

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of committee:

Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee

Contact persons:

Martin P. Krohner

Valerie R. Newman

E-mail:

Martin P. Krohner – marty@mich.com

Valerie R. Newman – valerie@sado.org

Bill Number:

[SB 0473](#) (Barcia) Courts; other; use of 2-way interactive video technology for certain court proceedings; require whenever possible. Amends sec. 37a, ch. VII of [1927 PA 175](#) (MCL [767.37a](#)).

Date position was adopted:

June 4, 2009

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

17

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

13 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

4 Did not vote

Position:

Oppose

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

The committee voted unanimously to oppose the bill due to the mandatory language but support the use video equipment as a cost-savings measure.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-SB-0473>

FOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES ONLY:

This position falls within the following Keller-permissible category:

- The regulation and discipline of attorneys
- ✓ The improvement of the functioning of the courts
- ✓ The availability of legal services to society
- The regulation of attorney trust accounts
- The regulation of the legal profession, including the education, the ethics, the competency, and the integrity of the profession.

Keller-permissible explanation: This proposed legislation directly affects the functioning of the courts as it allows for testimony to be taken via 2-way interactive video technology.