

STATE OF MICHIGAN



THE DISTRICT COURT 47TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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October 26, 2012

Mr. Corbin Davis, Clerk of the Court  
Michigan Supreme Court  
PO Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM File No. 2012-03

Dear Clerk Davis:

At our last meeting, the members of the Southeast Michigan Court Administration Association (SEMCAA) discussed the proposed adoption of court rules 1.111 and 8.127 as outlined in ADM File No. 2012-03. As you know, these proposed court rules establish specific provisions for appointing foreign language interpreters and establishing a foreign language board of review. Generally, SEMCAA supports the concepts outlined in the proposed rules. Our concerns/issues are detailed in the following paragraphs.

With regard to proposed Rule 8.127, SEMCAA's only recommendation is that the members of the appointed Foreign Language Board of Review *include a court administrator representative from circuit, probate and district, rather than just a single court administrator representative*. Case processing issues and timelines vary greatly between circuit, probate and district and the Board would be well served to have the administrative perspective from each. Although a judge representative from each court type is designated, having an administrative representative from each would provide a broader base of information, particularly with regard to financial and scheduling issues. This is especially true with regard to the district court level because of the shorter scheduling time lines and the budget issues associated with 3<sup>rd</sup> class courts funded outside of the County structure.

On proposed Rule 1.111, SEMCAA believes *Alternative A is the best option, under both Section B and Section F. SEMCAA recommends inclusion of specific language in proposed Rule 1.111, section A (5), recognizing and allowing for remote services that have been approved by the National Center for State Courts, such as the AT&T Language Line service*. Services such as "Language Line" are critical from both a case processing and a cost standpoint, particularly at the district court level, where timelines for events (such as arraignment and exam) are so condensed.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and concerns.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Walsh".

Dave Walsh, President  
Southeast Michigan Court Administration Association