Civil Discovery Court Rule Review – Special Committee

Jurisdiction:

Support the adoption of the committee-developed and SBM-approved proposed revisions to the Michigan Court Rules concerning civil discovery, including analysis and recommendations on any further proposed revisions.

Committee Chair: Daniel Quick

Staff Liaisons: Kathryn Hennessey

Meetings:

Committee communicated through e-mail, but had no formal meetings

Committee Activity

1. Sought feedback from relevant outside stakeholders on SBM-proposed rules published for comment by the Michigan Supreme Court.

Goal 3: Strategy 5: Pursuing permissible and achievable public policy goals, while minimizing divisiveness and encouraging member input and diverse points of view on public policy issues

Future Committee Activities

Continue to advocate for the Michigan Supreme Court to adopt the proposed civil discovery rules by testifying and encouraging other supporters to testify at the upcoming public administrative hearing.

Additional Comments

The 46 members of the Civil Discovery Special Committee and subcommittees have contributed significant time, energy, creativity, and insight into this expansive rule proposal. The committee and subcommittees consist of a diverse range of lawyers, including appellate, circuit, and district court judges; legal academics; solo practitioners; small and large law firm litigators; and legal aid attorneys. Throughout this project, the committee has focused on finding solutions that fit the specific civil discovery needs in Michigan. The committee has not only sought to lower costs and increase efficiencies in the civil discovery process, but it has also remained dedicated to creating a civil discovery system that is fair and increases access to justice for all, including the most vulnerable citizens in this state. The rule proposal was approved by the Representative Assembly at its April 2018 meeting with minor modifications. The Michigan Supreme Court published for comment the civil discovery rules as proposed by the State Bar of Michigan, along with the committee's report on the rule proposal. The comment period for the rules expired on March 1, 2019, and the Court is expected to hold a public administrative hearing on the rule proposal in the near future.

The committee workproduct (committee report and rule proposal) was published by the Court under ADM File No. 2018-19 and is available here.

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Special Committee Characteristics

This committee may have more than 15 members.