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

December 20, 2018

Re: ADM File No. 2018-21
**Proposed Administrative Order to Require Courts to
Establish Security Committees**

Dear Justices,

On behalf of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, we support this Court's current proposal requiring the establishment of Courthouse Security Committees. We ask that the order be modified to specifically include the local county Prosecutor as a member of that Committee.

In many counties, the Prosecutor's Office is located inside the courthouse. In those counties, Prosecutors and their staff members share the same concerns with security issues as the courts. Any policy considerations regarding security issues will directly impact their offices as much as they impact judges and court staff.

In counties where the Prosecutor's Office is located in a separate building, prosecutors and their staff are still directly impacted by court security concerns and policies. In these circumstances, prosecutors and their staff spend time in the courthouses more than most other attorneys. The courthouse typically functions as a secondary work location. Additionally, security concerns arise not just in the courthouse, but also the grounds and parking areas. Those areas are of particular concern as prosecutors are often-times confronted not only by defendants they are prosecuting, but others who are angry or hostile because of a criminal prosecution.

Furthermore, prosecutors are often the first aware when threats have been made against judges, court staff, or their own staff.

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They or their staff frequently know before the courts when particular cases are likely to require additional security measures or pose higher than normal security risks. Because of their unique role in the system, prosecutors can play an important role on a Court Security Committee and should be included as a necessary member to ensure their input is considered on security concerns.

While the proposed order provides the discretion for the chief judge to include “other facility stakeholders,” PAAM believes that it is more appropriate to specifically include the local Prosecutor as a necessary member. Their input on issues directly impacting their offices and court security is critical in every county and there is no reason any Prosecutor should not be included.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Hubbell

Joseph Hubbell
Chair, PAAM Amicus and Court Rule Committee