

July 31, 2023

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

RE: ADM File No. 2023-05: Proposed Amendment of Rule 3.613 of the Michigan Court Rules

Dear Clerk Royster:

At its July 21, 2023 meeting, the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan considered ADM File No. 2023-05. In its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Access to Justice Policy Committee, Civil Procedure & Courts Committee, and Children's Law Section. The Board voted unanimously to support the proposed amendment.

The Board recognizes the importance of change of name petitions and that the cost of publication is at times a significant barrier for indigent individuals seeking name changes. Financial barriers of this kind are rightly understood as an access to justice issue. The Court has rightly recognized as much by providing for the waiver of fees in Rule 2.002 and the Board believes that the cost of publication should be treated similarly. As such, the Board supports the proposed amendment of Rule 3.613 as published.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment.



Peter Cunningham
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Roth, Administrative Counsel, Michigan Supreme Court
James W. Heath, President