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48933-2012

May 18, 2012

The Honorable Steven M. Bieda  
State Senator  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

**Re: SB 0774 – Small Claims**

Dear Senator Bieda:

At its April meeting, the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to oppose SB 0774. In its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Civil Procedure & Courts Committee and the Justice Policy Initiative. All entities appreciate that with a significantly increased jurisdictional limit for small claims that a need to address the entire format of the jurisdiction may be warranted but did oppose your current proposal. After the new limits become effective, we will need to hear from the courts as to how the changes are impacting the litigants, court personnel, caseload management, and more. Once we learn from that experience, we would be happy to partner with you to take a comprehensive look at small claims and examine what, if any, changes need to be requested.

I appreciate your careful consideration of this issue and the State Bar's previously stated concerns about the functioning of the small claims court. If you would like to discuss this position in further detail or have questions, please contact me directly at your convenience.

Sincerely,



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