THE MILWAUKEE GENTER

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MICHAELJ, COHEN ATTORNEY AT LAW MICEMTFN.COM

May 23, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

(govjudicialappointments@wisconsin.gov) Governor Scott Walker Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Governor 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53707

Re: Wisconsin Supreme Court Application

Dear Governor Walker:

I write in support of Judge Thomas Hruz's application for Wisconsin Supreme Court. I had the honor and privilege of working closely with Tom on a day-to-day basis from the time he joined our firm as an associate in 2004 until his appointment to the Court of Appeals in July of 2014. In the decade that he was with us, Tom grew into a very skilled, exceptional lawyer, highly respected by our clients, his peers and the bar.

In addition to his obviously high intelligence, I believe what really sets Tom apart is his keen critical thinking and analytical skills, which frankly, were unusually high for his age when he joined the firm and were only sharpened and became more adept with experience and time. I worked with Tom on numerous complex cases over the years, including numerous appeals, and often marveled at his ability to logically think through issues and fashion cogent and persuasive arguments. Not unrelated, and as can be attested to by anyone who has read his opinions on the Court of Appeals over the last almost two years, his briefs or other work, Judge Hruz's legal writing is exceptional. He has an extraordinary, almost professorial, command of the rules of grammar and puts them to extremely good use in his writing. He is also an extremely hard worker, with an old school-work ethic that really gives him an edge.

Beyond Judge Hruz's significant legal abilities and work ethic, he is simply a great person. All of these many great attributes were on full display at his investiture for the Court of Appeals as Justice Prosser, Dean Joseph Kearney and I all attested to in our comments. Participating in that event left me thinking how wonderful it was that I had the good fortune of playing some small part in helping Tom achieve such success but also that our appellate courts were in good hands with the likes of Judge Hruz for many years to come.

Tom's ethics are also beyond reproach and he always seems to do the right thing and with just the right touch. He was also very well respected by staff during his tenure with the firm, undoubtedly because of his immense talent, incredible work ethic and respectfully treatment of others both inside and outside the firm.

Governor, I can say without the slightest bit of hesitation that Judge Hruz would be an excellent Supreme Court Justice and would serve this state and our bar well in that position for many decades.

Governor Scott Walker May 23, 2016 Page 2

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cohen

Robert R. Gagan 436 Randall Avenue De Pere, Wisconsin 54115

May 24, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

(GovJudicialAppointments@Wisconsin.gov)
Governor Scott Walker
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Re: Application by the Honorable Thomas Hruz to Serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court

Dear Governor Walker:

The purpose of this correspondence is to recommend the Honorable Thomas Hruz for the recent vacancy on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

I served as Treasurer of Judge Hruz's recent election campaign. I was born and raised in Brown County and currently practice law in Green Bay at the offices of O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, DeJong & Laing S.C. in their Green Bay office. I have family and friends throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. Both of my parents were from families having roots going back to the late 1800's in Northeastern Wisconsin. Judge Hruz had no opposition in Northeastern Wisconsin last April because many of my colleagues, relatives, friends and clients realized the depth of knowledge and wealth of experience that he brought to the District III Court of Appeals. It is a tribute to his reputation that no attorney or sitting judge sought to challenge him last April despite the fact he is not from northern Wisconsin and despite the fact that he had never faced the electorate in an election. This fact certainly bodes well for him should he have to face an election in the future as an incumbent Supreme Court Justice.

I know you have received applications from many fine candidates; however, few, if any, have successfully faced the electorate in a quarter of the state where he or she has never practiced and had only recently resided. Judge Hruz is that rare combination of a legal scholar and an engaging vote-getter. I am both proud and honored to extend this recommendation on his behalf.

Should you have any further questions or comments concerning my foregoing recommendation, or if I can provide any additional information to you concerning the qualifications of Judge Hruz, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Gagan

RRG/cai

AMANDA WESLEY Judicial Assistant (608) 743-2249 Amanda,Wesley@wicourts,gov ROCK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT MICHAEL R, FITZPATRICK

CIRCUIT JUDGE 51 SOUTH MAIN STREET JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN 53545 Fax: (608) 743-2226 MICAL BARKLEY Court Reporter (608) 743-2251

BRAD WEINS
Court Attendant

May 25, 2016

Via Email Only

Office of Governor Scott Walker
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702
GovJudicial Appointments@Wisconsin.gov

Re: Judge Thomas Hruz

Dear Governor Walker:

Please accept this letter as an unqualified recommendation that you appoint the Honorable Thomas Hruz to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It is rare that I would give such an unqualified endorsement as this – but Judge Hruz deserves it.

While in private practice, Thomas Hruz had an excellent reputation as an appellate advocate. During those years, he honed the skill of effectively communicating legal principles in writing.

During Judge Hruz's time on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, he has impressed Wisconsin's Judges and citizens with his work ethic, temperament, and ability to concisely describe the facts of a case and the legal principles used to decide the matter. For that reason, Wisconsin's Circuit Judges respect and admire Judge Hruz's opinions. The high esteem in which he is held by other Judges is another reason Judge Hruz would be an outstanding Justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Tom Hruz also has the disposition and character required for an appellate Judge. Collegiality and respect for one's colleagues are important qualities for appellate Judges. Judge Hruz has those qualities in great measure.

For those reasons, and others, I respectfully suggest that you appoint Judge Thomas Hruz to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. If I can provide further information to you or any members of your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

Michael R. Fitzpatric

Circuit Judge

/amw

May 26, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (govjudicialappointments@wisconsin.gov) Governor Scott Walker Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Governor 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53707

Re: Attorney Tom Hruz's application for Wisconsin Supreme Court vacancy

Dear Governor Walker,

I am writing to enthusiastically support Judge Thomas M. Hruz's application for an upcoming opening on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. I believe that the most important appointment you can make as governor is the filling of a Wisconsin Supreme Court vacancy. As you know I am a retired Milwaukee County Circuit judge and Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice. The need for bright, scholarly, ethical, common sense judges is critical to the protection of the rights of our citizens and the smooth operation of our courts. Without any hesitation, I can tell you that Tom would be an excellent addition to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

When I wrote you in support of Tom's application for appointment to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, I knew Tom would make a wonderful appellate judge. He clearly has lived up to everyone's expectations as a fair, impartial, thoughtful, and scholarly Court of Appeals judge. Tom is bright, thoughtful, quick on his feet and knowledgeable about the law. He has an excellent academic record, accomplishing much during his time as a student at Marquette University Law School, including serving as editor of the Marquette Law Review. As you can see from his resume, he has had an illustrious legal career. Tom is highly respected by the faculty and administration at Marquette, as well as by lawyers who interact with him. Immediately after graduation, he gained incredible judicial experience by clerking for two appellate judges, Justice David Prosser at our supreme court and Judge Jack Coffey at the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. He has since become a well-respected civil attorney, handling a myriad of litigated cases and more recently as a rising jurist in his appellate work in District 3 of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals.

As a civil litigation mediator, I have had the privilege of working with Tom and his clients on a number of cases. He was always prepared, knowledgeable and diligent as well as incredibly professional in all that he did. He is very easy to work with but understands and is committed to the adversary system. He has the perfect disposition to be a judge. If you would ask me to describe Tom, I would tell you that he is as an ethical, dedicated, well-respected and scholarly attorney who, without question, is an outstanding jurist. That assessment has clearly been confirmed by the bar's deep respect for him in his appellate judicial role.

Finally, as we all know, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has faced some challenging times with obvious conflicts among some justices. Tom has the temperament and personality to be a peacemaker and someone who could facilitate difficult discussions in a civil and thoughtful way. I have no doubt that his presence on the Court would change the dynamics that currently exist and would encourage more frequent conferences and opportunities for members of the Court to respectfully discuss and debate the challenging pending legal issues. Tom comes with my highest recommendation.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for considering my recommendation

Sincerely,

Justice Janine P. Geske (ret.)
Distinguished Professor of Law(ret.)
Marquette University Law School
P.O. Box 1881
Milwaukee, Wi 532001-1881

414-288-7877 janine.geske@marquette.edu

OF APPRICA

WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

DISTRICT III
2100 STEWART AVENUE, SUITE 310
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN 54401

LISA K. STARK, PRESIDING JUDGE THOMAS M. HRUZ, JUDGE MARK A. SEIDL, JUDGE

Telephone: (715) 848-1421

TTY: (800) 947-3529 Fax: (715) 845-4523

May 26, 2016

Office of Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702 via email: GovJudicialAppointments@Wisconsin.gov

Re: Supreme Court Application of Judge Thomas Hruz

Dear Governor Walker:

Please accept our wholehearted recommendation for your appointment of our colleague, Judge Thomas Hruz, to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Tom's application for this position evidences his tremendous legal and personal background and shows he is eminently qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

We know Tom is best suited for this position based upon our personal observations as well. Tom is extremely intelligent and well versed in the law. He is diligent in his preparation and thorough in his research. Tom is thoughtful and careful in his analysis of cases that come before the court, and focuses on achieving correct decisions based strictly upon the rule of law. The State of Wisconsin and our justice system benefit from his clear, concise and scholarly opinions.

It is a pleasure to work with Tom. He serves our State ethically and with great integrity. His respectful and confident communication has been instrumental in maintaining a collegial atmosphere on our court, and will be of assistance in doing the same on the Supreme Court. Tom's interest and involvement in court administration, judicial and legal education will also serve him well in the varied capacities required of a Supreme Court justice. Although, Tom would be greatly missed on our Court, we believe he would be a valuable addition to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. We give him our unqualified endorsement to fill the position vacated upon the retirement of one of Tom's mentors, Justice Prosser. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Stark, Presiding Judge

LisaStark

Mark A. Seidl, Judge

May 27, 2016

VIA E-Mail

Office of Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

RE: Supreme Court Justice Candidate Thomas Hruz

Dear Governor Walker:

As you undertake the important task of appointing Justice Prosser's successor, I ask that you give strong consideration to Judge Thomas Hruz. I know you are familiar with his background and training, as you appointed Judge Hruz to the Court of Appeals in 2014. I believe his work on the Court of Appeals demonstrates that you made an excellent decision at that time; Judge Hruz clearly has the scholarship, intellect, and judicial philosophy that you seek in an appellate judge.

I write to offer my own personal observations of Judge Hruz's character. Since my appointment to the Sauk County Circuit Court last year I have had the distinct pleasure of spending time with Judge Hruz and getting to know him. I have found that Judge Hruz has a quiet, calm demeanor and he treats others with patience and respect. These are qualities that will serve him well in any setting. Importantly, they are also the very qualities that we need our justices to possess.

Based on his body of work while on the Court of Appeals and his personal character, which I have observed, I believe Judge Hruz will be an excellent justice. I ask that you give strong consideration to his application.

Sincerely.

Michael P. Screnock 1430 Amber Court

Reedsburg, WI 53959

Vincent R. Biskupic Circuit Court Judge 320 S. Walnut Street Appleton, WI 54911

Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

May 27, 2016

RE: Appointment of Thomas Hruz to Supreme Court

Dear Governor Walker:

I write to support the application of District III Appellate Court Judge Thomas Hruz for the position of Supreme Court Justice to replace the retiring Justice David Prosser.

As a private practicing lawyer in the Milwaukee area and a District III Appellate Judge over nearly the past 15 years, Tom Hruz has demonstrated a great work ethic and legal acumen. He has a strong knowledge of all areas of the law. He is an extremely thorough and detailed in his legal writing. He has a passion for the study of the law.

Based on my interactions with Tom over the past years, I know Tom gets along with his colleagues. He is a problem solver. He is always willing to step-up and to serve on projects and committees.

Tom works extremely hard as an appellate judge to guarantee fairness for all parties in the court system. He thoroughly and efficiently manages a very significant caseload.

If you have any specific questions for me on my support for Tom Hruz, please feel free to call me at

Sincerely,

Judge Vincent R. Biskupic

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APPELLATE CONSULTING GROUP

POST OFFICE BOX 2145
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201-2145
PHONE: (414) 332-0966
FAX: (262) 364-2010
www.appellateconsulting.com

May 27, 2016

Hon. Scott Walker Governor of Wisconsin State Capitol Madison, Wisconsin

Re: Application of Thomas Hruz for Wisconsin Supreme Court

Dear Governor Walker:

I write to strongly recommend Thomas Hruz for the coming vacancy on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Judge Hruz is an excellent candidate for the position. I know this from my extensive and varied work with Tom as a colleague over the years, even before you appointed him to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. I was fortunate to collaborate with Tom as co-counsel on a number of complex civil appeals, as a fellow professor teaching appellate writing and advocacy at Marquette University Law School, and as an officer of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Tom constantly impressed me with his legal acumen and the high quality of his legal work. He was a meticulous, focused, and thoughtful attorney—and now is all of this as a judge.

Equally important, during his time in practice, Tom had the ability to maintain exceptional working relationships with co-counsel and opposing counsel alike. He has brought this collaborative approach to his current position on the appellate bench. I have no doubt that these personal characteristics will prove extremely valuable as a justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

As a justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Tom also would have the opportunity to expand his contributions to the bar and in the larger public. Tom was highly involved with the bar as a practitioner and, as a judge, he already has been involved in programming for appellate practitioners. This sort of engagement by the newest member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court will be important to enhancing the reputation of the Court in legal circles and then in the public more generally.

In short, Thomas Hruz would be an outstanding addition to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Should you wish additional information, I would be happy to provide it and can be reached at (414) 332-0966 or akearney@wi.rr.com.

Sincerely,

Anne Berleman Kearney

aune Belleman Kearney



joseph.kearncy@marquette.edu (414) 288-1955

May 27, 2016

Hon. Scott Walker Governor of Wisconsin State Capitol Madison, Wisconsin

Re: Thomas M. Hruz as Candidate for the Wisconsin Supreme Court
Dear Governor Walker:

I hope that this letter finds you well. No doubt you are considering whom to appoint to the imminent vacancy on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Your judicial appointments are important for those of us in the legal profession, to be sure, but also for the larger society. So I have been grateful not just for the first-rate team that you have assembled to advise you but also for your personal engagement in this process.

I wish to put in an especially strong word on behalf of Tom Hruz. I know Tom quite well: he was my student and research assistant a decade and a half ago; I promoted him vigorously to Justice David T. Prosser Jr. for a clerkship at the beginning of Tom's career; and I watched him become a first-rate lawyer and a leading member of the bar. For perhaps the highest confidence that I could personally demonstrate, I appointed Tom in 2013 to serve on the part-time, or adjunct, faculty here at Marquette University Law School, to teach appellate advocacy and writing. And, of course, I have followed his work since your appointment of him (and his subsequent election) to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. In short, I know Tom Hruz and his work very well, and I have great confidence in him, because in each instance he has earned it.

Based on all these experiences, permit me to state that Tom has displayed an unusual combination of intelligence, work ethic, and, for a crucial but sometimes elusive thing, good judgment. He is knowledgeable about the law but humble about the limits of his knowledge; he is well-organized and thorough; he works very hard, indeed. He also has a deep respect for the prerogatives and authority of the elected or democratic branches of government, even as he understands that the role of the judiciary at times necessarily is to interpose itself between the state, with its awesome power, and the individual.

We need great justices on the Wisconsin Supreme Court—now, truly, more than ever, in my estimation. The reputation of the Court has suffered over the past dozen or more years in certain respects, and this has been unhelpful to the state more generally. You have another opportunity to help the Court rebuild itself. The latter will be a long process, but to have, as a justice of the Court, Tom Hruz—with his thoughtfulness, curiosity, industry, intelligence, humility, and interpersonal skills—would help both in

Governor Walker May 27, 2016 Page 2

the short run and for years to come. It would, in short, be another enduring contribution by you as governor to our state.

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Respectfully,

Joseph D. Kearney

Dean and Professor of Law

Thomas M. Olejniczak Frederick L. Schmidt R. George Burnett Gregory A. Grobe Tori L. Kluess Robert M. Charles Brick N. Murphy Jodi Amdı Labs David H. Weber Ross W. Townsend Michele M. McKinnon T. Wickham Schmidt Kurt A. Goehre James M. Ledvina Steven J. Knueger Jill J. Ray Joshua M. Koch

Of Counsels Gregory B. Comeay

> Retired: J. Michael Jeny

Law Firm of Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry, S.C.

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May 27, 2016

www.lcojlaw.com

Via E-mail govjudicialappointments@wisconsin.gov

Office of Governor Scott Walker Attn: Chief Legal Counsel 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Honorable Thomas M. Hruz

Dear Governor Walker:

I write on behalf of the Honorable Thomas Hruz, who, as you are aware, has recently applied for your appointment to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, replacing retiring Justice David Prosser.

Judge Hruz is a remarkable jurist and a remarkable man. Even at a relatively young age, he has distinguished himself among his colleagues on the bench and, before that, in the Bar. I am certain that you have received a wealth of letters praising his intellect, and it is all true. I am equally certain that you have received a wealth of letters praising his character, and that is equally true.

I write to add perspective to that from actual experience. I have litigated appeals multiple times before District III, and Judge Hruz has presided on the panel and written opinions in some cases that I have handled. Each opinion was thoroughly researched and fully reasoned, and achieved the ultimate goal of any judicial opinion; in clear and concise language each explained to the prevailing party why they won, and to the losing party why they lost. There can be no higher praise of an appellate judge than that.

That is not surprising, because Judge Hruz exemplified the same qualities in the private practice of law. I had the opportunity to handle several cases where Judge Hruz, then Attorney Hruz, represented the opposing party. In fact, in one case, I did something that I had never done before, and have never done since. Judge Hruz was a young lawyer, working for a well-

Law Firm of Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry, S.C.

May 27, 2016 Page 2

respected Milwaukee attorney, Michael Cohen. I received one of Judge Hruz's briefs on an important motion, and even though we were adversaries, I called Mike Cohen and told him what an excellent job in research and writing Judge Hruz had done, and alerted him that he had an excellent young lawyer working with him. Mr. Cohen thanked and told me that he already knew that.

Suffice it to say that Judge Hruz would be an excellent addition to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. By intellect, he would be able to fully and articulately express his positions in conference with other judges, where most times cases are decided. In writing, his thoughts would be equally forceful and articulate. And in decision-making, his decisions would be wise.

For all these reasons, I fully recommend Judge Hruz for appointment to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Thank you very much for your consideration of Judge Hruz's application.

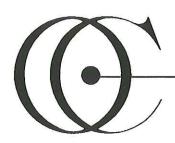
Very truly yours,

LAW FIRM OF GONWAY, OLEJNICZAK & JERRY, S.C.

By:

GB:bkh

201600.000:#2349194



OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

320 S. WALNUT ST. APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54911

JUSTICE CENTER

MAY 2 7 2013

JUDGE GREGORY B. GILL, JR.

CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH NO. 4 PHONE (920) 832-5602 FAX (920) 832-5115 JOAN K. BIESE COURT REPORTER

DONNA J. MEITNER JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

May 24, 2016

Office of Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, Wisconsin 53702

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you in support of Judge Thomas Hruz and his pursuit of the position of Supreme Court Justice as made available by the pending retirement of Justice David Prosser, Jr.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Judge Hruz since being classmates in law school at Marquette University. Despite Knowing Judge Hruz for a significant period of time, it would be a misnomer to suggest that Judge Hruz and I were close during that time. To be specific, while Judge Hruz and I were classmates, we did not spend much time together. That said, during our interactions, I always found Judge Hruz to be very pleasant and personable. To that same end, while he was obviously very intelligent, he did not wear it on his sleeve.

Since Judge Hruz has taken the bench, I have had the opportunity to get to know him on a more personal level. I am pleased to say that the traits that I saw in Judge Hruz in law school are still existent today. His appreciation of the law is outstanding as his demeanor when dealing with individuals with whom he encounters.

I find that the above traits demonstrated over a prolonged period of time are a true testament to the character of Judge Hruz. These traits would translate very well into the type of individual that should be on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court.

I appreciate your consideration of my words, and your efforts in the selection process. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Judge Gregory B. Gill, J

Circuit Court Branch

Hon. R. Michael Waterman 1608 83rd Street New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017

May 27, 2016

Office of Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

RE: Thomas Hruz Application for Appointment to Supreme Court

Dear Governor Walker:

I highly and enthusiastically recommend Judge Thomas Hruz for appointment to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

I became acquainted with Judge Hruz upon his appointment to the bench, a time when I had a busy appellate practice. Judge Hruz's private practice experience was a welcome addition to the court of appeals, and he quickly distinguished himself as an excellent jurist. Decisions were made on a timely basis. His opinions were well reasoned and were faithful to the rule of law and the facts of the case. Judge Hruz earned my respect, and the respect of members of the appellate bar.

Since my appointment to the bench last year, I have had the opportunity to interact with Judge Hruz at several judicial functions. Judge Hruz has a deep understanding of the role of the judiciary, and he has the utmost respect for the separation of powers and rule of law. He has a keen intellect and sharp mind that is well suited for analyzing the complicated cases that reach the Supreme Court. His interest and passion for law is contagious.

Besides being professionally and intellectually qualified to join our State's highest court, Judge Hruz also has a personality that makes him well suited. Judge Hruz is calm, even tempered and collegial. He is generous with his time and advice. He has impeccable character for honesty and trustworthiness, and is well liked and respected by his peers. He always speaks positively about his colleagues, members of the bar and litigants.

Judge Hruz exemplifies in every way what we expect of Wisconsin judges. I highly recommend his application to the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. Michael Waterman

Circuit Court Judge St. Croix County, Wisconsin



WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

DISTRICT I 330 East Kilbourn Avenue, Suite 1020 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3161

Chambers of WILLIAM W. BRASH III, Judge Telephone: (414) 227-4683 TTY (800) 947-3529

Fax: (414) 227-4051 Email: William.Brash@wicourts.gov

May 31, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53707

Re: Wisconsin Supreme Court

Dear Governor Walker:

I have been asked by Judge Hruz to write a letter in support of his candidacy to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Justice Prosser.

I have known Judge Hruz for a brief period of time, having first met him at a judicial conference in the fall of 2015. I would note, however, that I know and have met several individuals that personally know and/or have worked with Judge Hruz who are very effusive about his legal knowledge and skill.

I would note that after having met him and having the opportunity to talk to him, I am impressed with his knowledge and apparent zeal for the law.

Judge Hruz is bright, articulate and thoughtful, with a tremendous understanding of the law and the application of the same, and whom I believe would serve as a credit to the State of Wisconsin and follow in the proud tradition as established by Justice Prosser.

I have no doubt that you will give Judge Hruz thorough consideration for this position, as you have in the past, and I wish to thank you on his behalf for your thoughtful review of his application.

Sincerely

William W. Brash III

WWB/smy

BLUMENFIELD & SHEREFF, LLP

Attorneys at Law

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A Limited Liability Partnership



Charles S. Blumenfield' blumenfield@cbcslaw.com

' Also admitted in New York Certified Civil Trial Advocate

1001 West Glen Oaks Lane, Suite 110 Mequon, Wisconsin 53092 (262) 241-3400 Fax: (262) 241-3403

June 24, 2016

Office of Governor Scott Walker 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

Re: Application of Judge Thomas Hruz for the Wisconsin Supreme Court

Dear Governor Walker:

I write to endorse Judge Thomas Hruz for the position of Justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

My first encounter with Judge Hruz was at a Thomas Fairchild Inn of Court meeting in Milwaukee. The Inn is a mentoring organization where judges and experienced litigators have the opportunity to enhance the skills of younger lawyers. Judge Hruz quickly demonstrated a keen insight and laser focus when it came to analyzing issues presented in programs we worked on together. He was willing to do whatever it took to make our presentations better.

I later had the opportunity to work with Judge Hruz on a case pending in Ozaukee County Circuit Court. It was there that I was able to observe Judge Hruz's unique legal acumen. It quickly became apparent that Judge Hruz possessed one of the finest legal minds I have encountered in my over 40 years of law practice. He was also an accomplished legal writer. In his reserved, unassuming manner he identified the best avenue of approach, and then wrote an excellent argument. He demonstrated an appreciation both for the rule of law and for strict adherence to precedent.

More recently I have had the opportunity to observe Judge Hruz's efforts since he became a member of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District III. There has been a noticeable elevation in the erudition and legal analysis of the court since he got there. Judge Hruz has done as a judge what he repeatedly did as a lawyer—he has made everyone around him better by encouraging them, in his quiet way, to consider theories or alternative ways of evaluating an issue they might not have previously considered. His is a unique talent, one that would serve the Wisconsin Supreme Court—and the entire state, in good stead.

Office of Governor Scott Walker June 24, 2016 Page Two

Among the qualities necessary to be a good appellate judge are fairness, justness, and impartiality; devotion and decisiveness; clear thought and expression; professional literacy; and institutional fidelity. (154 U. Pa. Law Review 1025, 1027-8) Judge Hruz possesses all of these qualities.

Service on the Wisconsin Supreme Court requires an inquisitive mind, one of high intellect, thoughtful disposition, and insightful perspective. It requires one who can excel in a reserved, reflective environment to assure proper evaluation of the matters presented. Judge Hruz has demonstrated time and again that he will honor precedent rather than engage in what has become known as judicial legislation.

Judge Hruz is the type of person who can sit quietly in a meeting as disparate views are expressed, then offer a resolution the others had not considered. That is the type of Justice he will be, making optimal use of his brilliant legal mind, enhanced by his low key, evaluative approach.

You now have an opportunity to select a truly impressive jurist of demonstrated ability, someone who will be respected for his legal acumen, someone who will be a calming influence on a body that has been roiled with strife and discord. Judge Hruz doesn't ruffle feathers, he soothes them.

I heartily endorse the candidacy of Judge Thomas Hruz for the position of Justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

BLUMENFIELD & SHEREFF, LLP

By: _

harles S. Blumenfield

CSB:cb