

From: [Joe McGuire](#)
To: [ADMcomment](#)
Subject: ADM File No. 2018-30 Proposed Amendment of Rule 8.115 of the Michigan Court Rules
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 4:22:24 PM

I'm writing regarding ADM File No. 2018-30, Proposed Amendment of Rule 8.115 of the Michigan Court Rules. I support this amendment. As a legal services attorney who represents tenants in district court, the total prohibition of cellular phones in district court buildings greatly harms my clients' access to justice. My clients often do not have vehicles of their own, and they often have to rely on public transportation or friends and family for rides to and from court. Either way, the blanket prohibition on cellular phones greatly harms their ability to get to court. If they have to take the bus to court, then they have to leave their cellular phones at home for the entire trip (since they do not have a car to leave their phone in), cutting them off from being able to contact others, including their jobs. If they rely on friends and family for rides, then they are unable to call them from court to tell them when they need a ride home. My clients often have important evidence and information stored on their phones that they are cut off from while they are in court. Unless they have an attorney with a phone (and 90% of tenants do not), they cannot access any information either on their phones or on the internet. Most landlords are represented by attorneys who are allowed to bring cellular phones into court, so this makes the rule imbalanced in favor of those who can afford counsel. I hope that this amendment is implemented as soon as possible.

Joe McGuire

Staff Attorney

Michigan Legal Services

2727 Second Avenue Ste. 333

Mailbox #37

Detroit, MI 48201

(313) 964-4130 ext. 403

jmcguire@milegalservices.org

<http://milegalservices.org/>