

Michigan District Judges Association

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

Re: Proposed Adoption of a Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education Program

Dear Clerk Royster:

On May 15, 2020, the board of the Michigan District Judges Association voted to recommend against the adoption of the proposed mandatory continuing judicial education program. MCR 8.110(D)(4) already provides an expectation that a judge take two weeks every three years for continuing legal education and training in addition to required judicial conferences. We do not believe that an additional administrative order is necessary, nor do we believe that another level of bureaucracy will provide a significant benefit. Although we agree that continuing judicial education is vital to our success as judges, we do not see an additional level of control as necessary or helpful. If there is a problem with a specific judge not meeting the standard set forth in the court rule or not performing adequately in a way that could be improved by further education, this could be better addressed individually with that judge.

Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Kelly, President
Michigan District Judges Association