

Shirley S. Abrahamson Chief Justice

Supreme Court of Misconsin

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February 6, 2007

Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning Joint Legislative Council 1 E. Main St., Suite 401 P.O. Box 2536 Madison, WI 53701-2536

Dear Representative Ballweg:

At the request of Chief Justice Abrahamson, I am responding to your letter of January 23, 2007 relating to disaster preparedness planning in the court system.

We currently have a committee that is in the process of formulating legislative recommendations that will clarify the legal authority for the use of videoconferencing in court proceedings. I will ask this committee to consider if legislative changes are necessary to utilize videoconferencing in the event of a pandemic.

Thank you for your letter.

A. John Voelker

Sincerely.

Director of State Courts

JV:LAI/lai

cc: Chief Justice Abrahamson