



WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

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Brian W. Blanchard, Judge

September 9, 2024

Via Email and Regular Mail

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices
c/o Clerk of the Supreme Court
Attn: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701
clerk@wicourts.gov

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2024

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Re: Rule Petition 16-05E, In re: Creation of a Pilot Project for Dedicated Trial Court Judicial Dockets for Large Claim Business and Commercial Cases

Dear Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices:

I write in strong opposition to continuation of the “business courts” project. My opposition rises from my daily work reviewing records in appeals. I’m often struck by the ability of circuit court judges to navigate obscure or potentially complicated areas of Wisconsin law that the judges have never confronted before. These judges routinely manage to come up with sensible, timely, effective resolutions to issues in unusual cases across the wide range of legal topics arriving in state courts of general jurisdiction: property law, constitutional law, divorce, probate, contracts, torts, and criminal law. How do they do this?

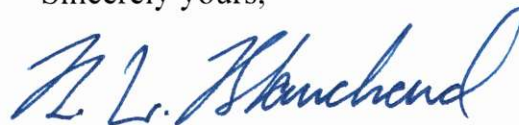
There are of course many contributing factors. But it’s clear that Wisconsin judges have access to quality judicial education and resources, equipping them to address a wide range of issues regardless of their particular professional and personal backgrounds. Beyond that, of course, they have every incentive to try hard to maintain their reputations for fairness, acuity, and efficiency among their judicial colleagues across the state, members of the bar, and the public at large. This includes a natural and sensible inclination to prioritize cases based on the needs of all litigants and the public interest—*not based on the wealth or influence of any parties.*

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Some business disputes can certainly be complex. But so can divorces. And landlord-tenant disputes. The list goes on. Judicial experience and education are important for all complicated areas of law. But in my experience, a complicated set of maintenance and property division disputes in a heavily litigated divorce case can be much more difficult for a circuit court judge to resolve in an effective and timely fashion than the vast run of business disputes that I routinely address in the course of reviewing appeals from the circuit court.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. W. Blanchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Brian W. Blanchard

/amw

Enclosures via mail (original plus 9 copies)

cc: Attorney Laura A. Brenner, Chair, Business Court Advisory Committee
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