

In the Matter of the Petition of the
State Bar of Wisconsin Regarding
Cultural Competency and Reduction of Bias
Training for Continuing Legal Education
Under Chapter 31 of the Supreme Court Rules

PETITION 24-04

To: Chief Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley
Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet
Justice Brian Hagedorn
Justice Jill J. Karofsky
Justice Janet C. Protasiewicz

FILED

JUN 27 2024

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

This request for modification of SCR 31.02 comes before the Wisconsin Supreme Court pursuant to its inherent authority over the legal profession of this state. See also Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 3; *In re Kading*, 70 Wis. 2d 508, 519-20; 235 N.W.2d 409 (1976). The State Bar is requesting the Court act to recognize for CLE credit education courses regarding cultural competency and the reduction of bias.

TEXT OF PROPOSED CHANGES

SECTION 1. Supreme Court Rule 31.02 (5), is created to read as follows:

SCR 31.02 (5) A lawyer may attend a maximum of six (6) hours of the 30 hours required under sub. (1) on the subjects of cultural competency and the reduction of bias within the legal system.
Cultural competency means a course designed to improve client communication and representation through the lens of knowledge and understanding of diverse populations with a sensitivity to cultural and other differences in personal traits for application when interacting with members of the public, judges, jurors, litigants, attorneys, and court personnel. Reduction of bias means a course designed to educate attorneys to identify and reduce from the legal

profession, the practice of law, and the legal system at large, biases against persons because of but not limited to age, race, gender, gender identity, economic status, veteran status, creed, color, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation and to remove barriers to access to justice arising from discriminatory behavior.

SECTION 2. Supreme Court Rule 31.02 (5), is renumbered to read as follows:

(5) (6) A lawyer may not claim credit for attending the same course more than one time during a reporting cycle.

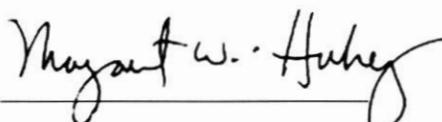
A memorandum setting forth the reasons for this petition is attached.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of June, 2024.

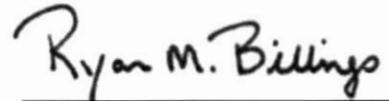
STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN



Dean R. Dietrich
President
State Bar of Wisconsin



Margaret Wren Hickey
Past-President
State Bar of Wisconsin



Ryan M. Billings
President-Elect
State Bar of Wisconsin

Filed with Clerk of Courts Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals
110 East Main Street
Suite 215
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688