



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

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PRESS RELEASE

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President Jim Boll responds to proposed elimination of Judicial Council staff

April 27, 2011 – State Bar of Wisconsin President Jim Boll issued the following statement regarding the Joint Finance Committee’s decision on April 26 to eliminate the staff attorney position for the Judicial Council:

“I am extremely disappointed by this decision and I urge the Joint Finance Committee to reconsider this proposal. It is clear that the Judicial Council has been extraordinarily productive during the four years since a full-time staff attorney was restored to it in 2007, compared to the 13 years it functioned without any staff. I served on the commission and can state, first hand, the importance of April Southwick to the success and operation of the commission.

“With the full-time assistance of a staff attorney, the Council has been able to successfully pursue legislation and complex rule-making petitions regarding the discovery of electronically stored information, the rules of appellate procedure, the citation of unpublished appellate petitions, and the confidentiality of communications made in mediation, to name just a few. The Council also has several very important projects it is still working on, including a complete revision of the code of criminal procedure and a revision of the Wisconsin rules of evidence. Eliminating the staff attorney position now will certainly delay these important projects indefinitely.

“No other body exists to complete this work – at least no body that has both the expertise and the participation of all three branches of government. This proposal to eliminate the staff attorney position may save a small amount of money in the short run but will greatly increase costs and inefficiencies in our courts in the long run.”

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