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*Promoting Fairness and Equity in Wisconsin's Civil Justice System*

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To: Chairpersons Alberta Darling and John Nygren  
Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
From: R.J. Pirlot, Wisconsin Civil Justice Council  
Date: May 7, 2015  
Re: **Office of the Solicitor General (Justice), paper #419**  
**Please Support Alternative 1**

Governor Walker’s budget recommendation provides the Attorney General authority to appoint, in the unclassified service, a Solicitor General and no more than three deputy solicitors general. Further, the Governor’s recommendation provides the Attorney General authority to assign assistant attorneys general to assist the Solicitor General.

The Wisconsin Civil Justice Council supports the Governor’s recommendation because creating a Solicitor General’s office will:

- Allow the Attorney General to provide more direction to and supervision of litigation.
- Allow the Attorney General to help ensure the state’s legal arguments, litigation strategy, and representation reflect his or her priorities.

Such an office is a well-established practice within the United States. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau in paper #419 notes that “[a]ttorney general offices in 42 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, had [in March of 2014] a person appointed to oversee their offices' civil appellate practice, and in some cases criminal appellate practice.”

The Wisconsin Civil Justice Council respectfully requests you support alternative 1 in paper #419 when you consider the Department of Justice’s budget.

If you have any questions, please contact R.J. Pirlot, the Wisconsin Civil Justice Council’s legislative advisor and lobbyist, at 608-258-9506.