Dear Referee:

Re: The Referee Questionnaire

September 18, 1985

It gives me great pleasure as your association's president to welcome you to our second year. I pledge to each of you to devote my best efforts and those of our Executive Board to achieving the purposes of RAM as stated in Article 2 of our constitution.

At our annual meeting in Detroit on September 12th, I advised the present membership that I believed my first duty was to assist RAM in achieving its first purpose: "to provide a representative organization for all Friend of the Court Referees in the State of Michigan." I cannot conceive of how to do this without knowing what your interests are, what you do, and what you would like to do, and therefore, I am enclosing the Referee Questionnaire which I hope you will take the time to complete promptly and return to me. As you will note, the questionnaire asks for general information on your background, duties, types of cases you hear, system of "appellate" review, and elicits your suggestions and comments on "referee-ing", generally. RAM cannot hope to represent you adequately without having this sort of information at hand.

Separately, in this letter, however, I would like to ask each of you three specific questions apart from those in the questionnaire which were thought to be vital to those present at the annual meeting:

1. Do you feel that the system of "de novo review" provided in the Friend of the Court Act is adequate or in need of modification, and what modification(s) would you suggest?

2. Should referees have more "authority," including limited contempt sanctions, authority to enter binding Orders, whether in enforcement or other proceedings?

3. What sort of issues, if any, would you like to see RAM asserting an association position on to the legislature, the judiciary, and the Bar?
Thank you for taking the time to consider my requests. I would appreciate it if, before anything else comes up, you would take a few moments to fill out and return your questionnaire and answer the above three questions so that RAM can begin to work for you. I look forward to an exciting and fruitful year for all of us in RAM as our second year begins.

A reminder: Your $10.00 membership fee is now due. If you haven’t already, please send your check to our Treasurer, Ron Foon, at the Oakland County Friend of the Court as soon as possible. Thanks!

Warm regards,

Jon T. Ferrier, President
Referee’s Association of Michigan

JTF:be

Enclosure