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

306 Townsend Street

Michael Franck Building

Lansing, MI

48933-2012

RE: ADM File No. 2018-29: Proposed Amendment of Rules 6.302 and 6.610 of the Michigan Court Rules

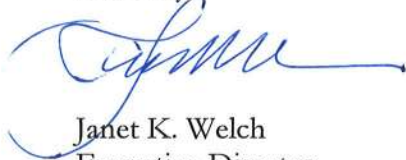
Dear Clerk Royster:

At its November 22, 2019 meeting, the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners (Board) considered the above-referenced proposed rule amendments published by the Court for comment. As part of its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Access to Justice Policy Committee, Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee, and Criminal Law Section, all of which opposed the rule amendments.

Based on this review, the Board voted unanimously to oppose the rule amendments. These amendments will take away an important tool in the criminal justice process and reduce the options available when negotiating a plea, which has the potential to harm the government, defendants, and victims. For example, a victim may want the defendant to admit to the facts charged, and it is not clear why the court rules should deprive them of that option. These amendments are not only unnecessary but detrimental to the criminal justice process.

We thank the Court for the opportunity to convey the Board's position on this rule proposal.

Sincerely,



Janet K. Welch
Executive Director

cc: Anne Boomer, Administrative Counsel, Michigan Supreme Court
Dennis M. Barnes, President, State Bar of Michigan