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July 30, 2014

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

RE: ADM File No. 2013-09 – Proposed Amendment of Rule 3.216 of the Michigan Court Rules

Dear Clerk Royster:

At its July 25, 2014 meeting, the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan considered the above proposed rule amendment published for comment. In its review, the Board considered recommendations from the Civil Procedure & Courts Committee and the Family Law Section.

The Board voted unanimously in agreement with both the Civil Procedure & Courts Committee and the Family Law Section to support the amendment with the addition of the phrase “and separate maintenance” after the word “divorce” in the proposed amendment. Separate maintenance actions are routinely mediated and in most cases involve the same issues in divorce cases, so litigants should continue to benefit from this form of alternative dispute resolution.

We thank the Court for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,



Janet K. Welch
Executive Director

cc: Anne Boomer, Administrative Counsel, Michigan Supreme Court
Brian D. Einhorn, President