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

RE: 16-04 Lawyer-Mediators to Draft Settlement Documents in Family Cases

Dear Clerk:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Rule 16-04 Lawyer-Mediators to Draft Settlement Documents in Family Cases that is currently before the Supreme Court. I act as a family law mediator and can attest that it would be advantageous to all the parties involved that the mediator has the ability to draft documents during mediation. The parties will be able to see in black and white the agreement that they just mediated and then sign on the day of mediation. Additionally, it is useful to be able to revise language until everyone is satisfied while all of the parties are gathered together. It has been my experience that people change their mind or their recollection of the details of the agreement fade once they walk out of the mediator's office if the agreement is not reduced to writing. For pro se couples, the need to hire an attorney to draft the mediated agreement defeats the purpose of self-representation; for parties with attorneys, not allowing the mediator draft the agreement slows the process. For many mediation cases, timing is everything – the agreement we reach today may not be possible tomorrow.

I am in full support of this proposed rule change. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steven P. Doyle  
Attorney at Law

SPD/jrp