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Comment:

I strongly support the proposed amendment to Rule 8.115 prohibiting civil arrests of individuals while attending court proceedings or conducting lawful business in a courthouse.

This clarification is necessary because fear of civil arrest has increasingly deterred people — particularly immigrants — from appearing for scheduled court hearings. When individuals are arrested simply for showing up to comply with court orders or seek legal relief, the result is fewer appearances, more default judgments, and outcomes that undermine due process and public confidence in the judiciary.

Courts must be places where people can safely access justice, not environments where compliance exposes them to unrelated civil enforcement. The proposed amendment reinforces the basic principle that participation in the legal process should never be punished.

This rule aligns with MCL 600.1821 and promotes uniform statewide practice, ensuring that courthouse access does not depend on geography or discretionary enforcement. It also appropriately preserves judicial authority by allowing arrests pursuant to valid, judge-authorized warrants.

By removing a clear barrier to court participation, this amendment strengthens fairness, efficiency, and trust in Michigan's judicial system. I respectfully urge the Court to adopt this proposal.

Respectfully submitted.