

Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association

Honorable Scott R. Letteney, President

**N3496 Como Road
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 5317**

February 5, 2014

Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 East Main Street, Suite 215
Post Office Box 1688
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1688

RE: Petition 13-14, In re Matter of the Petition for Amendment of Supreme Court Rule 60.04
filed 09/13/13 by Wisconsin Access to Justice.

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin,

On behalf of the membership of the Wisconsin Municipal Judges, I write to support the amendment to Supreme Court Rule 60.04 proposed by the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission in Petition 13-14. After hearing presentations from Judge Margaret Vergeront and Judge Scott L. Horne at WMJA meetings, our membership voted to support the Petition.

As you are aware, there are approximately 250 municipal courts in the State of Wisconsin. Municipal courts conduct a significant part of the work of the Wisconsin judiciary. Whether operating in urban, suburban, or rural settings, Wisconsin's dedicated municipal judges daily attend to the interests of justice both to the municipalities they serve and to the defendants appearing before them. Almost all defendants appearing before municipal courts are unrepresented. Wisconsin's municipal judges have a unique perspective in this regard.

The proposed amendment to Supreme Court Rule 60.04 effectively defines the appropriate role of a judge toward unrepresented defendants, and the conduct described therein reflects the prevailing practice of municipal judges throughout Wisconsin. Candidly, the WMJA has some concerns that the explanatory language contained in the proposed Comment does not adequately consider the procedures in municipal courts and requests input to any further modifications.

Again, on behalf of the members of the Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association, I ask that you grant this important petition. Thank you for your service and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Scott R. Letteney
Municipal Judge, Town of Geneva
President, Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association