Denise M. Reimer, Interim Dean – Business and Applied Arts