



STATE OF WISCONSIN – JUDICIAL COUNCIL

AMENDED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN JUDICIAL COUNCIL MADISON, WISCONSIN March 21, 2025

The Judicial Council met at 9:30 a.m. on March 21, 2025 in Room 328NW.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair William Gleisner; Vice Chair Margo Kirchner; Judge Thomas Hruz; Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz; Judge Scott Needham (phone); Judge Judge Emily Lonergan; Judge Audrey Skwierawski; Judge Kristine Snow; Professor Lanny Glinberg (phone); Jeremy Perri; Sarah Barber; Saveon Grenell (phone); Tom Shriner; Rebecca Maki-Wallandar (phone); Molly McNab; and Sarah Zylstra.

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Justice Brian Hagedorn; Daniel J. Blinka, Jr; Senator Van Wanggaard; and Rep. Ron Tusler.

Roll call was taken and the February 21, 2025 Minutes were approved.

By way of review, we started the March 21, 2025 meeting with a look back at our February 21, 2025. I noted on March 21 that there had been a spirited discussion at the February 21, 2025 Council Meeting about whether the Council should accept the referral from the Supreme Court of an issue concerning municipal court interpreters. I noted that there had been a preliminary question raised before the 2/21/25 Meeting as to whether “certain members of the Council should recuse themselves from the discussion and vote concerning municipal court interpreters because they had participated in the Supreme Court regarding interpreters?” As Chair of the Council, I decided that there was no conflict, stating in part:

“It is my ruling as Chair of the Council that there is no conflict of interest which would prevent Margo Kirchner, Tom Shriner, Justice Hagedorn or any other Council member from participating in any phase of the debate on municipal court interpreters, or any vote concerning same.. Of course, pursuant to Rule 12 of the ABA’s Modern Rules of Order any member of the Council may appeal my ruling at the March 21, 2025 meeting.” If anyone wishes to review the basis for that ruling, they should consult the consult the February 21, 2025 Minutes.

There was a discussion about the municipal court interpreter issue and there was a unanimous vote to move forward with the interpreter issue. However, the issue was not assigned to any particular committee, and it appeared that it might be necessary to appoint a special committee to consider the issue further. There was some discussion about having

Margo chair such a special committee but she declined. The issue of municipal interpreters went no further. At some point either in May or perhaps in June it will be necessary to revisit the issue of municipal court interpreters.

I. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET.

At our February 21, 2025 meeting, Margo reported that once again the Governor did not provide any money for the Council in his Budget. As Margo noted, there are two things which we can still do to secure funding in the Legislature's Final Budget. 1) Members of the Council can approach the Chief Justice and see if she will write another letter on our behalf to the Legislature; 2) We can try to arrange meetings between Council members and certain legislators. Margo pointed out that the most important Legislators are those who are members of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance.

At our March 21, 2025 meeting it was decided that we need to identify which Council members will approach the Chief Justice concerning a new letter to the Legislature, and which Council members will approach the members of the Joint Committee on Finance (the members of which Joint Committee are identified in the footnote set forth below).¹ Vice Chair Kirchner and Member Zylstra agreed to provide guidance as to a) how we should approach the Chief Justice and the Legislators and b) provide talking points that can be used with the Legislators. Vice Chair Kirchner and Member Sarah Zylstra agreed to follow-up on this issue. I am pleased to report that Ms. Kirchner and Zylstra have done an excellent job in this regard.

II. OTHER BUSINESS OF THE 3/31/25 COUNCIL MEETING.

On March 21, 2025, we heard from the following Council Committees:

- a) Thomas Shriner delivered the report of the Evidence and Civil Procedure (ECP) and discussed the upcoming recommendations to the Council from the ECP regarding proposed improvements to the Wisconsin Rules of Evidence.

¹[Senator Mark Born \(Co-Chair\)](#)
[Senator Marklein \(Co-Chair\)](#)
[Representative Kurtz \(Vice-Chair\)](#)
[Senator Testin \(Vice-Chair\)](#)
[Senator Wimberger](#)
[Senator Stafsholt](#)
[Senator Bradley](#)
[Senator Quinn](#)
[Senator L. Johnson](#)
[Senator Roys](#)
[Representative Zimmerman](#)
[Representative Rodriguez](#)
[Representative Dallman](#)
[Representative Hurd](#)
[Representative McGuire](#)
[Representative Andraca](#)

- b)** Judge Hruz gave Appellate Procedure Committee (APC) Report, and discussed two Memos which will be considered at future meetings of the APC. Those Memos were prepared by APC member Molly McNab regarding oral arguments and requests for publication; and a memo by APC member Caleb Gerbitz regarding a proposed amendment to Wis. Stat. §809.10(4).
- c)** Regarding the Criminal Procedure Committee, the Committee Chair Blinka was excused from the March 21 meeting.
- d)** Regarding the “Council Corner” Committee, Council Vice Chair Margo Kirchner reported that articles were being sought for inclusion in “Council Corner” submissions to *The Wisconsin Lawyer* and *Inside Track*.

These Minutes were prepared by Chair Gleisner