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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

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April 30, 2018

Sent via email only: clerk@wicourts.gov and carrie.janto@wicourts.gov.

Clerk of Supreme Court
Attention: Deputy Clerk- Rules
PO Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

RE: Rule Petition 17-06, In re Petition to Amend SCR 81.02

Dear Deputy Clerk:

I am writing to express support of Rule Petition 17-06, In re Petition to Amend SCR 81.02, to increase compensation for court appointed lawyers and those appointed by the State Public Defender.

I have taken public defender appointments since 2008. I have worked as a solo practitioner for approximately 5 years. Many of the cases I take as a solo practitioner are court appointed cases and public defender appointments. Because of the low compensation, I cannot afford to hire a secretary, and, thus, I must do all secretarial work myself. According to SPD rules, I cannot bill for things such as copying and, therefore, I am out even more money when I do this work. Increasing the compensation for appointed attorneys would allow attorneys to hire quality office assistance and devote more time to clients. I simply cannot take more cases than I already have since I must devote time to secretarial work.

I typically accept appellate cases from Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth and Kenosha counties. During the past month, I have been offered cases from Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and Outagamie counties because there are not enough attorneys to take those cases. I simply cannot afford to take cases from counties that are over an hour away because I will lose money taking them.

Experienced attorneys are refusing to take public defender appointments and, if the rate is not raised, I am afraid that I will become one of those attorneys. I fully support this petition and respectfully urge you to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Sara Roemaat

SARA H. ROEMAAT
Attorney at Law