



# Supreme Court of Wisconsin

DIRECTOR OF STATE COURTS

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MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

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Chief Justice

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A. John Voelker  
Director of State Courts

December 3, 2012

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

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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
OF WISCONSIN

Justices of the Supreme Court:

Thank you for the solicitation to comment on Rule Petition #12-07 relating to the Supreme Court Finance Committee.

As you are aware, my office has developed a variety of information related to the role of the Supreme Court Finance Committee since discussion of the committee originated at the February 4, 2011 open administrative conference. Information provided included:

- August 1, 2011 memo to the Supreme Court Finance Committee regarding the proposed role of a finance committee. This memo included a description of the biennial and operational budget processes, as well as identifying how a finance committee could play a role in these processes.
- October 10, 2011 presentation to Supreme Court Finance Committee members on the proposed role of the finance committee based on the August 1, 2011 materials.
- December 23, 2011 memo to Supreme Court Justices outlining the proposed process as discussed and amended by the Supreme Court Finance Committee.

In preparing this material and proposing a new budget review procedure, the budget staff and I considered the discussion of the February 4, 2011 administrative conference in terms of the role of the committee, as well as procedures other public sector organizations have implemented to provide budget oversight. As I noted in my August 1, 2011 memo to the finance committee, "our goal was to strike a balance between providing enough information without adding too many meetings or additional bureaucracy to the existing process."

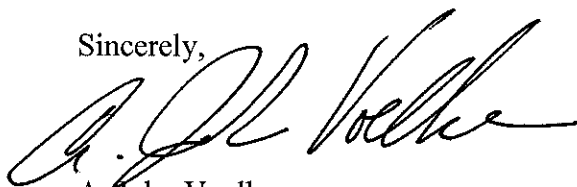
I have reevaluated our proposed process in light of your solicitation for comment, and I have concluded that the amended budget review procedure submitted to the Court on December 23,

2011 would be effective in keeping the Supreme Court informed. With that said, one area the proposed procedures might be amended is identifying regular finance committee meetings. I believe our process for communicating budget information and addressing unanticipated operating budget expenditures would be effective in keeping the finance committee and Supreme Court apprised. However, if additional oversight is preferred, quarterly or regularly scheduled meetings of a finance committee is a technique used by some organizations, including private sector companies.

The petition material also includes proposed amendments to the Internal Operating Procedures (IOPs) for the Supreme Court. Based on my experience, I would recommend against having two different places within the Supreme Court Rules that apply to the same process. The proposed IOP addresses the concepts of authority, staffing, membership, and process for reviewing expenditures. All these concepts could be incorporated into Chapter 70. I should note the revised budget procedure submitted to the Supreme Court via the finance committee did include a process for considering unanticipated operating budget expenditures.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. John Voelker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "V".

A. John Voelker  
Director of State Courts

AJV:AJV/lai  
cc: Pam Radloff  
Deb Brescoll