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November 15, 2018

**Via E-Portal**

In re: Amendments to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration – Parental Leave  
Case No. SC18-1554

RECEIVED, 11/15/2018 04:28:25 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

I write in response to the request for Florida Bar members to comment on proposed Rule of Judicial Administration 2.570 regarding parental leave continuances. For the reasons discussed below, I strongly support the proposed amendment.

As a father who has recently had three children but does not plan to have any more, I believe the rule is both proper and necessary. The literature is abundantly clear that the time a parent, whether a mother or a father, spends with their new born child and spouse is incredibly valuable for the mental health and well being of all involved. With that understood, the profession has an obligation to set rules which help its members and the members' families. Parental leave continuances clearly does that. It is no surprise to anybody that our profession drags working parents away from their spouse and children too much and certainly this goes hand in hand with the astronomical levels of alcoholism, mental illness, and divorce amongst attorneys. Ensuring that there is parental leave continuances at least offers some help at this most vulnerable and valuable time.

While it is of course true that the presiding judge already has the discretion to grant a continuance due to the attorney welcoming a new child into the world, I wish that I believed all judges had this wisdom. Sadly, I do not think this is the case. I know from firsthand experience that many in our profession do not respect the value of paternity leave. As a father who insisted on taking a modest two weeks off for each of my three children, I have experienced overt retaliation from a senior partner at a former firm and also casual shaming from partners. I share this only to illustrate that this ignorance is a very real dynamic within our profession. It would be fool hardy to assume that all judges have the wisdom and enlightenment that the aforementioned partners lacked.

In conclusion, I whole heartedly encourage the Rule to be adopted. It is well over due and the failure to do so would be a failure to our profession.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Bear', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David R. Bear

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing letter has been electronically filed in compliance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.520 or Administrative Order AOSC13-7 and furnished via electronic mail to Committee Chair Eduardo I. Sanchez at [eduardo.i.sanchez@usdoj.gov](mailto:eduardo.i.sanchez@usdoj.gov) and Bar Staff Liaison Krys Godwin at [kgodwin@floridabar.org](mailto:kgodwin@floridabar.org) on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.