
**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO AMEND
SUPREME COURT RULE CHAPTER 31 AND CHAPTER
10.03**

**PETITION
15-____**

This rule proposal comes before the Wisconsin Supreme Court upon the petition of the State Bar of Wisconsin. This petition is made pursuant to the Supreme Court's administrative authority over all courts conferred by Article VII, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution. The petition proposes that the court enter an order making the following changes:

SECTION 1. Supreme Court Rule 31.01(11) and (12) are created to read:

(11) "Pro Bono legal services" means direct legal services provided without fee or expectation of fee to persons of limited means through a qualified pro bono program or pursuant to an appointment by a state or federal court.

(12) "Qualified pro bono program" means:

(a) a pro bono program operated by a nonprofit legal services organization that receives funding from the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation;

(b) a pro bono program operated by a Wisconsin law school;

(c) a pro bono program existing on the date that this rule is adopted that is operated by a Wisconsin bar association; or

(d) a program approved by the board as a qualified pro bono program.

SECTION 2. Supreme Court Rule 31.05(7) is created to read:

(7) One (1.0) hour of Wisconsin continuing legal education credit may be claimed for every five (5.0) hours of pro bono legal services as defined in this chapter to satisfy the requirements of SCR 31.02, up to a maximum of six (6.0) credits per reporting period.

SECTION 3. Supreme Court Rule 31.07(2)(a) is amended to read:

(a) The primary objective of any CLE activity shall be either to increase the

attendee's professional competence as a lawyer or to fulfill their professional responsibility to provide pro bono legal services.

SECTION 4. Supreme Court Rule 31.08(4) is created to read:

(4) Any person desiring approval of pro bono legal services hours for CLE credit under SCR 31.02 shall submit all information required by the board.

SECTION 5. Supreme Court Rule 10.03(4)(f) is amended to include:

A lawyer registered under this subsection may provide pro bono legal services without fee or expectation of fee as provided in SCR 20:6.1.

Section 6. The Wisconsin Comment to Supreme Court Rule 10.03(4)(f) is amended to read:

A registered in-house lawyer is authorized to provide legal services to the entity, client, or its organizational affiliates, including entities that control, are controlled by, or are under the common control with the employer, and for employees, officers, and directors of such entities, but only on matters directly related to their work for the entity and only to the extent consistent with SCR 20:1.7. ~~A lawyer registered under this section may provide pro bono legal services to qualified clients of a legal service program.~~ Counsel who provide legal services in this jurisdiction under SCR 20:5.5(d)(1) that desire to appear, either in person, by signing pleadings, or by being designated as counsel in actions filed in courts, administrative agencies, or other tribunals in this state, must file a separate motion for pro hac vice admission.

Respectfully submitted this ____ day of _____, 2015.

State Bar of Wisconsin

Ralph M. Cagle
President