

I support the proposed change to MCR 1.109. I am leaving this comment as a transgender employee of our One Court of Justice who uses a neutral name and pronouns in my life outside work.

Canon 2(B) of the Michigan Code of Judicial conduct provides, “Without regard to a person’s race, gender, or other protected personal characteristic, a judge should treat every person fairly, with courtesy and respect.” This is repeated in Canon 3(A)(14), which provides the following concerning the responsibilities of judges: “Without regard to a person’s race, gender, or other protected personal characteristic, a judge should treat every person fairly, with courtesy and respect.”

I believe this court-rule change is a sad necessity in light of Judge BOONSTRA’s concurring opinion in *People v Gobrick*, unpublished per curiam opinion of the Court of Appeals, issued December 21, 2021 (Docket No. 352180). While I appreciate that some Justices of our Supreme Court have rejected the views expressed in this concurring opinion, its existence underscores the need for this amendment. Had I been the subject of this opinion, I would not have been treated with courtesy and respect. The proposed court rule merely provides a clear guideline regarding what is already expected of our courts and judiciary.

This is not a matter of politics, religion, or speech. It’s a matter of common courtesy.

Lou (they/them)