



## Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

**Field Services Division**

Michigan Hall of Justice

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Ryan P. Gamby  
Field Services Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 13, 2026

TO: Saginaw County Bar Association

FROM: Hailey Richards, Councils and Commissions Analyst

RE: Commission on Well-Being in the Law – Workgroup on Incentivizing Well-Being

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Please see the attached memo from the Commission on Well-Being in the Law's workgroup on Incentivizing Well-Being.

The Michigan Supreme Court established the Commission on Well-Being in the Law by Administrative Order 2023-1 to promote well-being within legal profession. The opinions and recommendations contained in this document are those of the Commission on Well-Being in the Law, do not constitute legal advice, and do not represent the official position or policies of the Michigan Supreme Court or State Court Administrative Office or any affiliated organization of a workgroup member.

## Proposed Court Rule for Secured Leave for Attorneys

The practice of law is stressful and demanding, particularly because attorneys often deal with the most important aspects of their clients' lives, such as their financial well-being, housing, family, and freedom. Given these demands, attorneys often have difficulty securing time to schedule a vacation or medical procedure or to address an emotional or mental problem because they are unsure whether a court-related matter will be scheduled in one of their cases.

The Commission on Well-Being in the Law's Incentivizing Well-Being committee has been working on a proposed court rule that would allow attorneys to confidently schedule a reasonable amount of personal time by providing advance notice to opposing counsel and courts in which the attorney has matters pending. After providing this notice, neither opposing counsel nor the court could schedule matters during the attorney's secure leave period.

A similar rule was proposed in 2019, and received overwhelming support from the SBM Representative Assembly. Here is a [link](#) to the original proposal for your review. Though the original proposal was not published for comment by the Michigan Supreme Court, the CWBIL committee has continued to research and monitor similar rules in other jurisdictions and intends to revise the proposal with the following provisions in anticipation of resubmission to the Michigan Supreme Court:

- Instead of three weeks of secured leave, the committee proposes up to twenty days per calendar year of leave time;
- The proposed rule must make clear that the secured leave period will not alter any deadlines set by law or court rule;
- The rule will recommend a standard form be developed by the State Court Administrative Office for use by attorneys providing notice of leave time under the proposed rule;
- The notice period will be shortened from 90 days to 60 days, to account for the practicalities of scheduling time off.

We welcome feedback on this proposal through May 29, 2026. Feedback can be submitted by completing the form linked [here](#).