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April 1, 2020

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

RE: ADM File No. 2019-13 – Proposed Amendment of Rule 7.118 of the Michigan Court Rules

Dear Clerk Royster:

At its March 24, 2020 meeting, the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan considered the above-referenced rule amendment published for comment. In its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Access to Justice Policy Committee, Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee, Appellate Practice Section, and Prisons & Corrections Section.

Based on this review, the Board voted to support the amendment. The amendment improves equity within the court system by ensuring that indigent prisoners will be notified of their right to counsel and have counsel appointed when a prosecutor or victim files a leave to appeal a grant of parole.

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
Dennis M. Barnes, President