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TO PROMOTE THE ART OF ADVOCACY
AND THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

June 30, 2020

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Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 3052
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RE: ADM 2020-06
Michigan Court Rule Changes for Case Evaluation

Dear Clerk:

The Michigan Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) has undertaken a review and analysis of the pending court rule changes relative to Case Evaluation, to wit: MCR 2.403, 2.404 and 2.405. We support the proposed Court Rule changes now before the court and endorse the modification of the existing case evaluation system. The proposed Court Rule changes establishing a voluntary system of Case Evaluation are endorsed. Similarly, the proposal to eliminate Case Evaluation sanctions is also endorsed.

ABOTA is composed of outstanding trial lawyers and is divided between both Plaintiff and Defense attorneys. Preservation of civil jury trials is at the heart of our mission and the Michigan Chapter opposes any notion of "sanctions", which directly or indirectly diminish or punish a parties' election for a civil jury trial.

We are willing to address these issues with you if you so desire. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Robert F. Riley

Thomas R. Behm

Daniel J. Scully, Jr.

Judith A. Susskind

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