

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2008

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN



To: Supreme Court Justices

Re: Supreme Court Rule Petition 10-08

I thank the Wisconsin Supreme Court for having this hearing regarding the Supreme Court Rule 11.02 (Appearance by Attorney). I support the petition. I believe every person has a right to equal justice under the law. That right should not depend on a person's financial ability to hire a lawyer.

A month ago a lady appeared before Police Chief Jim Arts Diversity Advisory Committee in Green Bay. Part of her situation was that her son was to appear in juvenile court and she was unable to hire a lawyer.

Two years ago I worked with a Hispanic man – I'll call him Jose - preparing him for court in his effort to have monies returned to him from the lady who did not prepare documents as she said for renewal of his green card. Jose hired a man to translate technical terms and give him advice in court. The judge allowed the man to do only one task with the result that Jose did not present himself well and lost the case.

I work with several agencies where I see people who can not afford a lawyer, people who try to represent themselves with almost no success and the saddest is when they go to a pay day loan store to get money for a lawyer.

I surely believe all human beings have basic rights such as food, shelter etc.. I also believe justice is one of those basic rights. We do not have a right to take advantage of others who are in a vulnerable situation, such as poverty, education or experience. When people appear in court the playing field should be level and it is not level if both parties do not have a lawyer. The statement 'equal justice under the law' is not true if both parties do not have a lawyer.

A firm belief of mine is, Wisconsin is as well off as their poorest citizens

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Ribbens". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Fr. Bill Ribbens