

**From:** [Michael L. Jaconette](#)  
**To:** [ADMcomment](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Rule Change MCR 8.115  
**Date:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:15:53 PM

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I am writing in opposition to those aspects of the proposed amendments to MCR 8.115 which would take away from trial courts the authority to institute local rules related to cell phone usage in a courthouse or courtroom. My primary concerns are safety and security related. The level of courthouse and courtroom security, in terms of staffing and funding, varies greatly from county to county around the state. The local court security committees, established by court rule and approved by SCAO, are in the best position to know the strengths, weaknesses and unique aspects of their own courthouse and courtroom security, including how the usage of cell phones in a particular building or court could best be managed. The reality is that many Michigan trial courts operate with little to no security in the courtroom. The introduction of cell phone usage in the courtroom and courthouse poses significant safety risks which outweigh the possible benefits, primarily convenience-related, that have been cited. I question whether a court with limited or no courtroom security can reasonably manage the changes and security risks that this proposed court rule would bring. I share the concerns expressed by my colleagues in the Michigan Probate Judges Association in their comments regarding this proposed change. Thank you.

Hon. Michael L. Jaconette

**Hon. Michael L. Jaconette**  
**Chief Judge**  
**Calhoun County Courts**