

LAW OFFICES OF  
THE GOOGASIAN FIRM

P.C.

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August 31, 2011

Michigan Supreme Court Clerk  
P. O. Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48909

**Re: ADM File No. 2010-07**  
**Proposed Amendment of Rule 1.5 of the Michigan**  
**Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC)**

Dear Supreme Court Clerk:

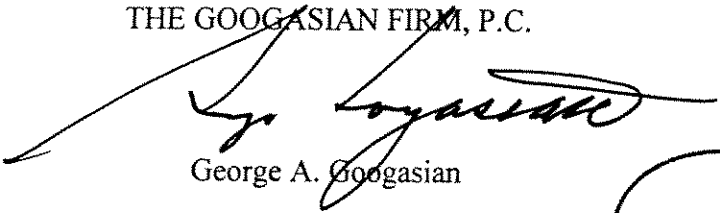
I write to address the proposed changes to MRPC 1.5 regarding referral fees. When I began the practice of the law over 50 years ago, the rules of the American Bar Association prohibited the payment of referral fees. Some lawyers, particularly in the Detroit area, openly violated the rule and paid referral fees. While most lawyers refused to pay referral fees, many got around the prohibition by involving the referring attorney as a participant in some aspect of the case (for example, probate, client contact, investigation, research) and then pay the equivalent of a referral fee for that participation. Thus in effect totally vitiating the purpose of the ABA rule.

The proposed rule amendment does nothing to protect the public, is in fact a direct interference in the contractual relations among attorneys, and is easily obviated.

I would urge the Court to reject the proposed amendment.

Very truly yours,

THE GOOGASIAN FIRM, P.C.

  
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