

STATE OF WISCONSIN
SUPREME COURT
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53701-1688

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CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUSTICE SHIRLEY S. ABRAHAMSON

December 8, 2011

Commissioner Cedric S. Cornwall
President, Wisconsin Association of Judicial Court Commissioners
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N 9th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

Hon. Leo J. Grill
President, Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association
Sauk County Court Commissioners Office
515 Oak St.
Baraboo, WI 53913

Dear Friends:

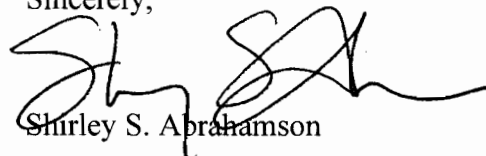
I am writing in connection with the court's consideration of the civil "Gideon" petition and at the suggestion of several justices. The civil "Gideon" petition seeks court appointment of counsel at government expense for indigent civil litigants under certain circumstances. For more information about this petition, #10-08, see our website at <http://wicourts.gov/scrules/1008.htm>.

I know, as you know very well, court commissioners interact with many self-represented persons. I am trying to determine your and your organizations' members' experiences working with the self-represented and with the various programs the court system provides for the self-represented. Any suggestions you and your members have for improving access to the judicial system for the self-represented would be appreciated.

You may prefer to respond personally to me or delegate this matter to another, or you may prefer to meet with me or the court to discuss various ideas. I appreciate any assistance you can give the court and the people of this state in this endeavor.

My thanks for your consideration and best wishes for a happy holiday season and good new year.

Sincerely,



Shirley S. Abrahamson

cc: All justices
Julie Rich
Clerk of Supreme Court - Rules Petition 10-08 file