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January 31, 2018

Larry Royster
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: ADM File No. 2017-08: Proposed Amendments of Rules 3.977 and 6.425 of the Michigan Court Rules

Dear Clerk Royster:

At its January 26, 2018 meeting, the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners (the Board) considered the above-referenced proposed rule amendments published by the Court for comment. As part of its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Access to Justice Policy Committee, the Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee, the Appellate Practice Section, and the Criminal Law Section. These committees and sections all supported the proposed amendments.

After this review, the Board voted unanimously to support the proposed amendments of MCR 3.977 and 6.425. The Board supports providing complete transcripts in criminal and termination of parental rights appeals in which a party is indigent and appointed counsel has been assigned. Not only will these amendments streamline the appellate process, they will allow counsel to better identify the issues for appeal and assist the Court of Appeals in reaching the proper decision on appeal.

We thank the Court for the opportunity to convey the Board's position on this rule proposal.

Sincerely,

Janet K. Welch
Executive Director

cc: Anne Boomer, Administrative Counsel, Michigan Supreme Court
Donald G. Rockwell, President, State Bar of Michigan