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Michigan Supreme Court
Att: Clerk
Lansing, MI

Re: Proposed Amendment of MCR 8.115 - PROPOSED Amendment of MCR 8.115 (would explicitly allow the use of cellular phones, as well as prohibit certain uses, in a courthouse)

I'm writing to the court in **support** of this amendment.

As a person who was before a pro-se litigant I believe that the Court should promulgate rules that serve the general public and enhance access to the legal system. General public should be able to use electronic devices in the court since they can be used to access documents, internet and other files which might be helpful to pro-se litigants. The fact that licensed attorneys can have cellphones in the court room creates a situation where pro-se litigants are put in a disadvantaged situation.

There have been widespread media coverage from clerks stating that allowing cell phone use will cut on their courts' revenue for copies. While that might be true, I do not believe that the courts should be using copy fees as a source of revenue required to operate the court. The fee should cover the cost of making such copy, which is at most few cents. Charging 1 dollar per page (which is a widespread practice) is unreasonable and can prevent indignant litigants from obtaining documents from the court.

I do understand that there are privacy concerns for jurors due to high proliferation of cameras in todays cellphones. I do believe though that it shouldn't be the judge's duty to enforce the rules and that court officers and bailiffs can enforce the rules. Stiff and unavoidable penalties will deter most of who would break the photography rule.

I hope that the Court will **adopt** this amendment.

/s/Marcin Puczylowski