

SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

No. 20-09

**In re Amendment of SCR 70.19, Wis. Stats.
§§ 753.24, 753.26, 757.12, 757.14, 757.70,
807.14, 885.52, 885.54, 885.56, 885.58,
885.60, 967.09, and 971.04 Relating to
the Location of Court and the Use of
Videoconferencing Technology**

FILED

JUN 1, 2021

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court
Madison, WI

On December 11, 2020, the Honorable Randy R. Koschnick, Director of State Courts, filed this rule petition, asking the court to amend Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 70.19, Wis. Stats. §§ 753.24, 753.26, 757.12, 757.14, 757.70, 807.14, 885.52, 885.54, 885.56, 885.58, 885.60, 967.09, and 971.04 pertaining to the location of court and to the use of videoconferencing technology.

Consistent with standard practice, the court voted to solicit written comments and schedule a public hearing. Letters were sent to interested persons on February 1, 2021. Comments were received from a number of judges: the Honorable John P. Anderson, Bayfield County Circuit Court; the Honorable James C. Babler, Barron County Circuit Court; the Honorable Maureen D. Boyle, Barron County Circuit Court, Chief Judge District 10; the Honorable Benjamin J. Lane, Chippewa County Circuit Court; and the Honorable Daniel G. Wood, Adams County Circuit Court; law enforcement: Steven Anderson, Chief of Police, on behalf of the Wisconsin Police Executive Group; Christopher Botsch, Chief of

Police, Village of Caledonia; Nate Dreckman, Sheriff, on behalf of the Badger State Sheriffs' Association; Ryan J. Milligan, Chief of Police, Village of Walworth Police Department; James A. Olson, Chief of Police, Village of DeForest; Aaron M. Raap, Chief of Police, City of Whitewater Police Department; Timothy J. Styka, Police Chief, City of Menasha; Brian A. Uhl, Chief of Public Safety, Ashwaubenon Department of Public Safety; criminal defense counsel: Attorneys Jonas B. Bednarek, Marcus B. Berghahn, Patrick J. Fiedler, Stephen P. Hurley, David E. Saperstein, Sarah E. Schuchardt, Catherine E. White, Hurley Burish, S.C.; Attorney Craig R. Johnson, Sweet & Associates; Attorney Chad A. Lanning, Lubar & Lanning, LLC; Attorney Sarah M. Schmeiser, on behalf of the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and Attorney Kelli S. Thompson, State Public Defender (SPD); and others with expertise in the justice system: Jennifer Dunn, in her capacity as Director, Waukesha Victim Assistance, Waukesha County District Attorney's Office and on behalf of the Wisconsin Victim Witness Professionals; and Geri Segal, Executive Director, Family Support Center.

The court conducted a public hearing on April 7, 2021, via videoconference. The Honorable Randy Koschnick and the Honorable Jason A. Rossell presented the petition to the court. The court heard testimony from Attorney Kate Drury, SPD; Attorney Anthony Jurek; Jennifer Dunn, Director, Waukesha Victim Assistance, Waukesha County District Attorney's Office; Attorney Sarah M. Schmeiser, Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys; Attorney Craig R. Johnson, Sweet and Associates; Attorney Aaron Nelson, Nelson Defense Group; and Chad A. Lanning, Lubar & Lanning.

The court discussed the petition at a series of closed administrative conferences. The court recognizes the convenience and efficiency videoconferencing affords, but is also mindful of the many concerns identified and additional changes proposed by individuals who submitted written statements and offered testimony at the public hearing. Following extensive consideration, the court did not reach consensus on a number of the proposed changes. Accordingly, the court returns the petition to the petitioner, without action.

Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that this petition is returned to the petitioner.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 1st day of June, 2021.

BY THE COURT:

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court

