SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXTENSION
OF THE EXPIRATION OF 2020
STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
MEMBERSHIP CARDS

FILED

APR 23, 2020

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Supreme Court
Madison, WI

On April 22, 2020, the State Bar of Wisconsin ("State Bar") filed a request asking this court to issue an order to extend the expiration date of current State Bar membership cards. The State Bar advises the court that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant economic hardships visited upon practicing attorneys, the State Bar is permitting members to pay State Bar dues and assessments past the traditional deadline of July 1, 2020, without penalty. The State Bar intends to extend that payment deadline to September 30, 2020.

State Bar membership cards are documentary evidence of an individual's authorization to practice law in this state. However, 2021 membership cards cannot be issued until the State Bar receives full payment. This leaves a two month gap during which members will not be able to provide current proof of their authorization to practice law, because their membership card will appear to have expired. Accordingly, the State Bar has requested this court issue an order, pursuant to its authority over the State Bar through Supreme Court Rule Chapter 10 and its inherent authority over the legal profession of this state, to extend the validity of current State Bar membership cards until September 30, 2020. See also Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 3; In re Kading, 70 Wis. 2d 508, 519-20; 235 N.W.2d 409 (1976). Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the request of the State Bar of Wisconsin is granted and, effective the date of this order, the expiration date for valid 2020 State Bar of Wisconsin membership cards is extended to September 30, 2020;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order will be distributed to all judges and circuit court commissioners of this state; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the State Bar of Wisconsin shall take all reasonable steps to notify its members of the contents of this order.