



STATE OF WISCONSIN – JUDICIAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE WISCONSIN JUDICIAL COUNCIL
MADISON, WISCONSIN
February 20, 2026

The Judicial Council met at 9:30 a.m. on February 20, 2026 in Room 328NW.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair William Gleisner; Vice Chair Margo Kirchner; Dan Blinka; Judge Kristine Snow; AAG Samir Jaber (by phone); Rebecca Maki-Wallandar (by phone); Jeremy Perri; Emily Lowman (on behalf of Judge Audrey Skwierawski); Tom Shriner; Justice Brian Hagedorn (by phone); Judge Rachel Graham; Judge Ryan Nilsestuen; Judge Beverly Wickstrom (by phone), Judge Emily Lonergan (by phone) and Sarah Zylstra (by phone).

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Sarah Barber; Lanny Glinberg; Molly McNab; Saveon Grenell; Rep. Ron Tusler; Sen. Van Wanggaard

1) Roll Call and Approval of Minutes.

Roll call and quorum were confirmed by Chair Gleisner. Attorney Zibolski arrived approximately 5 minutes late due to weather. Approval of the Council’s 1/16/26 Meeting Minutes was addressed first. Attorney Kirchner noted a spelling error. Judge Graham moved to approve the minutes. AAG Jaber seconded the motion. Vote was taken and none opposed. The 1/16/26 minutes were approved.

Judge Wickstrom appeared by phone at approximately 9:58AM.

2) Wisconsin Rules of Evidence Project Update

Evidence and Civil Procedure (“ECP”) Chair Tom Shriner updated the Council on the progress of the Rules of Evidence Project. Attorney Shriner explained the historic role of the Council in reviewing rules of evidence, particularly in proposing changes to incorporate federal rules. He indicated the ECP Committee was also working on a project to address the lack of a notice requirement in preliminary injunctions and restraining orders, but that this work has been paused while the ECP focused on the Rules Project.

Attorney Shriner noted the ECP Committee’s most recent proposal for the Rules Project was forwarded to the Council for review prior to today’s meeting. Attorney Shriner praised the work and revisions produced by the committee, particularly by Professors Blinka and

Schwartz. At this point in the project, the ECP committee wishes to elicit input from the Council on the recommended changes but also intends to begin circulating the proposal to additional stakeholders for comment. Of note, the ECP intentionally did not address Wis. Stat. § 905, as there is no comparable federal rule. Attorney Shriner indicated the timeline was not set and the ECP would further discuss how and when to circulate the proposal. Attorney Shriner intends to move forward with circulation to stakeholders as soon as possible.

Related to the Rules Project, Attorney Shriner noted that [Senate Bill 459](#) has passed the legislature and is awaiting signature by the Governor. This legislation would amend Wis. Stat. § 907.02, the expert witness rule, to reflect the current language of the comparable federal rule. Attorney Shriner noted that, conversely, the ECP was planning to recommend no changes to Wis. Stat. § 907.02. However, should the law be enacted and the language of Wis. Stat. § 907.02 thus changed, the ECP has no intention of addressing this statute any further.

The Council discussed some administrative questions related to the Rules project. Judge Graham clarified the layout of the suggested changes. Judge Graham noted the most important thing at this point is to read the proposal and be prepared for a substantive discussion at the next meeting. Attorney Shriner concurred. Judge Snow stated that the ECP is not seeking to change the evidence rules, but to update or incorporate modified federal rules, existing case law, discovery rules, or Supreme Court rules. Attorney Shriner agreed, noting there is no intent to create new law, only to make the rules of evidence easier to use and more consistent with updates in law, while preserving Wisconsin specific law. This is also relevant to new lawyers who are trained in the federal rules in law school.

Chair Gleisner thanked Attorney Shriner and the ECP Committee for their devotion and hard work on this lengthy project. He further praised Professors Blinka and Schwartz for their assistance.

3) Report from Judge Gasiorkiewicz concerning DAR

Chair Gleisner noted that a report from Judge Gasiorkiewicz - who was unable to attend the meeting - was distributed prior to the meeting and serves as an update about the DAR project ongoing with the Office of State Courts. Chair Gleisner instructed that there will be more discussion on this and an update from Judge Gasiorkiewicz in the future.

4) Report and Legislation Review Discussion from Attorney Zibolski

Attorney Zibolski thanked the Council for their time meeting with her and outlined her plan to continue meeting stakeholders relevant to the Council. Attorney Zibolski advised that she is in discussion with DOA to establish an updated website for the Council, which will be more consistent with other government websites.

Next, Attorney Zibolski elicited feedback on the Council's current policy for reviewing and reporting on pending legislation. The policy was distributed prior to the meeting.

Attorney Zibolski indicated that the language was drafted when the Council was unstaffed. Attorney Kirchner stated the policy itself did not need change, but the language could be updated to reflect a current staff attorney. Chair Gleisner designated Attorney Zibolski to update that language. There was general consensus that the policy continue. Attorney Shriner indicated that the Council's relationship with the legislature needed improvement. Attorney Zibolski indicated her intent to build relationships with legislators in the future, including a discussion with Senator Wanggaard.

Attorney Zibolski also indicated that she had inquired about a subscription to the Wheeler Report, but that it was an expensive subscription. Chair Gleisner indicated that he supported the Council purchasing a subscription. Attorney Shriner asked the matter be tabled for another meeting before a decision was made. AAG Jaber asked about the status of the budget, generally, and requested an update at a future meeting.

5) Committee Reports

Appellate Procedure Committee Chair Judge Graham noted that the committee last met by Zoom on February 4, 2026. Judge Graham stated that one potential project, requested by committee member Attorney Caleb Gerbitz, was specifically resolved by a footnote in a recent Court of Appeals – District 1 Opinion (2023AP905, *Jack Mani v. Selective Insurance Company of America*). The issue was resolved by the footnote and is now moot. Judge Graham said the committee is considering new projects, including a systemic look at Wis. Stat. Chapter 809.

Criminal Procedure Committee Chair Attorney Blinka stated the committee's next meeting is scheduled in March and he will update the Council after that meeting.

Committee on Municipal Court Interpreters Chair Judge Snow stated the names of those appointed to the committee. Judge Snow stated she is still looking for another representative from some smaller municipalities and has a few leads. She stated meetings will be by Zoom with the first meeting hopefully in the next month. She informed the Council of [Assembly Bill 292](#), which included suggested changes to the use of artificial intelligence in court proceedings, potentially relevant to the committee's purpose. The bill is unlikely to pass.

Lastly, Attorney Kirchner provided an update on "Council Corner." Attorney Kirchner stated that Attorney Zibolski had helped draft a new column for future distribution. She plans to write a separate column on the ECP's Rules Project in the future.

6) Adjournment

Judge Nilsestuen moved to adjourn. Attorney Blinka seconded. Adjournment.

Minutes prepared by Attorney Zibolski