

September 6, 2024

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

RECEIVED

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**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:

We submit this letter in opposition to recertification of the business court on the basis that we see no need for such a court. Our opinion is informed by a combined twenty-six years of experience as Dane County Judges.

In Dane County we have three rotations, Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile. The civil rotation is responsible for all types of civil litigation. We have six judges assigned to the civil rotation, eight in criminal, and three in juvenile. Although Dane County has a commercial court docket, the fact is that commercial docket cases are randomly assigned to all six judges in the civil rotation. Effectively, if you are in the civil rotation you are also a "commercial docket court." What effect has this had on the processing of those cases? Based on our experience, the answer is absolutely none. This tells us that there is no reason for a commercial court. The claim that particular expertise or experience is needed to handle those claims is belied by the fact that every judge in the civil division handles those cases (without any special training that we are aware of) and there is no evidence that the cases are being processed more slowly, or are being mishandled in any way.

Others have expressed more philosophical differences with the commercial court, and in general we agree with their critiques. We write simply to express our view that the commercial court seems to be a "solution in search of a problem."

Thank you for considering our views.



Rhonda Lanford



Stephen Ehlke

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

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