



April 14, 2020

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Mr. Larry S. Royster
Clerk, Michigan Supreme Court
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, Michigan 48909

*re: ADM File 2019-13
Proposed Amendment of MCR 7.118*

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Dear Mr. Royster:

On behalf of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan, I write to support the proposed amendment of MCR 7.118 to require counsel be appointed to an indigent prisoner when an application for leave to appeal a grant of parole is filed by the prosecutor or the victim.

For largely the same reasons as outlined by the State Appellate Defender Office in its April 1, 2020 comment, CDAM supports the amendment as a matter of equity. We believe the proposed amendment is consistent with existing Michigan case law regarding the right to counsel, including in discretionary appeals. The amendment improves the fairness of our criminal justice system, as it ensures all interested parties are represented in court proceedings involving parole.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ramona L. Sain

We ask the Court to approve the proposed amendment, as further clarified by SADO regarding the appointment of counsel being processed through the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System.

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 279
Davison, MI 48423

Thank you for your consideration of our position,

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Jessica Zimbelman, Co-Chair
Rules and Laws Committee
Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan