

August 4, 2014

Michigan Supreme Court
925 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, Michigan 48915
Attn: Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr.

Re: Administrative Order No. 2014-5 Task Force Recommendations

Dear Chief Justice Young:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Michigan Association for Justice. As you know, our membership of 1600 is comprised primarily of attorneys representing plaintiffs in personal injury and insurance matters. Our membership has been following closely the introduction of SB 743 and the recommendations made by the Task Force created pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2014-5. We would like to take this opportunity to share our views regarding the Task Force recommendations.

MAJ is aware of the "State Bar of Michigan comments on the report of the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force and the role of the State Bar of Michigan" and "Recommendations of State Bar Sections-Task Force Review Committee". Rather than restating the content of these documents, MAJ supports the positions as set forth in each.

The aspect of the Task Force Committee Recommendations which is of greatest interest and concern to our organization pertains to recommendation 2 which limits the activities of State Bar Sections. A large number of our members are also members of the Negligence Section of the State Bar. The Negligence Section is a voluntary section comprised of both plaintiff and defense lawyers. The Negligence Section has traditionally fulfilled a significant role for its members by monitoring and commenting on legislation that affects the civil justice system. The section is also routinely asked by the legislature to provide testimony on proposed legislation affecting tort law since the section members are experts in this field. The section only takes a position on proposed legislation when both plaintiff and defense lawyers agree on the position to be taken. MAJ believes that any attempt to stifle the Section's role in this regard is a violation of our first amendment rights as members of this voluntary section. Thus, we disagree with the Task Force Recommendation which affect the Section's (and our as members) free speech.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views. Again, MAJ does not agree with the Task Force recommendations and wholeheartedly supports the recommendation of the State Bar of Michigan and it's State Bar Sections Task Force.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Goodwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "G".

Scott Goodwin, President
Michigan Association for Justice