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August 23, 2019

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

RE: ADM File No. 2018-30: Proposed Amendment of Rule 8.115 of the Michigan Court Rules

Dear Clerk Royster:

At its July 26, 2019 meeting, the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners (Board) considered the above-referenced proposed rule amendment published by the Court for comment. As part of its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Access to Justice Policy Committee, Civil Procedure & Courts Committee, Family Law Section, and Probate & Estate Planning Section.

After this review, the Board voted to support the rule amendment, which would provide a consistent portable electronic device policy across courts and allow non-attorneys access to such devices. While the Board recognizes that some of the provisions in the rule may be difficult to enforce, the benefits of the rule to the public far outweigh these concerns. Members of the public rely on their electronic devices to communicate and store vital information, such as documents they may need in court, calendar and contact information, and texts that are relevant to their cases. The rule will increase access to justice for all litigants, including self-represented litigants, and will also make it easier for other people to use the courts and participate as witnesses and jurors.

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
Jennifer Grieco, President, State Bar of Michigan