

Clerk of the Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 1688  
110 East Main Street, Suite 215  
Madison, WI 53701

RE: Petition 19-16 to Amend Wis. Stat. Chapter 802

Dear Honorable Justices:

I am writing in support of Petition 19-16 filed by Quarles & Brady LLP. The Petition requests that the Court amend the Rules of Civil Procedure to restore the important role of ghostwriting in limited scope legal representation.

I have chosen to engage in pro bono legal work throughout much of my career. I was deterred from continuing my pro bono work after 2018 amendment of Wis. State. Sec. 802.05(2m). I was specifically concerned about client confusion in the realm of limited scope representation. In one breath either I or a law school are explaining the limited scope of representation and that this is not an ongoing attorney-client relationship, while in the next, I am signing and writing my bar number all over their papers. This seems logically inconsistent and likely to cause client confusion. Furthermore, I fundamentally disagree with the blatantly legislative and partisan nature of the 2018 change to Wis. Stat. § 802.05(2m). Legal services are expensive and the clients I have served at pro bono clinics rely on limited scope representation, like ghostwriting, to access justice. Without it, parties often go wholly unrepresented through the legal process causing delay, confusion, and inefficiency in the court system.

The ghostwriting tool gave me the freedom to provide pro bono help in brief legal advice clinics without managing a pro bono caseload outside of the clinic setting. I hope the rule will be restored to allow me to fully engage in this type of pro bono work again. Our low-income community members need it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. II" with a horizontal line extending to the right.