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Wisconsin Supreme Court
Office of Justices
16 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-1688



Re: Case 2022AP810- Supervisory Writ

Waukesha 2018FA296

Valadez Case

Attention: Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices
Chief Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Justice Ann Walsh Bradley
Justice Patience D. Roggensack
Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley
Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet
Justice Brian Hagedorn
Justice Jill J. Karofsky

To Whom It May Concern,

I, the undersigned, am writing you today as member of the Family Court Anti-Corruption Coalition (FCACC), a network of advocates across the USA and Canada dedicated to investigating and ensuring the honesty and integrity of the family court judges and their conduct when fundamental civil liberty interests are at stake.

I am writing this letter to urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to take up the Writ before the court, case 22AP810, to uphold

- (1) the 2003 Legislative Act 130 to Protect Victims of Domestic Abuse in Court
- (2) the Wisconsin Domestic Abuse Guidebook



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(3) the case law in the WI District 2 Appellate Court Decision and Order in 20AP1006

(4) the Dissenting opinion by Justice Grogan in Wisconsin District 2 Writ 22AP320 for Waukesha Circuit Court Defying the Appellate Order in 20AP1006

(5) and to end the Human Rights, US Constitution, and Wisconsin law violations to Ms. Valadez and her children

Civil Rights Attorney William F. Sulton stated at a press conference on March 25, 2022 “In our society the court system is supposed to be the great leveler, it is supposed to give us the equal playing field that we don’t otherwise get in society. And in this case that has failed. So now it is time for the Supreme Court of our State to take action, not only for Ms.

Valadez but for other women who have been victims of abuse who haven’t gotten the justice that the statutes and the legislature intended. We intend to take this battle to the Supreme Court so they can lay down a broad-based rule that will affect the entire state in the way that it was intended by the legislature when they passed these protection laws. We are seeking a directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court to direct the Circuit Court in Waukesha County to follow the law and give sole custody and primary placement to Ms. Valadez right now.”

Attorney Sulton went on to say, “It is also important to keep in mind that speaking up came at great cost to Ms. Valadez, she saw her rights to her children shrink, she was subjected to an order to go to jail and so really the court system, in particular the Supreme Court, needs to take a look at this case and say we cannot allow this to happen again.”

End Abuse Wisconsin has released a [press release](#) stating “Following the latest hearing in the *Julie C. Valadez v. Ricardo Valadez* case in Waukesha County, experts at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse) identify aspects of the case that are consistent with harmful patterns in WI family court and provide clarification about the potential impact of the case on survivors of domestic violence statewide.”

I feel it is imperative that the Wisconsin Supreme Court take up the pending Supreme Court Writ 22AP810 immediately to uphold the law and protect victims of domestic abuse as the impacts of domestic abuse are at a crisis level in our state (in Wisconsin).

Justice Grogan wrote the following, ““There is much truth in the adage that ‘justice delayed is justice denied.’” In re Snyder, 184 Wis. 10, 198 N.W. 616, 617 (1924). In December 2021, this court reversed a judgment that Julie Valadez appealed in June 2020. We reversed the circuit court’s May 2020 judgment because it was unlawful.¹ It was unlawful because



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that circuit court did not follow WIS. STAT. § 767.41(2)(d)1 (2019-20)2—a law our legislature enacted to protect victims of domestic violence and their children. Subsection (2)(d)1 says: “it is detrimental to the child and contrary to the best interest of the child to award joint or sole legal custody” when “the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that a party has engaged in a pattern ... of domestic abuse.”³ Id. (emphasis added). We also reversed the May 2020 judgment because the circuit court did not even mention WIS. STAT. § 767.41(5)(bm), which says a circuit court shall make “the safety and well-being of the child and the safety of the parent who was the victim of the ... abuse” “the paramount concerns in determining legal custody and period of physical placement” if it found a pattern of domestic abuse.⁴”

Justice Grogan goes on to speak about the crisis of domestic abuse affecting women and children in Wisconsin, ““Domestic violence is a serious and invisible problem.” 28 C.J.S. Domestic Abuse and Violence § 3 (2022). “Data shows that 28,729 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to Wisconsin law enforcement agencies in 2012, and the problem is not abating. In 2016, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 73 people lost their lives in domestic violence-related homicide cases in Wisconsin.” Amanda Rabe & Megan L. Sprecher, Representing Domestic Abuse Survivors, Wis. Law., January 2018, at 24. “In 2018, Wisconsin law enforcement agencies reported 30,999 incidents of domestic violence, resulting in 21,960 arrests.” <https://ncadv.org/state-by-state> (Wisconsin) (citing Domestic abuse data 2018. <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/bjia/domestic-abuse-data>). “In 2019, there were 52 domestic partner homicides in Wisconsin.” <https://ncadv.org/state-by-state> (Wisconsin) (citing End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. (2020). End domestic violence homicide report: 2019 homicides and a review of 20 years of data. <https://www.endabusewi.org/end-abuse-releases-annual-wisconsin-domestic-violence-homicide-report-2019-homicides-a-review-of-20-years-of-data/>). Statistics do not include the many incidents that go unreported.”

According to [Domestic Violence Homicide Help](#), “as of August 1st, at least 52 Wisconsin lives have been lost to domestic violence in 2022. That’s one person killed every 4.1 days. If we continue at that pace, 90 lives are projected to be lost to domestic violence in Wisconsin this year.” On July 25, 2022 the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported](#) “In two weeks, six women lost their lives to domestic violence in Milwaukee County. They were mothers, daughters, sisters and friends.”

The issue of male on female violence is so prevalent that it has also affected this very Wisconsin Supreme Court. I mention this with respect and sensitivity to any triggers this may cause while carefully bringing your attention to the incident [reported by Wisconsin](#)



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[Watch in 2011](#) where an act of violence occurred perpetrated by a male justice on a female justice in chambers. “The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel [reported](#) late Saturday that Justice Bradley has affirmed that a physical altercation took place and disputed the assertions of others that the contact was incidental. “The facts are that I was demanding that he get out of my office and he put his hands around my neck in anger in a chokehold,” Bradley told the Journal Sentinel.”

I am using my voice to say that male violence against women and children needs to be addressed within our society. The President [stated](#) during the reauthorization of VAWA earlier this year “Change the culture not just the law, It really wasn’t so long ago this country didn’t want to talk about violence against women, let alone it being a national epidemic—something government had to address. As a society, we literally looked away. Can you imagine being among the first to stand before the whole world and millions of people to hear you recite how you were abused? It took enormous courage. That’s what this law has always been about: the abuse of power. Whether it ends in a rape or just the physical [beating]— it’s about the abuse of power... I believed that, too, as many of you in this room did... [That] the only way we could change the culture was by shining an ugly, bright light on it and speaking its name.” Justice Bradley was one of those courageous women. [Ms. Valadez has also been one of those courageous women willing to speak up](#) not just for her and her children but for all the women and children affected by domestic abuse in this state, the courage she has shown to graciously use her voice to speak up, advocate for change, and to take a stand, even at risk to herself against an unlawful and abusive judge, to say the Wisconsin Laws must be followed.

I stand with survivors of domestic abuse and urge the Wisconsin Supreme Court to act now to protect Ms. Valadez and the Valadez children and the impact that doing so will have to protect all survivors in Wisconsin. We need the Wisconsin Supreme Court to act and to act now.

A primary function of the Supreme Court is to [ensure independent, open, fair and efficient resolution of disputes in accordance with the federal and state constitutions and laws](#). Please take action today to ensure that this is done in the Valadez case and to set much needed precedent for the state to protect victims of domestic abuse as the laws passed by the legislature intended. Please also hold the Waukesha County Courthouse accountable for their clear violations of Wisconsin Law as evidenced in the decisions and orders in [2020AP001006](#), [2021AP000994](#), [2021AP001186](#), [2021AP001436](#), [2022AP000320](#) and the irreparable harm that this has done to Ms. Valadez and the Valadez children.



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[In Wisconsin Statute 757.02](#) it shares the oath that you took as a justice in Wisconsin which includes: “I...solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Wisconsin; that I will administer justice without respect to persons and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to the best of my ability. So help me God.” This is a matter where I am urging you as the Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court to uphold your oath to support the constitution, Ms. Valadez and the children have had their constitutional rights violated in Wisconsin. Victims of domestic abuse need to have their constitutional rights protected.

Please uphold your oath and take action today.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Member, Family Court Anti-Corruption Coalition

(optional) Address: _____

(optional) E-Mail: _____