

Carrie Janto - Petition 13-14 to Amend SCR 60.04

From: Judy Sleik <judysleik@gmail.com>
To: <clerk@wicourts.gov>
Date: 2/5/2014 11:43 AM
Subject: Petition 13-14 to Amend SCR 60.04
CC: <carrie.janto@wicourts.gov>

RECEIVED

FEB 05 2014

**CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN**

Clerk of Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1688

Re: Petition 13-14 to Amend SCR 60.04

Dear Clerk,

I strongly endorse this petition. It reflects the work of an experienced and highly qualified blue ribbon group of judges and court commissioners. A positive response to this good work is important to the administration of justice in Wisconsin.

It is no longer realistic to assume that all hearings and trials will include lawyers. During forty one years of trial practice it became increasingly common for me to observe unrepresented parties engaged in trials. I am fully retired now, with no reason to support this proposal except that it reinforces what experienced and savvy trial judges have deemed to be appropriate. This petition does not compromise judicial impartiality. It encourages best practices.

It was a privilege to serve on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin for seven years and represent the Bar as its President. Being on the Board of Administrative Oversight for the Office of Lawyer Regulation and the Wisconsin Judicial Commission also provided a relevant perspective for encouraging support for thoughtful, competent and efficient trial judges. The Petition reaffirms the role of flexibility in judicial proceedings and Wisconsin would appropriately join 24 other states and the District of Columbia in approving a similar provision in the ABA Model Code. Having also been a member of the Board of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, it is clear that trial judges all over the nation deserve all the support and reinforcement that appellate courts can provide them.

I would like to appear in support of this petition but family commitments (which are a great part of the job of retirement) preclude me from attending. This petition deserves the support of the Supreme Court.

Respectfully,

Thomas S. Sleik
4082 Glenhaven Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601