

State of Michigan

PROBATE JUDGES

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PROBATE REGISTER

JILL KONEY DALY

Probate Court

County of Oakland

August 27, 2013

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



RE: ADM File No. 2013-18

Dear Mr. Royster:

In reviewing the proposed court rule changes and new rule regarding video conferencing, a concern was raised in relation to the proposed standards that were included. Though the standards are not part of the proposed court rule published for comment, they do, as the Administrative Order states, provide context for the rules and a comment on them is necessary. Specifically, Standard #6, as written, lends itself to more than one interpretation as to camera capabilities.

Standard #6 reads:

Courtroom camera(s) shall have the capability to scan the courtroom so that remote participants may observe other persons present and activities taking place in the courtroom during the proceedings.

What is actually meant by "scan"? Must there be capability for the remote participant to select a camera view or move a camera so they can choose what they see? Or is it sufficient to have a multiple camera courtroom in which the cameras are triggered by sound so that the remote participant will always see who is speaking? The two options would be very different requirements.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding the above comments

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca A. Schnelz".

Rebecca A. Schnelz
Probate Court Administrator