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p 800-968-1442

f 517-482-6248

www.michbar.org

306 Townsend Street

Michael Franck Building

Lansing, MI

48933-2012

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

RE: ADM File No. 2015-27 – Proposed Minimum Standards for Appointed Counsel

Dear Clerk Royster:

This letter is to indicate the Board of Commissioners' continued support for the proposed minimum standards for appointed counsel.

When the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) released the first set of proposed minimum standards for appointed counsel for public comment this past summer, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to support the proposed standards with some minor amendments. The Board's position was based on input from the Criminal Jurisprudence and Practice Committee and the Committee on Justice Initiatives.

Although the proposed standards that the MIDC submitted to the Court were slightly modified from the standards that they had originally issued for public comment, several of the changes were made to accommodate comments of the State Bar, and the position of the Board of Commissioners remains supportive.

The State Bar of Michigan has been working to improve Michigan's criminal indigent defense system for decades and this initial set of standards represents a potential for substantial changes in the delivery of those services throughout the state. We urge the Court to approve this initial set of standards so that the MIDC can begin working with local systems and the state legislature to ensure the effective assistance of counsel throughout the state.

We thank the Court for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments.

Sincerely,



Janet K. Welch
Executive Director

cc: Anne Boomer, Administrative Counsel, Michigan Supreme Court
Lori A. Buiteweg, President