



Jefatura de Unidad para América del Norte
Consulado de México en Milwaukee
Oficio No. MKE2329/2024

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 3, 2024

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
ATTENTION: DEPUTY CLERK – RULES
P.O. BOX 1688
MADISON WI 53701-1688

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OCT 09 2024

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Re: Rule Petition 24-02 Interpreters in Municipal Court Proceedings

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Rule Petition 24-02 regarding interpreters in municipal court proceedings. The Consulate of Mexico in Milwaukee, serving more than 300,000 Mexicans and Mexican-American members of the community in Wisconsin, supports the expansion of qualified interpreter services for all proceedings in Wisconsin’s municipal courts involving persons with limited English proficiency.

Based on the Consulate’s experience, defendants with limited English proficiency currently have to rely on help from a family member or friend to communicate with the court, compounded with the fact that the vast majority of defendants in municipal court cannot afford a bilingual attorney who would bridge the communication gap. This situation poses significant challenges to the meaningful participation by members of the Mexican community in their own court proceedings.

The provision of qualified interpreter services for all individuals with limited English proficiency in Wisconsin’s municipal courts would contribute to a more effective access to justice for a growing segment of the community at large in Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted,

AMB. CLAUDIA FRANCO HIJUELOS
CONSUL OF MEXICO IN MILWAUKEE

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