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Corbin Davis  
Clerk of the Court  
Michigan Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: ADM File No. 2010-18  
Proposed Amendment of Rule 6.1 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct

Dear Mr. Davis,

I am the Dean of the University of Michigan Law School, and I am writing in support of the proposed changes to Michigan Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 set forth in Alternative B.

The University of Michigan Law School has long been a national leader in educating our students about their ethical obligation to provide pro bono legal services to persons of limited means. For more than 30 years, our clinical program, with more than a dozen distinct offerings ranging from the Child Advocacy Law Clinic, to the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, to the Michigan Innocence Clinic, has equipped our students with the necessary skills to provide legal services to a wide range of Michigan residents in need. Our recently adopted Voluntary Pro Bono Pledge, which recognizes Michigan Law students who provide at least 50 hours of pro bono service before graduation, seeks to instill a lifelong commitment to pro bono service, while introducing them to possible avenues such pro bono service might take during their careers.

Alternative B mirrors the spirit of pro bono service we are seeking to impart to our students. The language of Alternative B is based on the ABA Model Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1, and as such, represents a national consensus on the definition of pro bono as being legal work focused on helping persons of limited means. Alternative B incorporates the current Michigan Voluntary Pro Bono Standard – which has been in existence since 1990 – and will provide needed clarity and guidance to those seeking to fulfill their ethical obligation to do pro bono work.

For the reasons set forth above, I respectfully express my hope that the Court adopt Michigan Rule of Professional Conduct Rule 6.1, Alternative B.

Sincerely,

*Evan Caminker*