

Honorable Judge

June 24, 2018

RE: plea for counsel and affidavit attesting to attempts to secure counsel

Your Honor,

With this letter I am submitting a multi-plaintiff suit, either as a joinder or class action. I am a member of a nonprofit that advocates for prisoners and their families and have been doing this work for 18 years . This offering is the culmination of many years of struggle to get real healing changes for prisoners now entombed in our solitary units. My work consists largely of communicating with prisoners through letters and my main guides have been and continue to be, Prisoner litigators.

Although I have connected with many lawyers and have been able to get occasional guidance from them , we have not had a benefit of a lawyer except for short periods. A class action on the abuse and overuse of solitary confinement seems a too big and thankless a task for lawfirms to take on without a court mandate.

IN 2014-15 the Gingras law firm did several months of exploratory research in preparation for taking the case after the Center for Investigative Journalism published a series of articles on alleged guard abuse of inmates in Waupun Correctional Inst. They did a lot of open records requests in order to get all the rules concerning DOC segregation. The DOC then changed those rules, albeit temporarily. We never heard from that firm again and believe the changes in the rules and other problems posed, led to their disappearance. After that,prisoner litigators and I determined we need to write the thing ourselves and although I have been cut off periodically from the prisoners who are guiding me, finally the result is here.

Over the years I have asked many firms to represent us and here I present just the inquiries I did in the last few month as I did not record the date of my former requests. Most lawyer inquiries went unanswered and the few answers are included in this packet. The National Lawyers Guild did respond generously with names of other lawyer suggestions we contacted them. To no avail, however. Therefore we ask you to take into consideration the many lawyers contacted trying to get representation.

There is little possibility of systemic changes with an individual plaintiff and the needs, immense and desperate, are not being addressed. The ramifications of this lack are dire for our whole society. We believe it is imperative that the court look this effort over seriously and decide with an open mind if it is good enough to be certified as a class action. If it is adequate, then please take into consideration the efforts made to acquire a lawyer, and appoint a one.

With utmost respect,

Yours truly,

Peg Swan  
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