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### ***State Bar Praises Budget Proposal for Civil Legal Assistance***

**September 20, 2007** - State Bar of Wisconsin President Tom Basting thanked Assembly Republicans for including a provision in their latest budget package allocating \$1 million to fund civil legal assistance.

“This is a very positive development for families across the state. Every Wisconsin resident deserves reliable access to justice through our courts and this initiative will assist people who would otherwise be forced to face serious civil legal matters on their own. These are issues that could impact their housing, health, or employment (such as landlord-tenant disputes). The urgent need to fund better access to needed legal services in Wisconsin was documented in a study released by the State Bar in March ([Bridging the Gap: Wisconsin’s Unmet Legal Needs](#)). It shows that about one-half million residents lack the legal assistance they need,” Basting said.

The funding was included in the budget approved by the State Senate, but had not been incorporated into the Assembly version of the bill. Senate and Assembly leaders are working on a compromise budget.

*The State Bar of Wisconsin is the mandatory professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 20,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit [www.wisbar.org](http://www.wisbar.org) or [www.legalexplorer.com](http://www.legalexplorer.com)*

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