

Four Of The State Supreme Court Justices Boycott

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(AP) Four of the state Supreme Court's seven justices engaged in a limited boycott this week to protest the way Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson wanted to take up a specific issue. The issue involved the court's decision in January to discuss much of its work behind closed doors. The decision reversed a policy favoring transparency. A Milwaukee Journal Sentinel report (<http://bit.ly/Jst6hb>) says Abrahamson wanted to write a dissent, and she believed the court needed to vote publicly on it Wednesday. The four conservative-leaning justices failed to appear for that discussion, with one alluding to an "improper item" on the agenda. The development was the latest sign of how fractured the court has become. Justice David Prosser is accused of putting his hands on another justice's neck during an altercation last summer.