

STATE OF MICHIGAN



THE CIRCUIT COURT  
8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IONIA AND MONTCALM COUNTIES

SUZANNE HOSETH KREEGER  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

June 30, 2016

RACHELLE THOMAS  
COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
STANTON (988) 831-7363  
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Office of Administrative Counsel  
State Court Administrative Office  
PO Box 30052  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM File No. 2014-03 Proposed New Administrative Order regarding Antinepotism Policy

Dear Office of Administrative Counsel,

I write in response to the posting for public comment the proposed Administrative Order No. 2016-XX involving antinepotism which would rescind Administrative Order No. 1996-11. I support the adoption of the proposed order **provided that the alternative additional provision in paragraph 1(C) is excluded.**

The Court has a very valid objective of ensuring that all courts in Michigan make business decisions regarding employment, contracting with vendors and selecting interns on the basis of qualifications and merit. This appropriately avoids any appearance or possibility of favoritism or conflicts of interest. This objective can be accomplished in the proposed order without the inclusion of paragraph 1(c).

It would be unfair to a court as well as unfair and discriminatory to an employee should an employee be excluded from employment or advancement because of being related to a judge or justice employed with the same court. This is true particularly when a family member is employed by a court and a relative is elected or appointed as a judge of the court. The appointment or election to the bench for one family member should not bring with it the inability for advancement of an already employed family member. Further, any Michigan court should be able to select for employment the most qualified candidate for a position provided that the employee, outside of the scenario contemplated by paragraph 1(b), provided the employee will not be directly supervised by a family member who is a judge or justice employed within the same court. The people of our great state are best served by courts that employ the most qualified candidate for positions with the court.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your consideration of them in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Hoseth Kreeger".

Suzanne Hoseth Kreeger  
8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge