



January 11, 2018

Clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court
P. O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

To The Clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

I am writing on behalf of the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF) in support of Petition 17-09, which seeks an increase in the pro hac vice admission fee paid by out-of-state attorneys from \$250 to \$300, with the additional \$50 going to the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission. WisTAF's board, a diverse body of judges and lawyers, voted without opposition to support this petition.

WisTAF is cognizant of the expensive cost of litigation and is sensitive to the increase in any court fees. However, those concerns are mitigated with respect to a pro hac vice fee increase because the fee is paid in exchange for the privilege of an unlicensed Wisconsin attorney appearing in our courts, and seeking pro hac vice admission constitutes a voluntary decision by both the applicant and the applicant's client. The \$300 fee would also remain in line with fees charged in other states.

Meanwhile, the mission of the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission is "to develop and encourage means of expanding access to the civil justice system for unrepresented low income Wisconsin residents," which parallels WisTAF's mission. This court and the Wisconsin State Bar have supported the good work of the commission and the addition of \$50 to the pro hac vice fee would constitute a relatively minor fee increase for applicants but a significant contribution overall to allow the commission to meet its budget and continue its valuable work. We thank you for your consideration of this petition.

Very truly yours,

Kevin J. Palmersheim, President

KJP/cmc