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May 29, 2015

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Larry S. Royster
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
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306 Townsend Street

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Lansing, MI

48933-2012

RE: ADM File No. 2015-03 – Amendment of Rule 1.15 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct


Dear Clerk Royster:

At its last meeting, the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan considered the above rule amendment published for comment. In its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Civil Procedure & Courts Committee, the Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee, the Criminal Issues Initiative, and the Justice Policy Initiative. The Board voted unanimously to support the amendment of Rule 1.15.

The amendment of MRPC 1.15 adds “credit union” to the definition of “eligible institution” where lawyers may establish IOLTA accounts. This change reflects a recent federal statutory amendment that extends federal insurance protection to IOLTA deposits held in credit unions. PL 113-252. Allowing credit unions to participate in IOLTA provides additional options for the deposit of IOLTA funds whose net income is remitted to the Michigan State Bar Foundation to support civil legal aid for the poor and improvements in the administration of justice.

We thank the Court for the opportunity to convey the Board’s position.

Sincerely,



Janet K. Welch
Executive Director

cc: Anne Boomer, Administrative Counsel, Michigan Supreme Court
Thomas C. Rombach, President