

SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

No. 16-05E

**In the matter of Creation of a Pilot Project
for Dedicated Trial Court Judicial Dockets for
Large Claim Business and Commercial Cases**

FILED

OCT 7, 2024

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of Supreme Court
Madison, WI

In 2017, this court granted Rule Petition 16-05, filed by the Business Court Advisory Committee ("Committee"), and formally established a three-year pilot project to create dedicated trial court judicial dockets for large claim business and commercial cases in Waukesha County and in the circuit courts of the Eighth Judicial Administrative District ("pilot project" or "commercial court docket"), and adopted associated interim rules. S. Ct. Order 16-05, 2017 WI 33 (issued Apr. 11, 2017; eff. July 1, 2017). The initial pilot project ran from July 2017 to July 2020. Id. Thereafter, the court expanded the pilot project to additional circuit courts and extended the length of the pilot project. See S. Ct. Order 16-05A (Feb. 12, 2020); S. Ct. Order 16-05B (Feb. 20, 2020); and S. Ct. Order 16-05C (Mar. 13, 2020). On February 11, 2022, the Committee filed Rule Petition 16-05D, seeking an amendment to the interim rules to extend the pilot project for an additional two years. On June 29, 2022, this court further extended the duration of the pilot project until July 30, 2024, and amended the interim rules accordingly. S. Ct. Order 16-05D (June 29, 2022).

On May 30, 2024, the Committee filed Rule Petition 16-05E, seeking an amendment to the interim rules governing the pilot project to extend the pilot project until July 1, 2026. On June 17, 2024, this court voted to solicit public comments concerning Rule Petition 16-05E and schedule the matter for a public hearing. On June 19, 2024, this court entered an order temporarily extending the pilot project "pending this court's disposition of Rule Petition 16-05E."

A letter soliciting comments from interested persons was sent on June 20, 2024. On August 16, 2024, the court issued an order for a public hearing. Following the receipt of comments, the court held a public hearing on September 24, 2024. Following the public hearing, the court met in open administrative conference and voted 4-3 (Chief Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler, Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley, and Justice Brian Hagedorn dissenting) to deny the petition and terminate the pilot project. The court also voted to issue an interim order halting future assignment of cases to the pilot project pending issuance of a final order disposing of the petition. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that as of the date of this order, no additional cases shall be assigned to the commercial court docket;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that cases already assigned to the commercial court docket as of the date of this order shall continue under the existing interim rules pending further order of this court; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall be made available to the public on the Wisconsin court system's website. The State Bar of Wisconsin shall provide notice of this order.

ANNETTE KINGSLAND ZIEGLER, C.J., REBECCA GRASSL BRADLEY, J.,
and BRIAN HAGEDORN, J., dissent.

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of Supreme Court

