



STATE OF WISCONSIN – JUDICIAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN JUDICIAL COUNCIL MADISON, WISCONSIN FEBRUARY 21, 2020

The Judicial Council met at 9:35 a.m. in Room 328NW of the State Capitol Building, Madison, Wisconsin.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair William C. Gleisner; Christian Gossett; Judge Thomas Hruz; Steven Kilpatrick; Margo Kirchner; Dennis Myers; John R. Orton; Adam Plotkin; Thomas L. Shriner; Adam Stevenson; Judge Robert VanDeHey; Senator Van Wanggaard (by phone); and Sarah Zylstra.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sarah Walkenhorst Barber; Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz; Judge Scott Needham; Diane Fremgen; Representative Ott; and Ben Pliskie.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Lynne Davis (State Bar); Michaela Paukner (Wisconsin Law Journal, by phone); Paige Scobeck (Hamilton Consulting);

I. Roll Call and approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2019 Meeting.

The roll call was completed and the minutes of the November 15, 2019 meeting were duly approved.

New Business: Report by Senator Wanggaard

At this meeting, we were confronted immediately with news that related to our Council's existence, which was brought to our attention by Senator Wanggaard. According to the Senator, the Assembly had voted at 1:00 a.m. earlier in the day to abolish the Judicial Council, its enabling statute (Wis. Stat. §758.13 and to any reference to the Council in the Statutes. Because this amendment had been added to SB468 (dealing with a pay raise for public defenders), it put the Senate in an impossible position.

The Senator went on to explain that because the Assembly will not meet again this year, when the Senate meets on March 24, 2020 it will have no choice but to pass SB468 if it is

to provide state public defenders with pay equity this year. According to the Senator, the only hope lies in a line item veto by the Governor removing the amendment when SB468 is presented to him for signature. The Senator strongly encouraged the members of the Council to reach out to the Governor and ask him to exercise his veto power to remove the amendment from SB468 when the bill comes to his desk.

This news was the subject of extended discussion by the Council. A number of Council members stated that they would reach out to contacts in the Governor's Office to express their concerns about this development. There was consensus on one point and that was that the Council Chair should write a letter to the Governor. That letter has been written and distributed to members of the Council.

Other than the approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2019 meeting, the Council did not have time to address the other matters on the Agenda for this meeting.

II. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11 a.m.