



Michigan District Judges Association

August 26, 2019

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Dear Ms. Boomer:

The Michigan District Judges Association has reviewed the proposed amended court rule concerning chief judges, MCR 8.110. We strongly support the provision that grants each judge thirty days of vacation each year without having to request permission from the chief judge. This eliminates an unnecessarily contentious aspect of the relationship between the chief judge and the rest of the judges in the jurisdiction. It is important that we leave the stress, pain and pressure that are frequent aspects of being a judge to find peace, fun, time for introspection or for personal study or friends and family. We are then able to return to our work as judges renewed for continued productive time on the bench.

When we commented on an earlier draft of this amended order March 12, 2019, we urged adoption of the amendment that gives deference to local judges in the choice of a chief judge. This new proposal has been revised to use the words "respectful consideration". We believe the term "deference" takes into account that we, as judges in a jurisdiction, know better the abilities of our benchmates to lead with competence, common sense and fairness.

The amendments were comprehensively reviewed by representatives from all three levels of trial courts as well as the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the Judicial Tenure Commission, a representative for court administrators and for the Michigan Supreme Court. We appreciate the amendments resulting from their work as a committee.

Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely,

Hon. Julie Reincke
Michigan District Judges Association

cc. Hon. Beth Gibson
MDJA Court Rules Committee