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Scott S. Brinkmeyer
President

November 5, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

RECEIVED
NOV 06 2003
OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Hon. William C. Whitbeck
Chief Judge - Michigan Court of Appeals
Hall of Justice - 925 West Ottawa
P.O. Box 30022
Lansing, MI 48909-7522

Re: Supreme Court Order Re: Appellate Delay Reduction

Dear Judge Whitbeck:

Yesterday I reviewed with great interest and optimism the Supreme Court's Order No. 2003-6 regarding the development of a "just in time" briefing plan for the management of civil cases. Although I realize that this may not have provided exactly what you would have wished in the way of Court Rule amendments, I do believe that this offers us a unique opportunity to fashion a plan that can not only assist greatly in reducing the delay currently experienced in the Court of Appeals, but will also be of benefit to both the lawyers and citizens of this state who may be involved in the appellate process. Our hope is to develop a system that will reduce delay, while maintaining flexibility and the quality of briefing necessary to appropriately represent litigants and provide thorough legal analysis for the appellate judges.

As suggested by the Supreme Court, I am offering the assistance of the State Bar of Michigan in this worthwhile endeavor. I have contacted each of the members of the Appellate Intake Delay Reduction Sub-Committee who worked with us this summer and they have committed to work cooperatively with you in developing the plan ordered by the Supreme Court. The response has been enthusiastic and we expect that, by joining together early in this process, we will be able to agree upon an effective plan for joint presentation to the Supreme Court.

I hope that you will greet this opportunity as positively as we do and look forward to working together with you and your staff.

Very truly yours,

Scott S. Brinkmeyer

SSB: lj

faxcc: Maura D. Corrigan/Supreme Court Chief Justice Corrigan, and Justices
John Berry
Don Fulkerson
Tim McMorrow
Bruce Neckers
James Neuhard
Mary Massaron Ross
Evelyn Tombers
Victor Valenti
Janet Welch