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August 28, 2013

Larry Royster
Clerk, Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48090

Re: ADM File No. 2013-24

Dear Mr. Royster:

The State Appellate Defender Office endorses Proposed Administrative Order No. 2013-24 (rescinding Administrative Order No. 2011-3) regarding the Modification of Caseflow Management Guidelines for Criminal Proceedings. The current 91-day track for 90% of all felony cases leads to rushed criminal proceedings that severely impede just results. Attorneys are often unable to complete investigation and adequately prepare for trial within the limited time frame. The most serious or complicated life offenses are scheduled with the same rush to judgment as straightforward, lower level offenses. In many cases, potentially exculpatory DNA is not analyzed within the 91 days, and trial courts have required that cases go forward without this crucial evidence or dismissed the case to avoid missing the 91-day goal.

Allowing the time for adjudication in criminal cases of 154 days for 85% of the cases and 301 days for 98% of the cases would ameliorate many of these concerns.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Dawn Van Hoek
Director