WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 2

TO: MEMBERS OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

FROM: Rachel E. Snyder, Staff Attorney, and David Moore, Senior Staff Attorney

RE: Information in Response to Requests Made at the July 27, 2016 Meeting

DATE: September 7, 2016

At the July 27, 2016 meeting on the Study Committee on Access to Civil Legal Services, members requested that the following information be gathered and distributed in preparation for the committee's September 14, 2016 meeting:

1. **Information about how other states provide civil legal services to individuals who cannot afford an attorney.**

In 2011, the American Bar Foundation published a report entitled, *Access Across America*, which was an attempt at a comprehensive mapping of the U.S. civil justice infrastructure. The following report provides an overview of how civil legal services are provided in each of the 50 states and in the District of Columbia:

http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/uploads/cms/documents/access_across_america_first_report_of_the_civil_justice_infrastructure_mapping_project.pdf.

In addition, the American Bar Association's Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives compiled the following list of access to justice initiatives from throughout the United States that it considers noteworthy:

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/legal_aid_indigent_defendants/2014/ls_sclaid_atj_checklist.authcheckdam.pdf.

2. **Information about the economic return on a state investment in civil legal aid.**

The American Bar Association's Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives has created a chart of needs assessments and studies of the economic impact of civil legal aid conducted throughout the United States. The following chart is organized by state with needs assessments in the middle column and impact studies in the column on the right:

One East Main Street, Suite 401 • P.O. Box 2536 • Madison, WI 53701-2536
(608) 266-1304 • Fax: (608) 266-3830 • Email: leg.council@legis.wisconsin.gov
http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_aid_indigent_defendants/initiatives/resource_center_for_access_to_justice/atj_commission_self-assessment_materials1/studies.html.

3. **Information about Michigan's alternative dispute resolution program.**

General information about the Community Dispute Resolution Program (CRDP), within the Michigan Courts' Office of Dispute Resolution, is available here:

http://courts.mi.gov/administration/scao/officesprograms/odr/pages/community-dispute-resolution-program.aspx.

The following article about Michigan's statewide mediation program was written by CDRP's Director, Doug Van Epps:

http://www.americanbar.org/publications/dispute_resolution_magazine/2013/winter/public_funding_ofcommunitydisputeresolutioncenters.html.

RES:DM:mcm;ksm