

# Chapter V

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## THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

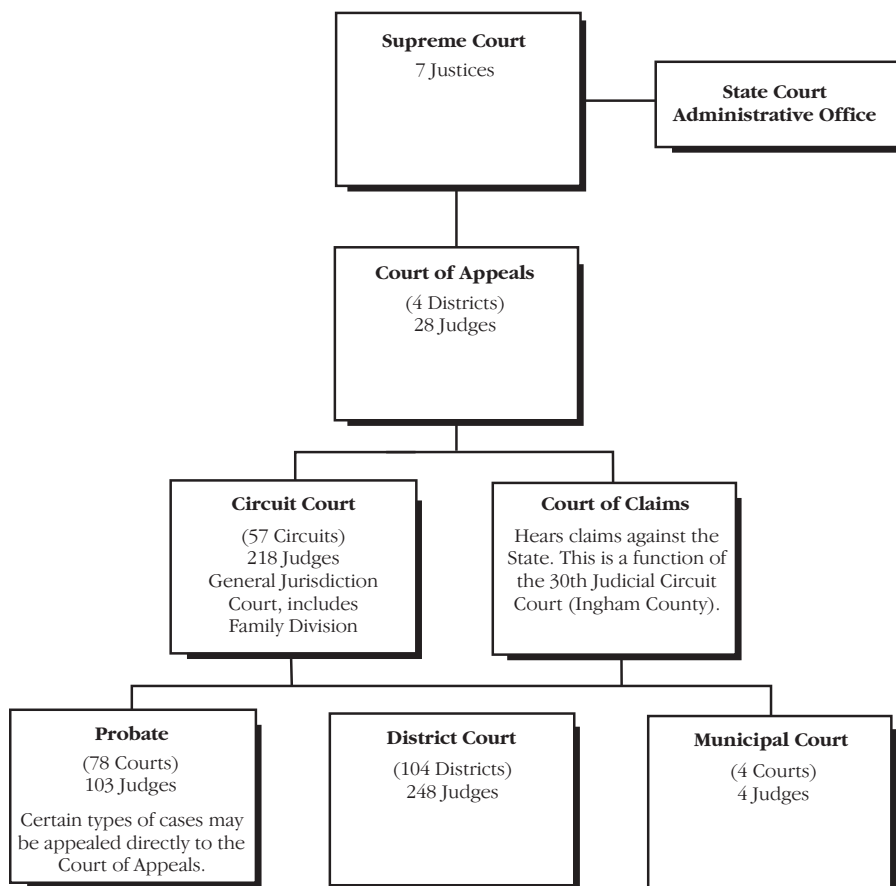


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## ORGANIZATION OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



The *Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963* provides that “The judicial power of the state is vested exclusively in one court of justice which shall be divided into one supreme court, one court of appeals, one trial court of general jurisdiction known as the circuit court, one probate court, and courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may establish by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to and serving in each house.”

# THE SUPREME COURT



## JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

*Term expires*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ROBERT P. YOUNG, JR., Chief Justice . . . . . | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| MICHAEL F. CAVANAGH . . . . .                 | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| MARY BETH KELLY . . . . .                     | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| STEPHEN J. MARKMAN . . . . .                  | Jan. 1, 2021 |
| BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK . . . . .              | Jan. 1, 2021 |
| DAVID F. VIVIANO . . . . .                    | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| BRIAN K. ZAHRA . . . . .                      | Jan. 1, 2015 |

[www.courts.mi.gov/supremecourt](http://www.courts.mi.gov/supremecourt)

### *History*

Under the **territorial government** of Michigan established in 1805, the supreme court consisted of a chief judge and two associate judges appointed by the President of the United States. Under the “second” grade of territorial government established in 1824, the term of office was limited to four years.

#### First Grade

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Augustus B. Woodward . . . . . 1805-1824 | James Witherell . . . . . 1805-1824 |
| Frederick Bates . . . . . 1805-1808      | John Griffin . . . . . 1806-1824    |

#### Second Grade

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| James Witherell . . . . . 1824-1828 | William Woodbridge . . . . . 1828-1832 |
| John Hunt . . . . . 1824-1827       | George Morrell . . . . . 1832-1837     |
| Solomon Sibley . . . . . 1824-1837  | Ross Wilkins . . . . . 1832-1837       |
| Henry Chipman . . . . . 1827-1832   |  |

The **Constitution of 1835** provided for a supreme court, the judges of which were appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, for 7-year terms. In 1836 the legislature provided for a chief justice and 2 associate justices. The state was then divided into 3 circuits and the supreme court was required to hold an annual term in each circuit. The Revised Statutes of 1838 provided for a chief justice and 3 associate justices.

The **Constitution of 1850** provided for a term of 6 years and that the judges of the 5 circuit courts be judges of the supreme court. In 1857, the legislature reorganized the supreme court to consist of a chief justice and 3 associate justices to be elected for 8-year terms. The number of justices was increased to 5 by the legislature in 1887. Act 250 of 1903 increased the number of justices to 8.

The **Constitution of 1908** provided for the nomination of the justices at partisan conventions and election at nonpartisan elections.

The **Constitution of 1963** provides that “the judicial power of the state is vested exclusively in one court of justice which shall be divided into one supreme court, one court of appeals, one trial court of general jurisdiction known as the circuit court, one probate court, and the courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may establish by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to and serving in each house.” Constitution of 1963, article 6, section 1.

“The supreme court shall consist of seven justices elected at nonpartisan elections as provided by law. The term of office shall be eight years and not more than two terms of office shall expire at the same time.” Constitution of 1963, art. 6, sec. 2.

“One justice of the supreme court shall be selected by the court as its chief justice as provided by rules of the court. He shall perform duties required by the court. The supreme court shall appoint an administrator of the courts and other assistants of the supreme court as may be necessary to aid in the administration of the courts of this state. The administrator shall perform administrative duties assigned by the court.” Constitution of 1963, art. 6, sec. 1.

The Michigan Supreme Court is the highest court in the state, hearing cases appealed to it from other state courts. Applications for **“leave to appeal”** are filed with the supreme court and the court decides whether to grant them. If an application is granted, the supreme court will hear the case; if denied, the decision of the lower court stands.

In addition to its judicial duties, the supreme court is charged with general administrative supervision of all courts in the state. This is referred to in the state constitution as **“general superintending control.”** The supreme court is responsible for establishing rules for practice and procedure in all courts.

The supreme court consists of 7 justices. One justice is selected every 2 years by the court as chief justice. Two justices are elected every 2 years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Although nominated by political parties, the justices are elected on a nonpartisan ballot, separate from the ballot for other elective offices. Candidates for the supreme court must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan, and, at the time of election, must be under 70 years of age. The salary of the justices is fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the state.

### ***Administrative Functions***

In addition to serving as the state’s highest court, the Michigan Supreme Court administers the state court system. The State Court Administrative Office is the Court’s administrative agency and oversees Michigan’s trial courts under the Supreme Court’s direction.

The administrative activities include:

- drafting and promulgating state court rules, rules of evidence, and administrative orders;
- providing continuing education for state judges and court staff;
- overseeing courts’ management of their caseloads, including tracking how long courts take to dispose of cases;
- informing the public about the justice system and the judiciary through the Court’s Annual Report, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, press releases, and educational events;
- monitoring courts’ handling of child welfare cases, including addressing barriers to permanent placements for children;
- overseeing Michigan’s friend of the court offices, which enforce court orders regarding child support, parenting time, and child custody;
- providing technological assistance to trial courts that request it;
- developing statewide court networks and databases for tracking case information;
- overseeing drug treatment courts throughout the state;
- improving collections of court-imposed fines, costs, and fees;
- maintaining the “One Court of Justice” website, which links to sites for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, Michigan trial courts, Michigan Court Rules, and other sites of interest;
- supporting community centers that provide mediation services and other alternatives to litigation; and
- proposing legislation to improve the administration of justice.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF JUSTICES



### CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERT P. YOUNG, JR.

Term expires January 1, 2019

Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. has been a member of the Michigan Supreme Court since 1999. He became Chief Justice in 2011. Before joining the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Young served as a judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Chief Justice Young graduated in 1974 from Harvard College with honors and from Harvard Law School in 1977. In 1978, he joined the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman, becoming a partner in the firm in 1982. From 1992, until he joined the Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Young was the vice president, corporate secretary, and general counsel of AAA Michigan.

Chief Justice Young has had significant involvement in numerous civic and charitable activities during his career. His varied community activities include being a member of the Advisory Board of the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit and a trustee of the Grosse Pointe Academy, University Liggett School and Cranbrook Schools. Chief Justice Young is most proud of his service as a trustee of charitable and civic organizations devoted to the interest of children such as the Detroit Institute of Children, Vista Maria, the Detroit Historical Society, and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice Concerning Child Abuse and Neglect. Chief Justice Young is also a former commissioner of the Michigan Civil Service Commission, a former trustee of Central Michigan University, and a former chair of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce Leadership Detroit program. He has served on the boards of many other civic organizations.

Chief Justice Young is a frequent lecturer on judicial philosophy and the role of courts in our constitutional Republic. He has been an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School for more than 20 years and is a co-editor of *Michigan Civil Procedure During Trial, 2d Ed.* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1989), *Michigan Civil Procedure* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 1999), *Michigan Civil Procedure, 2d Ed.* (Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 2012) and is the author of a book chapter, "Active Liberty and the Problem of Judicial Oligarchy," in *The Supreme Court and the Idea of Constitutionalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), as well as "A Judicial Traditionalist Confronts Justice Brennan's School of Judicial Philosophy," in the *Oklahoma City University Law Review* (2008) and "A Judicial Traditionalist Confronts the Common Law," in the *Texas Review of Law & Politics* (2004).

In 2001 and 1999, Chief Justice Young was awarded honorary degrees respectively from Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. In 1999, Chief Justice Young was named Detroit Country Day School's Alumni of the Year. In 2012, he was named Lawyer of the Year by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*.

Chief Justice Young has been married for more than 30 years to his college sweetheart and is the father of 2 adult sons.



**JUSTICE**  
**MICHAEL F. CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Justice Michael F. Cavanagh received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1962 and a juris doctorate in 1966 from the University of Detroit Mercy Law School.

His initial legal employment was as a judicial law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1966. He was chosen to represent the city of Lansing as City Attorney in 1967 and served in that position until 1969, when he entered private practice in Lansing. In 1973, he was elected District Judge of the 54-A Judicial District and served until January 1, 1975. He was elected to a ten-year term on the Court of Appeals beginning January 1, 1975.

After serving on the Court of Appeals for 8 years, Justice Cavanagh successfully ran for a seat on the Michigan Supreme Court. He assumed the office of Justice on January 1, 1983. He was elected Chief Justice on January 8, 1991, reelected Chief Justice on January 7, 1993, and served until January of 1995. Justice Cavanagh commenced his fourth 8-year term on the Court on January 1, 2007.

Justice Cavanagh and his wife, Patricia, are the parents of three children, and have three grandsons and two granddaughters. The Cavanagh family resides in East Lansing.

Justice Cavanagh has participated in numerous community and professional activities, including Michigan Indian Tribal Courts/Michigan State Courts, *Supreme Court Liaison* (1990-present); the Hall of Justice Project, *Supervising Justice* (2001-present); Michigan Judicial Institute, *Supervising Justice* (1986-1994) and (2001-present); Supreme Court Sentencing Guidelines Committee, *Supervising Justice* (1983-1994); American Judicature Society; American Bar Association; Federal Bar Association; Michigan Bar Association; Ingham County Bar Association; Institute of Judicial Administration, New York University Law School, *Member*; Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers (1970-present), *President* (1987-1988); Commission on the Future, University of Detroit Mercy (1995-1996); Conference of Chief Justices, *Second Vice President* (1992-1994); Conference of Chief Justices, Courts and Children Committee, *Chair* (1992-1994); National Interbranch Conference of Funding the State Courts, *Chair* (1994-1995); National Center for State Courts, Court Improvement Program, *Member* (1994-1995); Michigan Justice Conference (1994-1995); Michigan Justice Project (1994-1995); Michigan Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review, *Chairman* (1981-1982); Michigan Judicial Planning Committee, *Chairman*; Judicial Coordinating Committee; Committee on Statewide Funding of the Judicial System; Michigan Crime Commission; Michigan Legislative Commission on Courts; Felony-Sentencing Steering Committee; Court of Appeals Committee of State Bar of Michigan; Rules Committee, Michigan Court of Appeals; The Rotary Club of Lansing, *Honorary Member* (1993-1996); Thomas M. Cooley Law School, *Board of Directors* (1979-1988); and Lansing YMCA, *Board of Directors* (1977-1978).

With the American Heart Association of Michigan (1970-present), he has handled the following responsibilities: *Chairman of the Board* (1984-1985); *Member*, Administrative Council; *Member*, Legislative and Policy Committee; *Member*, Long Range Planning Committee; *Member*, Research Council; and *President*, Tri-County Heart Unit (1976-1977).

Justice Cavanagh has contributed to the following publications: *Michigan's Story: State and Tribal Courts Try To Do the Right Thing*; *University of Detroit Mercy Law Review*, Volume 76, page 709 (1999); *Appellate Courts*, *Michigan Bar Journal*, Volume 72, No. 9, page 892 (September 1993).



**JUSTICE**  
**MARY BETH KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Justice Mary Beth Kelly was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court in November 2010 and will serve a term that ends December 31, 2018. She served on the Wayne County Circuit Court for 11 years, having been appointed by Governor John Engler in 1999; she was elected to the court in 2000 and reelected in 2002 and 2008.

In 2002, the Michigan Supreme Court appointed her the chief judge of the Wayne Circuit Court, making her the first woman to lead that bench. She served as chief judge through 2007, focusing on budget deficit reduction, timely dockets, jail overcrowding, and the court's Family Division. Under her leadership, the Family Division doubled in size to devote more judicial resources to cases concerning children and families. She also led efforts to improve the racial diversity of the Wayne County jury system, working with the National Center for State Courts to gather data and recommend county-wide solutions. Her leadership on this issue has been recognized by the *Detroit News*. She has been praised as "one of the most effective chief judges in the history of the Michigan Court system" by then-Chief Justice Clifford Taylor.

Justice Kelly has received numerous honors for her judicial leadership, including the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Council's Distinguished Leadership Award. For her work on children's issues, she was named Vista Maria's Child Advocate of the Year and was also recognized by the Ennis Center for Children as Advocate of the Year. Justice Kelly serves as an advisor to Vista Maria and to the University of Michigan's Detroit Center for Family Advocacy. She was an adjunct law professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Kelly was a successful commercial litigation partner with the law firm Dickinson Wright, which she joined in 1987. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan at Dearborn and her law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Justice Kelly is an active member of Sacred Heart-Grosse Ile parish, where she has taught Catechism; she has also chaired the parish's Youth Commission and served on the pastoral council. Justice Kelly resides in Grosse Ile with her husband Kevin and their 13-year-old son Jackson. In addition to her professional and community achievements, Justice Kelly is an avid runner and continues to run competitively.





**JUSTICE**  
**STEPHEN J. MARKMAN**

Term expires January 1, 2021

Stephen Markman was appointed as a justice of the Michigan Supreme Court on October 1, 1999. Before his appointment, he served as judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals from 1995-1999. Prior to this, he practiced law with the firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone in Detroit.

From 1989-93, Justice Markman served as United States Attorney, or federal prosecutor, in Michigan, after having been nominated by President George H. W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate. From 1985-1989, he served as Assistant Attorney General of the United States, after having been nominated by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the United States Senate. In that position, he headed the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy, which served as the principal policy development office within the Department, and which coordinated the federal judicial selection process. Prior to this, he served for 7 years as Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, and as Deputy Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee.

Justice Markman has authored articles for such publications as the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, the *Detroit College of Law Review*, the *Stanford Law Review*, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *American Criminal Justice Law Review*, the *Barrister's Law Journal*, the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, and the *American University Law Review*. He has also served as a contributing editor of *National Review* magazine, and has authored chapters in such books as "In the Name of Justice: The Aims of the Criminal Law," "Still the Law of the Land," and "Originalism: A Quarter Century of Debate."

Justice Markman has taught constitutional law at Hillsdale College since 1993. He has traveled to Ukraine on two occasions on behalf of the State Department, to provide assistance in the development of that nation's post-Soviet constitution. He is a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation, a Master of the Bench of the Inns of Court, and a member of the One Hundred Club. He has spoken before hundreds of youth, civic, charitable, and legal groups throughout Michigan and nationally and has coached Little League baseball and basketball. He lives with his wife Mary Kathleen in Mason, and has two sons, James and Charles.

Justice Markman was reelected to the Supreme Court in 2000, 2004, and 2012. His present term expires January 1, 2021.



**JUSTICE**  
**BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK**

Term expires January 1, 2021

Justice Bridget Mary McCormack joined the Michigan Supreme Court in January 2013. Before her election to the Court in November 2012, she was a law professor and dean at the University of Michigan Law School. Since joining the Court, Justice McCormack continues to teach at the Law School as a lecturer.

Justice McCormack is a graduate of the New York University Law School, where she was a Root-Tilden scholar and won the Anne Petluck Poses Prize in Clinical Advocacy. She spent the first five years of her legal career in New York, first with the Legal Aid Society and then at the Office of the Appellate Defender, representing over 1,000 clients in New York's trial and appellate courts. In 1996, she became a faculty fellow at the Yale Law School.

In 1998, she joined the University of Michigan Law School faculty. At Michigan Law, she taught criminal law, legal ethics, and various clinical courses. Her scholarship focused on the professional benefits of clinical legal education. She also created new clinics at the law school, including a Domestic Violence Clinic and a Pediatric Health Advocacy Clinic.

In 2002, she was made Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. Responsible for the continuing development of the law school's practical education, she continued to expand the clinical offerings at Michigan Law School, launching a Mediation Clinic, a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, an International Transactions Clinic, a Human Trafficking Clinic, a Juvenile Justice Clinic, and an Entrepreneurship Clinic. In her capacity as professor and associate dean, she conducted and supervised many types of civil and criminal litigation at all levels of the state and federal courts. The University of Michigan Law School's clinical programs are now recognized nationally as one of the best places to be trained as a lawyer.

In 2008, then-Associate Dean McCormack cofounded the Michigan Innocence Clinic, in which students represent wrongfully convicted Michiganders. The clinic has exonerated seven people so far, and has shined a light on the important justice issues underlying wrongful conviction. In 2010, McCormack won the "Justice for All" Award for the Clinic's work, and in 2011 the Washtenaw County Bar Association gave her the "Patriot Award." In 2012, she won the Cooley Law School's "Distinguished Brief Award" for the best brief filed in the Michigan Supreme Court during the term. Also in 2012, the Justice Caucus presented her with the Millie Jeffrey Award and the Washtenaw County Women Lawyers recognized her with the Mary Foster Award. In 2013, Justice McCormack was honored with the Hon. Kaye Tertzag Purple Sport Court Award.

Justice McCormack currently participates with a number of professional organizations including the American Bar Association Access to Justice committee, the American Bar Association Working Group on Pro Bono and Public Service, the advisory board of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, the judicial elections committee of the National Association of Women Judges, the State Bar of Michigan Planning Committee for Legal Services, and as a board member of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification.

Justice McCormack is married to Steven Croley, also a lawyer and law professor, currently on leave from the University of Michigan Law School to serve as Deputy Counsel to the President in the Office of White House Counsel. They have four children in the Ann Arbor public schools, and enjoy frequent family trips to west Michigan.



**JUSTICE**  
**DAVID F. VIVIANO**

Term expires January 1, 2015

David F. Viviano is the 109th Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder on February 27, 2013.

Justice Viviano previously served as Chief Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit and Macomb County Probate Courts, upon his appointment by the Supreme Court in 2011. He was first elected to the Circuit Court in 2006, and served in the court's Civil/Criminal Division. He was re-elected without opposition in 2012.

Justice Viviano has participated in a number of initiatives to improve the administration of justice. In 2008, Judge Viviano was one of a small group of judges chosen by the Supreme Court to test reforms to the jury system in Michigan. At the conclusion of the pilot project, the Supreme Court adopted a number of these reforms, which are now being used by judges throughout Michigan. Because of their efforts, Justice Viviano and his colleagues received the 2012 G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation from the National Center for State Courts.

Justice Viviano has also advocated for technological innovation in the court system for better public service. He led the Macomb Circuit Court's e-filing pilot project, working with the County's Information Technology Department and outside vendors. In addition to streamlining court operations, the e-filing project improved the court's ability to manage electronic data and share it with external users, including the public and other units of government. Justice Viviano also expanded the court's use of videoconferencing to conduct court hearings more safely and efficiently, and at less cost to taxpayers.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Viviano worked at two nationally recognized law firms, Dickinson Wright PLLC in Detroit and Jenner & Block LLC in Chicago. He then founded his own law firm in Mt. Clemens, Viviano & Viviano PLLC, where he concentrated his practice in commercial and criminal litigation, zoning, and real estate law. Justice Viviano also served as City Attorney for the City of Center Line.

Justice Viviano received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hillsdale College and his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Macomb County Bar Association, the Italian American Bar Association, and the Illinois State Bar Association.

Justice Viviano and his wife, Neran, live in Sterling Heights with their 2 children.



**JUSTICE**  
**BRIAN K. ZAHRA**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Justice Brian K. Zahra was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court on January 14, 2011, by Governor Rick Snyder, and won election in November 2012.

Justice Zahra received his undergraduate degree in 1984 from Wayne State University. To finance his education, he opened and operated a small health and personal care retail store in downtown Detroit, later opening a grocery outlet, also in Detroit, with two partners. In 1987, he graduated with honors from the University of Detroit Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review. While in law school, he also served as Articles Editor of the State Bar of Michigan's *Corporation and Finance Business Law Journal*. He then served as law clerk to Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for 2 years before joining the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman in 1989. In 1994, Governor John Engler appointed him to the Wayne County Circuit Court; he was elected to a 6-year term in 1996 and continued to serve on the circuit court until December 1998, when he was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor Engler. He was elected to 6-year terms in 2000 and 2006. From December 2005 to January 2007, he served as the Court of Appeals' Chief Judge Pro Tem.

Justice Zahra, who has taught evidence as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School, has served on many professional and legislative committees, including the Michigan Civil Jury Instructions Committee, the Circuit Court Appellate Rules Committee, the Domestic Violence Legislation Implementation Task Force, and the advisory committee for the Michigan Judicial Institute Domestic Violence Benchbook. He has also served on the Michigan Board of Law Examiners, which drafts and grades the examination that law school graduates must pass in order to become licensed attorneys.

Justice Zahra has been active in many civic and charitable organizations, including Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, Kiwanis Club International, Leadership Detroit, the Knights of Columbus, the Maltese American Community Club, and the Maltese American Benevolent Society, of which he is a past officer. He is a board member and former officer of the Catholic Lawyers Society, and is a member of the Federalist Society, having served as secretary and vice-president of the Michigan chapter.

Justice Zahra resides in Northville Township with his wife Suzanne and their 2 children.

## JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, 1836-2013

| Name                               | Residence        | Term Years      |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| William A. Fletcher                | Ann Arbor        | 1836-1842       |
| George Morrell                     | Detroit          | 1836-1843       |
| Epaphroditus Ransom                | Kalamazoo        | 1836-1848       |
| Charles W. Whipple                 | Detroit          | 1839-1855       |
| Daniel Goodwin                     | Detroit          | 1843-1850       |
| Alpheus Felch                      | Monroe           | 1845-1852       |
| Warner Wing                        | Monroe           | 1845-1856       |
| George Miles                       | Ann Arbor        | 1846-1850       |
| Sanford M. Green                   | Pontiac          | 1848-1857       |
| Edward Mundy                       | Ann Arbor        | 1848-1851       |
| Abner Pratt                        | Marshall         | 1850-1857       |
| George Martin                      | Grand Rapids     | 1851-1867       |
| Joseph T. Copeland                 | Port Huron       | 1852-1857       |
| Samuel T. Douglass                 | Detroit          | 1852-1857       |
| David Johnson                      | Jackson          | 1852-1857       |
| Nathaniel Bacon                    | Niles            | 1855-1857       |
| Edward H. C. Wilson                | Hillsdale        | 1856-1857       |
| Benjamin F. H. Witherell           | Detroit          | 1857            |
| Benjamin F. Graves                 | Battle Creek     | 1857, 1868-1881 |
| Josiah Turner                      | Howell           | 1857            |
| Edwin Lawrence                     | Ann Arbor        | 1857            |
| Randolph Manning                   | Pontiac          | 1858-1869       |
| James V. Campbell                  | Detroit          | 1858-1890       |
| Thomas M. Cooley                   | Adrian-Ann Arbor | 1863-1885       |
| Isaac P. Christianity              | Monroe           | 1874-1881       |
| Isaac Marston                      | Bay City-Detroit | 1875-1889       |
| Thomas R. Sherwood                 | Kalamazoo        | 1882-1889       |
| John W. Champlin                   | Grand Rapids     | 1884-1891       |
| Allen B. Morse                     | Ionia            | 1885-1893       |
| Charles D. Long                    | Flint            | 1888-1907       |
| Edward Cahill                      | Lansing          | 1890            |
| Claudius B. Grant                  | Marquette        | 1890-1909       |
| John W. McGrath                    | Detroit          | 1891-1895       |
| Robert M. Montgomery               | Grand Rapids     | 1892-1911       |
| George H. Durand                   | Flint            | 1892            |
| Frank A. Hooker                    | Charlotte        | 1894-1913       |
| Joseph B. Moore <sup>1</sup>       | Lapeer           | 1896-1926       |
| William L. Carpenter               | Detroit          | 1902-1908       |
| Charles A. Blair <sup>2</sup>      | Jackson          | 1905-1912       |
| Russell C. Ostrander <sup>3</sup>  | Lansing          | 1905-1919       |
| Aaron V. McAlvay <sup>4</sup>      | Manistee         | 1905-1915       |
| Flavius L. Brooke <sup>5</sup>     | Detroit          | 1908-1921       |
| John W. Stone <sup>6</sup>         | Marquette        | 1910-1922       |
| John E. Bird <sup>7</sup>          | Adrian           | 1910-1928       |
| Joseph H. Steere <sup>8</sup>      | Sault Ste. Marie | 1911-1927       |
| Franz C. Kuhn <sup>9</sup>         | Mt. Clemens      | 1912-1919       |
| Rollin H. Person                   | Lansing          | 1915-1916       |
| Grant Fellows                      | Hudson           | 1916-1929       |
| George M. Clark <sup>10</sup>      | Bad Axe          | 1919-1933       |
| Nelson Sharpe <sup>11</sup>        | West Branch      | 1919-1935       |
| Howard Wiest <sup>12</sup>         | Lansing          | 1921-1945       |
| John S. McDonald                   | Grand Rapids     | 1922-1933       |
| Ernest A. Snow <sup>13</sup>       | Saginaw          | 1926-1927       |
| Richard H. Flannigan <sup>14</sup> | Norway           | 1927-1928       |
| Louis H. Fead                      | Newberry         | 1928-1937       |
| William W. Potter <sup>15</sup>    | Hastings         | 1928-1940       |
| Walter H. North <sup>16</sup>      | Battle Creek     | 1928-1952       |
| Henry M. Butzel                    | Detroit          | 1929-1955       |
| Thomas A. E. Weadock               | Detroit          | 1933            |
| George E. Bushnell <sup>17</sup>   | Detroit          | 1934-1957       |
| Edward M. Sharpe                   | Bay City         | 1934-1957       |
| Harry S. Toy                       | Detroit          | 1935-1936       |
| Bert D. Chandler                   | Hudson           | 1936-1943       |
| Thomas F. McAllister <sup>18</sup> | Grand Rapids     | 1938-1941       |
| Emerson R. Boyles <sup>19</sup>    | Charlotte        | 1940-1956       |
| Raymond W. Starr <sup>20</sup>     | Grand Rapids     | 1941-1946       |
| Neil E. Reid <sup>21</sup>         | Mt. Clemens      | 1944-1956       |
| Leland W. Carr                     | Lansing          | 1945-1963       |
| John R. Dethmers                   | Holland          | 1946-1971       |
| Clark J. Adams                     | Pontiac          | 1952-1953       |
| Harry F. Kelly                     | Detroit          | 1954-1971       |
| Talbot Smith <sup>22</sup>         | Ann Arbor        | 1955-1961       |

**JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT,  
1836-2013 (Cont.)**

| Name                                     | Residence            | Years                   |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Eugene F. Black                          | Port Huron           | 1956-1973               |
| John D. Voelker <sup>23</sup>            | Ishpeming            | 1957-1959               |
| George Edwards <sup>24</sup>             | Detroit              | 1957-1961               |
| Thomas M. Kavanagh <sup>25</sup>         | Carson City          | 1958-1975               |
| Theodore Souris                          | Grosse Pointe Farms  | 1960-1968               |
| Otis M. Smith                            | Flint                | 1961-1967               |
| Paul L. Adams                            | Sault Ste. Marie     | 1962, 1964-1973         |
| Michael D. O'Hara                        | Menominee            | 1963-1969               |
| Thomas E. Brennan <sup>26</sup>          | Detroit              | 1967-1973               |
| Thomas Giles Kavanagh                    | Birmingham           | 1969-1985               |
| John B. Swainson <sup>27</sup>           | Manchester           | 1971-1975               |
| G. Mennen Williams                       | Grosse Pointe Farms  | 1971-1987               |
| Mary Stallings Coleman <sup>28</sup>     | Battle Creek         | 1973-1982               |
| Charles L. Levin                         | Detroit              | 1973-1997               |
| John W. Fitzgerald                       | Grand Ledge          | 1974-1983               |
| Lawrence B. Lindemer                     | Stockbridge          | 1975-1977               |
| James L. Ryan <sup>29</sup>              | Detroit              | 1975-1986               |
| Blair Moody, Jr. <sup>30</sup>           | Grosse Pointe Shores | 1977-1982               |
| Dorothy Comstock Riley <sup>31, 34</sup> | Grosse Pointe Farms  | 1982-1983,<br>1985-1997 |
| James H. Brickley <sup>32</sup>          | Traverse City        | 1982-1999               |
| Michael F. Cavanagh                      | East Lansing         | 1983-                   |
| Patricia J. Boyle                        | Detroit              | 1983-1998               |
| Dennis W. Archer <sup>33</sup>           | Detroit              | 1986-1990               |
| Robert P. Griffin                        | Traverse City        | 1987-1995               |
| Conrad L. Mallett, Jr. <sup>35</sup>     | Detroit              | 1990-1999               |
| Elizabeth A. Weaver                      | Glen Arbor           | 1995-2010               |
| Marilyn J. Kelly                         | Bloomfield Hills     | 1997-2012               |
| Clifford W. Taylor                       | Laingsburg           | 1997-2009               |
| Maura D. Corrigan                        | Grosse Pointe Park   | 1998-2011               |
| Robert P. Young, Jr.                     | Grosse Pointe Park   | 1998-                   |
| Stephen J. Markman                       | Mason                | 1999-                   |
| Diane M. Hathaway <sup>36</sup>          | Grosse Pointe Park   | 2009-2013               |
| Mary Beth Kelly                          | Grosse Ile           | 2011-                   |
| Brian K. Zahra                           | Northville           | 2011-                   |
| Bridget Mary McCormack                   | Ann Arbor            | 2013-                   |
| David F. Viviano                         | Sterling Heights     | 2013-                   |

<sup>1</sup> Resigned; Ernest A. Snow appointed Jan. 1, 1926.  
<sup>2</sup> Deceased; Franz C. Kuhn appointed Sept. 6, 1912.  
<sup>3</sup> Deceased; Nelson Sharpe appointed Sept. 25, 1919.  
<sup>4</sup> Died before taking office; Rollin H. Person appointed July 16, 1915.  
<sup>5</sup> Deceased; Howard Wiest appointed Jan. 25, 1921.  
<sup>6</sup> Deceased; John S. McDonald appointed Mar. 29, 1922.  
<sup>7</sup> Deceased; William W. Potter appointed Feb. 14, 1928.  
<sup>8</sup> Resigned; Richard H. Flannigan appointed Sept. 29, 1927.  
<sup>9</sup> Resigned; George M. Clark appointed Dec. 30, 1919.  
<sup>10</sup> Resigned; Thomas A. E. Weadock appointed Aug. 10, 1933 to Dec. 31, 1933.  
<sup>11</sup> Deceased; Harry S. Toy appointed Oct. 24, 1935.  
<sup>12</sup> Deceased; Leland W. Carr appointed Sept. 24, 1945.  
<sup>13</sup> Deceased; Walter H. North appointed Oct. 24, 1927.  
<sup>14</sup> Deceased; Louis H. Fead appointed Feb. 21, 1928.  
<sup>15</sup> Deceased; Emerson R. Boyles appointed Aug. 8, 1940.  
<sup>16</sup> Deceased; Clark J. Adams appointed Aug. 14, 1952 to Aug. 31, 1953.  
<sup>17</sup> Resigned; Talbot Smith appointed Jan. 6, 1955.  
<sup>18</sup> Resigned; Raymond W. Starr appointed June 2, 1941.  
<sup>19</sup> Resigned; John D. Voelker appointed Dec. 31, 1956.  
<sup>20</sup> Resigned; John R. Dethmers appointed Aug. 15, 1946.  
<sup>21</sup> Deceased; George Edwards appointed May 15, 1956.  
<sup>22</sup> Resigned; Otis M. Smith appointed Oct. 10, 1961.  
<sup>23</sup> Resigned; Theodore Souris appointed Dec. 31, 1959.  
<sup>24</sup> Resigned; Paul L. Adams appointed Dec. 27, 1961.  
<sup>25</sup> Deceased; Lawrence B. Lindemer appointed May 5, 1975.  
<sup>26</sup> Resigned; John W. Fitzgerald appointed Jan. 1, 1974.  
<sup>27</sup> Resigned; James L. Ryan appointed Dec. 2, 1975.  
<sup>28</sup> Resigned; James H. Brickley appointed Dec. 27, 1982.  
<sup>29</sup> Resigned; Dennis W. Archer appointed Jan. 1, 1986.  
<sup>30</sup> Deceased; Dorothy Comstock Riley appointed Dec. 9, 1982.  
<sup>31</sup> Withdrawn; Patricia J. Boyle appointed April 20, 1983.  
<sup>32</sup> Resigned; Stephen J. Markman appointed Oct. 1, 1999.  
<sup>33</sup> Resigned; Conrad L. Mallett, Jr. appointed Dec. 27, 1990.  
<sup>34</sup> Resigned; Clifford W. Taylor appointed Aug. 21, 1997.  
<sup>35</sup> Resigned; Robert P. Young, Jr., appointed Dec. 30, 1998.  
<sup>36</sup> Resigned; David F. Viviano, appointed Feb. 27, 2013.

# MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS



**WILLIAM B. MURPHY, CHIEF JUDGE**  
**DAVID H. SAWYER, CHIEF JUDGE PRO TEM**

925 W. Ottawa  
P.O. Box 30022, Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: (517) 373-0786  
<http://courts.mi.gov/courts/coa>

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The court of appeals was created by the Constitution of 1963, art. 6, sec. 1, and began operation in 1965 with a bench of nine judges. The legislature increased the size of the bench to 12 judges in 1969, to 18 judges in 1974, to 24 judges in 1986, and to 28 judges in 1993. In 2012, legislation was enacted that will eventually reduce the court's size to 24 judges through attrition.

A candidate for the court of appeals must be a lawyer, under 70 years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which he or she is running. Judges are elected in nonpartisan elections for six-year terms. Their salaries are set by the legislature. The court is divided into four geographic districts for election purposes and has offices located in each district: Detroit (District I), Troy (District II), Grand Rapids (District III), and Lansing (District IV). Although elected by district, the judges sit statewide in panels of three, rotating with two different judges every month. The rotation of judges on panels encourages statewide uniformity in rulings by eliminating the likelihood of conflicting legal philosophies developing in specific geographical areas.

The court of appeals hears both civil and criminal cases. Cases may be initiated as discretionary appeals, appeals by right, or original actions (in limited case types as provided by the legislature). Published opinions of the court are controlling across all four districts, and decisions of the court are final unless and until reversed or overruled by a special conflict panel of the court or by the supreme court. The court sits year-round in Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids, or in another location as designated by the chief judge. At present, arguments are scheduled twice a year in Marquette and in the northern Lower Peninsula, usually Petoskey or Traverse City.

Every two years a chief judge is selected by the supreme court. In addition to hearing cases, the chief judge or his/her designee performs administrative duties and other assignments required by the supreme court.



# THE COURT OF APPEALS — JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

(Pursuant to Act 40 of 2012)

| County                         | Population<br>in 2010 | County                     | Population<br>in 2010 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b><i>1st District</i></b>     |                       | <b><i>4th District</i></b> |                       |
| Branch . . . . .               | 45,248                | Alcona . . . . .           | 10,942                |
| Hillsdale . . . . .            | 46,688                | Alger . . . . .            | 9,601                 |
| Kalamazoo . . . . .            | 250,331               | Alpena . . . . .           | 29,598                |
| Lenawee . . . . .              | 99,892                | Antrim . . . . .           | 23,580                |
| Monroe . . . . .               | 152,021               | Arenac . . . . .           | 15,899                |
| St. Joseph . . . . .           | 61,295                | Baraga . . . . .           | 8,860                 |
| Wayne . . . . .                | 1,820,584             | Bay . . . . .              | 107,771               |
| Total . . . . .                | 2,476,059             | Benzie . . . . .           | 17,525                |
| <br><b><i>2nd District</i></b> |                       | Charlevoix . . . . .       | 25,949                |
| Genesee . . . . .              | 425,790               | Cheboygan . . . . .        | 26,152                |
| Macomb . . . . .               | 840,978               | Chippewa . . . . .         | 38,520                |
| Oakland . . . . .              | 1,202,362             | Clare . . . . .            | 30,926                |
| Total . . . . .                | 2,469,130             | Clinton . . . . .          | 75,382                |
| <br><b><i>3rd District</i></b> |                       | Crawford . . . . .         | 14,074                |
| Allegan . . . . .              | 111,408               | Delta . . . . .            | 37,069                |
| Barry . . . . .                | 59,173                | Dickinson . . . . .        | 26,168                |
| Berrien . . . . .              | 156,813               | Emmet . . . . .            | 32,694                |
| Calhoun . . . . .              | 136,146               | Gladwin . . . . .          | 25,692                |
| Cass . . . . .                 | 52,293                | Gogebic . . . . .          | 16,427                |
| Eaton . . . . .                | 107,759               | Grand Traverse . . . . .   | 86,986                |
| Ionia . . . . .                | 63,905                | Gratiot . . . . .          | 42,476                |
| Jackson . . . . .              | 160,248               | Houghton . . . . .         | 36,628                |
| Kent . . . . .                 | 602,622               | Huron . . . . .            | 33,118                |
| Mason . . . . .                | 28,705                | Ingham . . . . .           | 280,895               |
| Montcalm . . . . .             | 63,342                | Iosco . . . . .            | 25,887                |
| Muskegon . . . . .             | 172,188               | Iron . . . . .             | 11,817                |
| Newaygo . . . . .              | 48,460                | Isabella . . . . .         | 70,311                |
| Oceana . . . . .               | 26,570                | Kalkaska . . . . .         | 17,153                |
| Ottawa . . . . .               | 263,801               | Keweenaw . . . . .         | 2,156                 |
| Van Buren . . . . .            | 76,258                | Lake . . . . .             | 11,539                |
| Washtenaw . . . . .            | 344,791               | Lapeer . . . . .           | 88,319                |
| Total . . . . .                | 2,474,482             | Leelanau . . . . .         | 21,708                |
|                                |                       | Livingston . . . . .       | 180,967               |
|                                |                       | Luce . . . . .             | 6,631                 |
|                                |                       | Mackinac . . . . .         | 11,113                |
|                                |                       | Manistee . . . . .         | 24,733                |
|                                |                       | Marquette . . . . .        | 67,077                |
|                                |                       | Mecosta . . . . .          | 42,798                |
|                                |                       | Menominee . . . . .        | 24,029                |
|                                |                       | Midland . . . . .          | 83,629                |
|                                |                       | Missaukee . . . . .        | 14,849                |
|                                |                       | Montmorency . . . . .      | 9,765                 |
|                                |                       | Ogemaw . . . . .           | 21,699                |
|                                |                       | Ontonagon . . . . .        | 6,780                 |
|                                |                       | Osceola . . . . .          | 23,528                |
|                                |                       | Oscoda . . . . .           | 8,640                 |
|                                |                       | Otsego . . . . .           | 24,164                |
|                                |                       | Presque Isle . . . . .     | 13,376                |
|                                |                       | Roscommon . . . . .        | 24,449                |
|                                |                       | Saginaw . . . . .          | 200,169               |
|                                |                       | St. Clair . . . . .        | 163,040               |
|                                |                       | Sanilac . . . . .          | 43,114                |
|                                |                       | Schoolcraft . . . . .      | 8,485                 |
|                                |                       | Shiawassee . . . . .       | 70,648                |
|                                |                       | Tuscola . . . . .          | 55,729                |
|                                |                       | Wexford . . . . .          | 32,735                |
|                                |                       | Total . . . . .            | 2,463,969             |

**NOTE:** The state is divided into 4 judicial districts for the election of judges of the court of appeals. The districts are constituted and numbered in accordance with this table. See 2012 PA 40.



## THE COURT OF APPEALS — JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



### **Constitution of Michigan of 1963**

#### **Article VI, Sec. 8**

“The court of appeals shall consist initially of nine judges who shall be nominated and elected at non-partisan elections from districts drawn on county lines and as nearly as possible of equal population, as provided by law. The supreme court may prescribe by rule that the court of appeals sit in divisions and for the terms of court and the times and places thereof. Each such division shall consist of not fewer than three judges. The number of judges comprising the court of appeals may be increased, and the districts from which they are elected may be changed by law.”

District I: Branch, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, Monroe, St. Joseph, Wayne

District II: Genesee, Macomb, Oakland

District III: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Mason, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, Van Buren, Washtenaw

District IV: Balance of counties for State of Michigan

# JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

## *1st District*

*Term expires*

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| KAREN FORT HOOD, Detroit . . . . .                   | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY, Grosse Pointe Park . . . . .    | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY, Grosse Pointe Farms . . . . . | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| MICHAEL J. RIORDAN, Plymouth . . . . .               | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS, Detroit . . . . .            | Jan. 1, 2017 |
| MICHAEL J. TALBOT, Grosse Pointe . . . . .           | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| KURTIS T. WILDER, Canton . . . . .                   | Jan. 1, 2017 |

## *2nd District*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| MARK J. CAVANAGH, Royal Oak . . . . .           | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| PAT M. DONOFRIO, Clinton Township . . . . .     | Jan. 1, 2017 |
| ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER, Pleasant Ridge . . . . . | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| KATHLEEN JANSEN, St. Clair Shores . . . . .     | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| HENRY WILLIAM SAAD, Birmingham . . . . .        | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| DEBORAH A. SERVITTO, Royal Oak . . . . .        | Jan. 1, 2019 |

## *3rd District*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| JANE M. BECKERING, Grand Rapids . . . . .                   | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| MARK T. BOONSTRA, Dexter . . . . .                          | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| JOEL P. HOEKSTRA, Grand Rapids . . . . .                    | Jan. 1, 2017 |
| JANE E. MARKEY, Grand Rapids . . . . .                      | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| WILLIAM B. MURPHY, East Grand Rapids, Chief Judge . . . . . | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| DAVID H. SAWYER, East Grand Rapids . . . . .                | Jan. 1, 2017 |
| DOUGLAS B. SHAPIRO, Ann Arbor . . . . .                     | Jan. 1, 2019 |

## *4th District*

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| STEPHEN L. BORRELLO, Saginaw . . . . .     | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| E. THOMAS FITZGERALD, Owosso . . . . .     | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| MICHAEL J. KELLY, Maple City . . . . .     | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| AMY RONAYNE KRAUSE, Lansing . . . . .      | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| PATRICK M. METER, Saginaw . . . . .        | Jan. 1, 2015 |
| PETER D. O'CONNELL, Mt. Pleasant . . . . . | Jan. 1, 2019 |
| DONALD S. OWENS, Williamston . . . . .     | Jan. 1, 2017 |
| WILLIAM C. WHITBECK, Lansing . . . . .     | Jan. 1, 2017 |

# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES<sup>1</sup>

## *First District Judges*

### JUDGE

#### **KAREN FORT HOOD**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Hood was elected to the Court in 2002. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, and received her undergraduate degree in 1980 from the Regents College of the University of the State of New York at Albany and her law degree in 1989 from the Detroit College of Law. Judge Hood's professional affiliations include the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the MSU College of Law Alumni Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

### JUDGE

#### **KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Kelly was elected to the Court in 2000 and reelected in 2006 and 2012. She graduated from Michigan State University and from the University of Detroit School of Law. After law school, Judge Kelly joined the Detroit law firm of Durant and Durant, where she practiced civil litigation, and became a partner in the firm.

In 1987, she was elected a municipal judge, and she was twice reelected to that position. She was appointed to the Wayne Circuit Court by Governor John Engler in 1994. In 1997, she was appointed presiding judge of the Family Division of the Wayne Circuit Court by the Supreme Court. In 1999 she was also appointed the presiding judge of Family Division - Juvenile Division.

Judge Kelly served two terms as president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Judges and served on the board of directors of the Michigan District Judges Association. She also serves on the Rules and Family Law committees of the Michigan Judges Association.

Judge Kelly's civic activities include being a member of Leadership Detroit XVII, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Detroit Executive Leadership Committee, KIDS-Talk Advisory Committee and DMBA Inns of Court. Judge Kelly and her husband, William B. Kelly, have three children.

### JUDGE

#### **CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Murray was appointed to the Court in 2002. Previously, he served as a judge on the Wayne Circuit Court in the Family Division, as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor John M. Engler, and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Murray is the former chairman of the State Board of Ethics and has served as a member of the Local Government Claims Review Board. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, the Catholic Lawyers Society, was a member of the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, and currently serves as a member of the Board of Law Examiners.

### JUDGE

#### **MICHAEL J. RIORDAN**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Michael J. Riordan was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals on March 16, 2012. In November 2012, Judge Riordan was elected to a full six-year term. Previously, the Judge served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, as assistant general counsel for the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, and as senior attorney in the Enforcement Division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Riordan was a Federal Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Robert E. DeMascio, of the United States District for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Riordan is an

<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/AboutCourt/biography.htm>

adjunct professor of securities regulation and business organizations at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners since 2006. He is a past-president of the Federal Bar Association of the Eastern District of Michigan and of the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers. He is vice-president of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Alumni Association and is on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Lawyers' Society. Judge Riordan received his B.A. from Michigan State University and his J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Detroit School of Law.

**JUDGE**

**CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Stephens was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2008. Prior to that appointment, she served as a general jurisdiction trial judge for 23 years. She was appointed to the Wayne County Circuit Court in 1985, after serving as a judge of the 36th District Court. Judge Stephens was the Chief Judge Pro Tempore, Mediation Tribunal Chair and presiding civil division judge of Wayne County Circuit Court for 8 years.

An Emory Law School graduate, Judge Stephens has been admitted to practice in Georgia, Texas, and Michigan. Prior to her election to the bench in 1981, she served as vice-chair of the Wayne County Charter Commission, Associate General Counsel to the Michigan Senate, Regional Director for the National Conference of Black Lawyers Atlanta office, and consultant to the National League of Cities Veterans Discharge Upgrade Project.

She has been active in bar work, including 16 years as a Commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan, chairing its Justice Initiatives Committee, Communications Committee, and Children's Task Force. Judge Stephens is a former chair of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, a former member of the executive Board of the National Bar Association and its Judicial Council and a member of the American Bar Association. She was awarded the State Bar of Michigan's highest honor, the Roberts P. Hudson Award, in 2005.

Judge Stephens has served as adjunct faculty at Wayne State University Law School, the Detroit College of Law, and the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. She has also served as a faculty member for the National Judicial College and the Michigan Judicial Institute. She was a contributing author to the Lawyers Cooperative's Michigan Nonstandard Jury Instructions, as well as numerous articles on subjects ranging from jury selection to ethics.

Judge Stephens has served on numerous civic boards and commissions, including New Detroit, the Inner City Business Improvement Forum, the Detroit Metropolitan Association Board of Trustees for the United Church of Christ, the Greater Detroit Area Health Care Council, and the Girl Scouts. She is a resident of Detroit.

**JUDGE**

**MICHAEL J. TALBOT**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Talbot was appointed to the Court in 1998. Previously, Judge Talbot had been appointed by governors of Michigan to serve as a judge of the Wayne Circuit, Detroit Recorder's, and Detroit Common Pleas courts. Judge Talbot also worked as an attorney in private practice. He was a member of the Judicial Tenure Commission from 2004 to 2010 and presently serves by appointment of the Michigan Supreme Court as chair of the Court Reporting Board of Review. Judge Talbot is a Trustee of Madonna University, Sacred Heart Major Seminary and the AOD Endowment Fund. He is the past chair of the Board of Education for the Archdiocese of Detroit and presently serves as Chair of the AOD Review Board. Judge Talbot received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and his law degree from the University of Detroit.

**JUDGE**

**KURTIS T. WILDER**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Kurtis T. Wilder serves as one of 28 judges on the Michigan Court of Appeals. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor John M. Engler in December 1998, elected in 2000 and reelected in 2004 and 2010. Previously, Judge Wilder served as chief judge of the Washtenaw County Trial

Court. Judge Wilder holds memberships in the State Bar of Michigan; the Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation; the Michigan Judges Association; the Association of Black Judges of Michigan; the Federalist Society; and the Wolverine Bar Association. He is a former chairperson of the State of Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board, and previously served as a member of the State Bar of Michigan standing committee on justice initiatives, and the State Bar's Judicial Ethics Subcommittee.

Judge Wilder serves as the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), trustee of the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and chair of Interlochen's Audit Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and a member of the President's Advisory Council at Walsh College.

## ***Second District Judges***

### **JUDGE**

#### **MARK J. CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Cavanagh was elected to the Court in 1988. Previously, he worked as a special assistant attorney general, as an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Cavanagh received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and his law degree from the Detroit College of Law. Judge Cavanagh has two children.

### **JUDGE**

#### **PAT M. DONOFRIO**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Of Macomb Township; Judge Donofrio was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2002 and elected in 2004 and 2010. He previously served as a Macomb County Circuit Court Judge after appointment and election in 1997 and 1998 respectively. From 1998 until appointment to the Michigan Court of Appeals he served as the presiding judge of the civil/criminal division of the circuit court. Judge Donofrio attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University in 1967 and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the Wayne State University Law School in 1970. At the time of entry into the judiciary, Judge Donofrio served as president of a major litigation law firm. Judge Donofrio is a member of the Michigan Judges Association, the State Bar of Michigan and several local bar associations. He served on the Judicial Crossroads Task Force, a sanctioned independent organization endeavoring to create structural efficiencies and reduce costs across the entire judiciary. Judge Donofrio served as Chancellor of the American Inn of Court, Oakland County Bar division, an organization dedicated to the training of new lawyers in the effective and ethical practice of law. Judge Donofrio serves on both the settlement committee and quality review committee, and has served on both the executive and delay reduction committees. He has served on the faculty at the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the National Judicial College, and the Michigan Judicial Institute. Judge Donofrio served three terms on the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and served on the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Trial Court Performance Standards. He has earned certificates of accomplishment from the National Judicial College and the National Drug Court Institute. Judge Donofrio has presented numerous guest lectures. He is married with 2 children and one grandchild.

### **JUDGE**

#### **ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Gleicher was appointed to the Court in 2007. Previously, she was an attorney in private practice for 27 years. She began her career at Goodman, Eden, Millender & Bedrosian in Detroit, and opened her own litigation practice in 1994. She is an elected Fellow of the International Society of Barristers (2004) and the American College of Trial Lawyers (2005). She received the Respected Advocate Award from the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel in 2005 and the State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice Award in 2001. Judge Gleicher has served on the faculty of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education and as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School. She received her bachelor's degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and her law degree from Wayne State University Law School.

**JUDGE**

**KATHLEEN JANSEN**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Jansen was appointed to the Court in 1989. Judge Jansen was the first woman elected countywide to the Macomb County courts, first to the Macomb County Probate Court in 1982, and then to the Macomb County Circuit Court in 1984. She also worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Jansen received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, did graduate studies at Western Washington State University, and obtained her Juris Doctorate degree in 1977 from the University of Detroit Law School.

**JUDGE**

**HENRY WILLIAM SAAD**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Saad was appointed to the Court in 1994, was elected for a 6-year term in 1996, and was reelected in 2002 and 2008. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Saad was a partner at Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman, where he practiced law for 20 years. He was also an arbitrator for the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and a hearing referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Judge Saad received his bachelor's degree from Wayne State University School of Business with honors and his law degree from Wayne State University, magna cum laude.

Judge Saad served as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit/Mercy School of Law and Wayne State University Law School where he taught Evidence, Professional Responsibility and Labor Law. Judge Saad has served on the boards of Detroit Public Television, the American Heart Association, and Brother Rice High School. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush nominated Judge Saad to the federal district court and in 2001, 2003 and 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Saad to the federal appellate bench.

**JUDGE**

**DEBORAH A. SERVITTO**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Deborah A. Servitto was born in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Oakland University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and from the Detroit College of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1982.

She served from 1982 to 1986 as the first female assistant city attorney for the city of Warren. In 1986, Judge Servitto was elected to the 37th District Court. Governor James J. Blanchard appointed Judge Servitto to the Macomb Circuit Court in 1990, and she subsequently was elected 3 times to that court. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm appointed Judge Servitto to the Court of Appeals effective March 23, 2006, to replace Judge Hilda R. Gage.

During her tenure as a circuit judge, Judge Servitto was instrumental in implementing innovative programs, such as a seminar for divorcing parents aimed at helping their children cope with divorce and a drug court program that provides treatment and intensive supervision to nonviolent, drug-addicted felons. She was also one of the founding directors of Care House, a child-friendly haven for young victims of sexual and physical abuse.

In November, 2006, Judge Servitto was elected to a full 6-year term to the Court of Appeals, District 2, which includes the counties of Macomb, Oakland, and Genesee. She was reelected in 2012.

*Third District Judges*

**JUDGE**

**JANE M. BECKERING**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Beckering was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2007 and elected in 2008 with re-election in 2012. Before taking the bench, Judge Beckering was an attorney in private practice for 17 years. She began her career at McDermott, Will & Emery, P.C. in Chicago, Illinois, before she returned to her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan and later founded the law firm of Buchanan &

Beckering, PLC. She received her undergraduate degree (with distinction) from the University of Michigan and her law degree (cum laude) from the University of Wisconsin. Judge Beckering is a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and the Steering Committee for the Hillman Trial Advocacy Program. She also participates in the National Research Judge Program run by the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center (ASTAR). She is a co-consulting editor of *Michigan Civil Procedure*, published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

**JUDGE  
MARK T. BOONSTRA**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Boonstra was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals in March 2012, and subsequently was elected in November 2012. Before joining the Court, Judge Boonstra was a senior principal in the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., where he practiced law for nearly 27 years, including serving as a deputy chair of the firm's Litigation practice group and as co-chair of its Appellate Practice section. At the time of his appointment, Judge Boonstra was recognized in *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of Antitrust Law; Appellate Practice; Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Antitrust; Litigation - First Amendment; and Litigation - Securities. He also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ralph B. Guy, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Judge Boonstra holds degrees from both Michigan State University, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and the University of Michigan, where he graduated with both a Juris Doctor degree and a Master of Applied Economics degree.

In addition to serving many community and civic organizations, Judge Boonstra has been active in the State Bar of Michigan — including serving in the Representative Assembly (2005-2011) and as chair of the Antitrust, Franchising, and Trade Regulation Section (2000-2001) — as well as the Federal Bar Association and the Washtenaw County Bar Association, including as a founding member of the Washtenaw American Inn of Court (2011). He currently serves on the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and as vice-chair of the Michigan Judges Retirement Board. He has been an author of, or contributor to, a number of legal publications and presentations, and as the moderator and a faculty member of the ICLE Webinar, *Michigan Jury Reform — What You Need to Know* (August, 24, 2011).

**JUDGE  
JOEL P. HOEKSTRA**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Hoekstra was elected to the Court in 1994. Previously, he worked as an assistant Kent County prosecuting attorney, as a district court judge, and as an adjunct faculty member of Calvin College. Judge Hoekstra received his bachelor's degree from Calvin College and his law degree from Valparaiso University.

**JUDGE  
JANE E. MARKEY**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Markey was elected to the Court in 1994 and reelected in 2002 and 2008. Judge Markey received her B.A., with high honors in Spanish/Secondary Education from Michigan State University in 1973 and her law degree, cum laude, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1981. Previously, she has served as a prehearing attorney/law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals and worked as an attorney in private practice with the law firms of Baxter & Hammond and Dykema, Gossett.

She was elected to the 61st District Court serving the City of Grand Rapids in 1990 and reelected in 1992. Judge Markey is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Thomas M. Cooley board of directors and Executive Committee (1995 to present). She has previously served on the State Bar Grievance Committee (1990-1992); the Academic Advisory Committee for District Court (1993-1995); and Quality Control, Personnel ACE Award Committees, Court of Appeals. She also participated as a hearing panelist, state of Michigan, Attorney Discipline Board (1989-1995).

Judge Markey is currently a member of Alternative Directions and has served as a speaker/faculty member for numerous entities, including the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, the Hillman Advocacy Program U.S. District Court, Western District, Michigan Judicial Institute, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, the Lawyers' Show, and National Conference of Law Review Boards. In 2012, Judge Markey was selected One of West Michigan's 50 Most Influential Women.

#### **JUDGE**

#### **WILLIAM B. MURPHY**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Murphy was appointed to the Court in 1988. Judge Murphy currently serves as Chief Judge of the Court, and was the Chief Judge Pro Tem from 1992-1996. Previously, he was a member of the East Grand Rapids City Commission, a law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals, and worked as an attorney in private practice for seventeen years. Judge Murphy was a member of the Judicial Tenure Commission (1995-2003; Chair, 2000-2003) and the State Bar Board of Commissioners (2001-2008). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan State Bar Foundation as well as an Adjunct Professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Judge Murphy received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and his law degree (*cum laude*) from Wayne State University, where he served as a member of The Wayne Law Review Board.

#### **JUDGE**

#### **DAVID H. SAWYER**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Hon. David H. Sawyer was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1986. He was elected to the Judicial Tenure Commission by his fellow Court of Appeals judges for a term that began January 1, 2010, and currently serves as the Commission's Vice-Chairperson. Judge Sawyer currently is Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Michigan Court of Appeals. Before being elected to the bench, he was the Kent County Prosecuting Attorney from 1977 to 1987. Judge Sawyer is a Past President of the Michigan Prosecuting Attorneys Association. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona in 1970 and received his law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1973.

#### **JUDGE**

#### **DOUGLAS B. SHAPIRO**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Shapiro was appointed to the Court in 2009. Before taking the bench, Judge Shapiro was a partner in the law firm of Muth and Shapiro, P.C., where he practiced civil litigation in both trial and appellate courts for 17 years. Earlier in his career he served as an Assistant Defender with the State Appellate Defender Office, focusing on criminal appeals. He began his career as a law clerk to State Supreme Court Justice James H. Brickley. Judge Shapiro received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Michigan in 1983 and his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1986.

### ***Fourth District Judges***

#### **JUDGE**

#### **STEPHEN L. BORRELLO**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Borrello was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2003, elected in 2004 and reelected in 2006 and 2012. He served as an attorney and partner with the law firm Gilbert, Smith & Borrello, P.C. in Saginaw, Michigan. Judge Borrello also served as an assistant prosecuting attorney from 1988 to 1990 in Saginaw County. He earned his B.A. from Albion College and his J.D. from the Detroit College of Law. He is currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Saginaw Valley State University where he teaches Criminal Procedure and Evidence.



**JUDGE****E. THOMAS FITZGERALD**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Fitzgerald was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1990. He was subsequently reelected in 1996, 2002, and 2008. He was previously on the faculty of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and he worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Fitzgerald received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Detroit. He is a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar Association, Shiawassee County Bar Association, and the Michigan Judges Association.

**JUDGE****MICHAEL J. KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Kelly was elected to the Court of Appeals in 2008. After serving as a judicial advisory assistant to a circuit court judge, he worked as a trial lawyer in private practice for 20 years. He attended Michigan State University and earned his B.A. from the University of Michigan – Flint in 1984. Following his enrollment at the Detroit College of Law, he was accepted as a participant in the London Law Program at Regents College in London, England in 1987 and received his J.D. from the D.C.L. in 1988.

**JUDGE****AMY RONAYNE KRAUSE**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Amy Ronayne Krause was appointed to the Court of Appeals in November of 2010. Previously, she served as a judge on the 54-A District Court in Lansing for nearly eight years. She served on the District Bench until her appointment to the Court of Appeals. Judge Ronayne Krause received her Bachelor of Arts from The University of Michigan and her Juris Doctor from The University of Notre Dame.

Judge Ronayne Krause began her legal career as a litigation attorney for a private law firm and then served eight years as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. In 1997, she was appointed an Assistant Attorney General by then Attorney General Frank J. Kelley and was the first recipient of the Frank J. Kelley Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy. Judge Ronayne Krause worked for the Attorney General's Office for six years. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Ronayne Krause was elected to serve on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, during which time she chaired the Law and Courts committee. She is an adjunct professor for the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and has lectured for the Prosecuting Attorney Association of Michigan. She has also taught for the Michigan Judicial Institute, including teaching other district judges at the New Judges Seminar in 2007 and 2009. Judge Ronayne Krause also serves as faculty for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, training other judges on a national level.

In September 2007, Judge Ronayne Krause was recognized statewide for her outstanding work with the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award. She currently serves her community as a board member with the Lansing Educational Advancement Foundation (LEAF), the Uplift Our Youth Foundation, and the American Red Cross Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Region. Judge Ronayne Krause was appointed in 2011 by the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader to the State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee.

Judge Ronayne Krause and her husband, Kurt E. Krause, live in the mid-Michigan area.

**JUDGE****PATRICK M. METER**

Term expires January 1, 2015

Judge Meter was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1999. Previously, he served as a judge of the Saginaw Circuit Court, and he worked as a prosecuting attorney for Saginaw County and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Meter received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He serves as a lecturer at Notre Dame Law School's Advanced Trial Advocacy Program.

## **JUDGE**

### **PETER D. O'CONNELL**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Peter D. O'Connell was elected in 1994 and currently serves on the Michigan Court of Appeals in the Hall of Justice in Lansing, Michigan. He was a trial court judge for 16 years prior to his election to the Court of Appeals and also served as the Chief Assistant Prosecutor in Isabella County. He holds a Juris Doctorate from Detroit College of Law and was the first trial judge in the State of Michigan to obtain a Master's of Judicial Studies Degree from the University of Nevada-Reno. He has served on the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, and the National Judicial College. Judge O'Connell has also served as an instructor at New Judges School and is an adjunct professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Judge O'Connell has authored articles in the *Detroit Law Review*, *Criminal Practice Law Review*, *Colleague*, *Benchmark*, *Michigan Bar Journal*, and the case book entitled *Social Science in the Law*.

Judge O'Connell has been on the bench since 1979.

## **JUDGE**

### **DONALD S. OWENS**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Owens was appointed to the Court in 1999, elected in 2000, and reelected in 2004 and 2010. Previously, he served as judge of the Ingham County Probate Court from 1974 to 1999. Before that, he was an attorney in private practice in Lansing. Judge Owens received his bachelor's, master's and law degrees from the University of Michigan.

## **JUDGE**

### **WILLIAM C. WHITBECK**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge William C. Whitbeck has served on the Michigan Court of Appeals since Governor Engler appointed him in 1997. Judge Whitbeck was elected in 1998 and reelected in 2004 and 2010. In his years on the bench, Judge Whitbeck served 6 years as Chief Judge and 2 years as Chief Judge Pro Tem.

In private practice for over 20 years, Judge Whitbeck was a partner in the law firms of Honigman Miller, Dykema Gossett, and McLellan, Schlaybaugh & Whitbeck.

Judge Whitbeck also served in the administrations of three Michigan Governors: George Romney, William G. Milliken, and John M. Engler. He served on the transition teams of President Ronald Reagan and Governor Engler. Judge Whitbeck served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 6 years and was honorably discharged in 1972.

Judge Whitbeck was an assistant to Governor Romney, Special Assistant to Secretary Romney at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Area Director of the Detroit Office of H.U.D. In the Milliken administration, he served as Director of Policy in the Michigan Public Service Commission. He served as Counsel to Governor Engler for Executive Organization and Director of the Office of State Employer.

Judge Whitbeck is a member of the Michigan State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Ingham County Bar Association, the Michigan Judges Association, the Michigan Law Revision Commission, and Scribes. He is a Fellow of the Michigan State Bar and ABA Foundations. He is a past chairman of the Administrative Law Section of the Michigan State Bar Association. He is a "Master of the Bench" and past President of the American Inns of Court Chapter at the MSU College of Law. He is also a past chair of the Michigan Historical Commission.

Judge Whitbeck graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1966 and Northwestern University School of Journalism in 1963. Judge Whitbeck and his wife are members of St. Mary Cathedral. They reside in Lansing's capitol district in their historic 1878 home. Judge Whitbeck has written his first legal mystery, *To Account for Murder*, which was published in November 2010.

# MICHIGAN TRIAL COURTS

www.courts.mi.gov/scao/trial.htm

## ***Circuit Court***

The history of the circuit court dates back to 1824 when 3 judges of the supreme court held annual terms in the counties of Wayne, Monroe, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair and were authorized to hold special sessions in Crawford, Brown, and Michilimackinac counties. In 1835, circuit courts were established by name, but were presided over by the judges of the supreme court.

The county courts in all of the counties of the territory east of Lake Michigan, except Wayne, were abolished in 1833 and replaced by “The circuit court of the territory of Michigan.” The state was divided into 3 circuits in 1836 and the judges of the supreme court performed the duties of circuit judges. The Revised Statutes of 1846 abolished the court of chancery, and the chancery powers were conferred upon the several circuit courts. The Constitution of 1850 made the office of circuit judge elective and the term of office 6 years.

The Constitution of 1908 provided for judicial circuits. At present, the state is divided into 57 judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate required judicial activity. In multicounty circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions. Circuit judges are elected for terms of 6 years in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer, and under 70 years of age. The legislature sets salaries for circuit judges, which may be supplemented by counties.

The circuit court is referred to as the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. Circuit court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. Generally speaking, circuit court has original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000; in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; and in all family cases and domestic relations cases such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile proceedings, and adoptions.

The **Family Division** of the circuit court is a division of circuit court. The Family Division has exclusive jurisdiction over all family matters such as divorce, custody, parenting time, support, paternity, adoptions, name changes, juvenile proceedings, emancipation of minors, parental consent, and personal protection proceedings. The Family Division also has ancillary jurisdiction over cases involving guardianships and conservatorships and proceedings involving the mentally ill or developmentally disabled.

The **court of claims** is part of the 30th Circuit Court and is located in Ingham County. The court of claims is a specialized court that handles only claims over \$1,000 filed against the state of Michigan or one of its departments. Claims for less than \$1,000 are filed with the State Administrative Board. The court of claims may combine similar cases together and conduct one hearing for all such cases. All trials heard by the court of claims are heard by a judge, not a jury.

## ***Probate Court***

In 1818, the court of probate was established in each county, the members of which were appointed by the Governor, and from which appeals might be taken to the supreme court. These courts continued in operation until Michigan became a state. The Revised Statutes of 1838 made the office of Judge of Probate elective and the term of office 4 years. The Constitution of 1850 provided for a probate court in each county, and the Constitution of 1963 expanded the term of office to 6 years.

The probate court has jurisdiction over cases that involve the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

Each county has its own probate court, with the exception of 10 northern counties that have consolidated to form 5 probate court districts. Each of those probate court districts has one judge. Other probate courts have one or more judges. Probate judges are elected to 6-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets probate judges' salaries.

## ***District Court***

District courts were created by Act 154 of 1968, to commence functioning January 1, 1969. These courts replaced justice of the peace courts and circuit court commissioners, as mandated by the

Constitution of 1963. The act also abolished municipal and police courts, but contained provisions allowing certain municipalities to retain their municipal courts. Four municipal courts still exist.

The district court is often referred to as “The People’s Court,” because the public has more contact with the district court than with any other court in the state, and because many people go to district court without an attorney.

The district court has exclusive jurisdiction over most traffic violations, civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000, landlord-tenant and land contract matters, and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony.

The district court’s small claims division handles cases in which the amount in controversy is \$3,000 or less. Small claims litigants represent themselves; they waive their right to be represented by an attorney, as well as the right to a jury trial. They also waive evidence rules and any right to appeal the district judge’s decision. If either party objects, the case is heard in the court’s general civil division, where the parties retain these rights. If a district court attorney magistrate enters the judgment, the decision may be appealed to the district judge.

District courts handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including misdemeanors, offenses for which the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail. In misdemeanor cases, the district court judge arraigns the defendant, sets and accepts bail, presides at the trial, and sentences the defendant. Typical district court misdemeanor offenses include driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving on a suspended license, assault, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana. The district courts also conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, after which, if the prosecutor provides sufficient proofs, the felony case is transferred to the circuit court for arraignment and trial. The district courts also handle extraditions to another state for a pending criminal charge, coroner inquests, and issuance of search warrants. The court may appoint an attorney for persons who cannot afford a lawyer and may go to jail if convicted.

District judges are elected to 6-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets district judges’ salaries.

### ***Municipal Courts***

Municipal courts were organized subject to Act 5 of 1956, although most were established under either Act 279 of 1909 or Act 269 of 1933. The District Court Act of 1968 abolished most of the municipal courts, but permitted some municipalities to retain their courts. Four municipal courts remain: Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, and Grosse Pointe Woods, all in Wayne County.

The municipal courts have jurisdiction over most traffic violations, civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$3,000, landlord-tenant matters, and civil infractions. Municipal courts’ jurisdiction in criminal proceedings includes handling misdemeanors and conducting preliminary examinations in felony cases.

Municipal judges are elected to 4-year terms and are paid by the municipalities. Candidates must be lawyers, qualified electors, and residents of their municipalities.

# CIRCUIT COURT — JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

(Pursuant to Act 236 of 1961, Chapter 5)

| County                   | Population<br>in 2010 | County                | Population<br>in 2010 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1st Circuit</b>       |                       | <b>17th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Hillsdale . . . . .      | 46,688                | Kent . . . . .        | 602,622               |
| <b>2nd Circuit</b>       |                       | <b>18th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Berrien . . . . .        | 156,813               | Bay . . . . .         | 107,771               |
| <b>3rd Circuit</b>       |                       | <b>19th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Wayne . . . . .          | 1,820,584             | Benzie . . . . .      | 17,525                |
| <b>4th Circuit</b>       |                       | Manistee . . . . .    | 24,733                |
| Jackson . . . . .        | 160,248               | Total                 | 42,258                |
| <b>5th Circuit</b>       |                       | <b>20th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Barry . . . . .          | 59,173                | Ottawa . . . . .      | 263,801               |
| <b>6th Circuit</b>       |                       | <b>21st Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Oakland . . . . .        | 1,202,362             | Isabella . . . . .    | 70,311                |
| <b>7th Circuit</b>       |                       | <b>22nd Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Genesee . . . . .        | 425,790               | Washtenaw . . . . .   | 344,791               |
| <b>8th Circuit</b>       |                       | <b>23rd Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Ionia . . . . .          | 63,905                | Alcona . . . . .      | 10,942                |
| Montcalm . . . . .       | 63,342                | Arenac . . . . .      | 15,899                |
| Total                    | 127,427               | Iosco . . . . .       | 25,887                |
| <b>9th Circuit</b>       |                       | Oscoda . . . . .      | 8,640                 |
| Kalamazoo . . . . .      | 250,331               | Total                 | 61,368                |
| <b>10th Circuit</b>      |                       | <b>24th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Saginaw . . . . .        | 200,169               | Sanilac . . . . .     | 43,114                |
| <b>11th Circuit</b>      |                       | <b>25th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Alger . . . . .          | 9,601                 | Marquette . . . . .   | 67,077                |
| Luce . . . . .           | 6,631                 | <b>26th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Mackinac . . . . .       | 11,113                | Alpena . . . . .      | 29,598                |
| Schoolcraft . . . . .    | 8,485                 | Montmorency . . . . . | 9,765                 |
| Total                    | 35,830                | Total                 | 39,363                |
| <b>12th Circuit</b>      |                       | <b>27th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Baraga . . . . .         | 8,860                 | Newaygo . . . . .     | 48,460                |
| Houghton . . . . .       | 36,628                | Oceana . . . . .      | 26,570                |
| Keweenaw . . . . .       | 2,156                 | Total                 | 75,030                |
| Total                    | 47,644                | <b>28th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| <b>13th Circuit</b>      |                       | Missaukee . . . . .   | 14,849                |
| Antrim . . . . .         | 23,580                | Wexford . . . . .     | 32,735                |
| Grand Traverse . . . . . | 86,986                | Total                 | 47,584                |
| Leelanau . . . . .       | 21,708                | <b>29th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Total                    | 132,274               | Clinton . . . . .     | 75,382                |
| <b>14th Circuit</b>      |                       | Gratiot . . . . .     | 42,476                |
| Muskegon . . . . .       | 172,188               | Total                 | 117,858               |
| <b>15th Circuit</b>      |                       | <b>30th Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Branch . . . . .         | 45,248                | Ingham . . . . .      | 280,895               |
| <b>16th Circuit</b>      |                       | <b>31st Circuit</b>   |                       |
| Macomb . . . . .         | 840,978               | St. Clair . . . . .   | 163,040               |

**CIRCUIT COURT — JUDICIAL CIRCUITS (Cont.)**

| <b>County</b>        | <b>Population<br/>in 2010</b> | <b>County</b>          | <b>Population<br/>in 2010</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>32nd Circuit</b>  |                               | <b>46th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Gogebic . . . . .    | 16,427                        | Crawford . . . . .     | 14,074                        |
| Ontonagon . . . . .  | 6,780                         | Kalkaska . . . . .     | 17,153                        |
| Total . . . . .      | 23,207                        | Otsego . . . . .       | 24,164                        |
|                      |                               | Total . . . . .        | 55,391                        |
| <b>33rd Circuit</b>  |                               | <b>47th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Charlevoix . . . . . | 25,949                        | Delta . . . . .        | 37,069                        |
| <b>34th Circuit</b>  |                               | <b>48th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Ogemaw . . . . .     | 21,699                        | Allegan . . . . .      | 111,408                       |
| Roscommon . . . . .  | 24,449                        | <b>49th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Total . . . . .      | 46,148                        | Mecosta . . . . .      | 42,798                        |
| <b>35th Circuit</b>  |                               | Osceola . . . . .      | 23,528                        |
| Shiawassee . . . . . | 70,648                        | Total . . . . .        | 66,326                        |
| <b>36th Circuit</b>  |                               | <b>50th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Van Buren . . . . .  | 76,258                        | Chippewa . . . . .     | 38,520                        |
| <b>37th Circuit</b>  |                               | <b>51st Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Calhoun . . . . .    | 136,146                       | Lake . . . . .         | 11,539                        |
| <b>38th Circuit</b>  |                               | Mason . . . . .        | 28,705                        |
| Monroe . . . . .     | 152,021                       | Total . . . . .        | 40,244                        |
| <b>39th Circuit</b>  |                               | <b>52nd Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Lenawee . . . . .    | 99,892                        | Huron . . . . .        | 33,118                        |
| <b>40th Circuit</b>  |                               | <b>53rd Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Lapeer . . . . .     | 88,319                        | Cheboygan . . . . .    | 26,152                        |
| <b>41st Circuit</b>  |                               | Presque Isle . . . . . | 13,376                        |
| Dickinson . . . . .  | 26,168                        | Total . . . . .        | 39,528                        |
| Iron . . . . .       | 11,817                        | <b>54th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| Menominee . . . . .  | 24,029                        | Tuscola . . . . .      | 55,729                        |
| Total . . . . .      | 62,014                        | <b>55th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| <b>42nd Circuit</b>  |                               | Clare . . . . .        | 30,926                        |
| Midland . . . . .    | 83,629                        | Gladwin . . . . .      | 25,692                        |
| <b>43rd Circuit</b>  |                               | Total . . . . .        | 56,618                        |
| Cass . . . . .       | 52,293                        | <b>56th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| <b>44th Circuit</b>  |                               | Eaton . . . . .        | 107,759                       |
| Livingston . . . . . | 180,967                       | <b>57th Circuit</b>    |                               |
| <b>45th Circuit</b>  |                               | Emmet . . . . .        | 32,694                        |
| St. Joseph . . . . . | 61,295                        |                        |                               |

## CIRCUIT COURT — JUDICIAL CIRCUITS



### Constitution of Michigan of 1963 Article VI, Sec. 11

“The state shall be divided into judicial circuits along county lines in each of which there shall be elected one or more circuit judges as provided by law. Sessions of the circuit court shall be held at least four times in each year in every county organized for judicial purposes. Each circuit judge shall hold court in the county or counties within the circuit in which he is elected, and in other circuits as may be provided by rules of the supreme court. The number of judges may be changed and circuits may be created, altered and discontinued by law and the number of judges shall be changed and circuits shall be created, altered and discontinued on recommendation of the supreme court to reflect changes in judicial activity. No change in the number of judges or alteration or discontinuance of a circuit shall have the effect of removing a judge from office during his term.”

### 2013 Courts and Judgeships

| LEGEND                                   | TOTALS                           |
|--|----------------------------------|
| # - Circuit Court                        | 218 - Judgeships                 |
| (#) - Number of Circuit Court Judgeships | 57 - Number of Judicial Circuits |

## JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

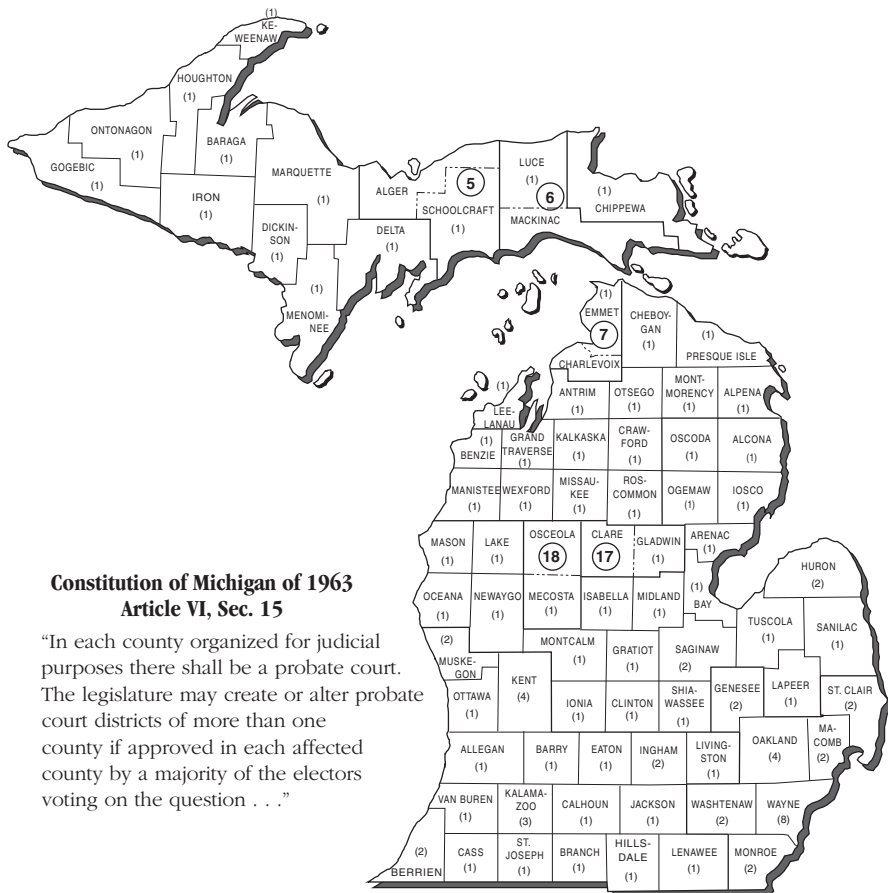
| Circuit | County    | Judge  | Circuit | County                                   | Judge   |
|---------|-----------|--|---------|--|---|
| 1       | Hillsdale | Michael R. Smith   | 6       | Oakland                                  | James M. Alexander<br>Martha Anderson<br>Leo Bowman<br>Mary Ellen Brennan<br>Rae Lee Chabot<br>Lisa Ortlieb Gorcyca<br>Nanci J. Grant<br>Shalina D. Kumar<br>Denise Langford-Morris<br>Cheryl A. Matthews<br>Karen D. McDonald<br>Phyllis C. McMillen<br>Rudy J. Nichols<br>Colleen A. O'Brien<br>Daniel Patrick O'Brien<br>Wendy Lynn Potts<br>Michael D. Warren, Jr.<br>Joan E. Young |
| 2       | Berrien   | John E. Dewane<br>John M. Donahue<br>Charles T. LaSata<br>Angela Pasula  | 7       | Genesee                                  | Duncan M. Beagle<br>Joseph J. Farah<br>Judith A. Fullerton<br>John A. Gadola<br>Archie L. Hayman<br>Geoffrey L. Neithercut<br>David J. Newblatt<br>Michael J. Theile<br>Richard B. Yuille   |
| 3       | Wayne     | Deborah Ross Adams<br>David J. Allen<br>Wendy M. Baxter<br>Annette J. Berry<br>Gregory D. Bill<br>Susan D. Borman<br>Ulysses W. Boykin<br>Karen Y. Braxton<br>Margie R. Braxton<br>Megan Maher Brennan<br>James A. Callahan<br>Michael J. Callahan<br>Jerome C. Cavanagh<br>Eric W. Cholack<br>James R. Chylinski<br>Robert J. Colombo, Jr.<br>Kevin J. Cox<br>Daphne Means Curtis<br>Christopher D. Dingell<br>Gershwin Allen Drain<br>Charlene M. Elder<br>Vonda R. Evans<br>Edward Ewell, Jr.<br>Patricia Susan Fresard<br>Sheila Ann Gibson<br>John H. Gillis, Jr.<br>David Alan Groner<br>Richard B. Halloran, Jr.<br>Amy Patricia Hathaway<br>Cynthia Gray Hathaway<br>Dana Margaret Hathaway<br>Daniel Arthur Hathaway<br>Michael M. Hathaway<br>Susan L. Hubbard<br>Muriel D. Hughes<br>Vera Massey Jones<br>Connie Marie Kelley<br>Timothy Michael Kenny<br>Arthur J. Lombard<br>Kathleen I. Macdonald<br>Kathleen M. McCarthy<br>Wade H. McCree<br>Bruce U. Morrow<br>John A. Murphy<br>Maria L. Oxholm<br>Linda V. Parker<br>Lynne A. Pierce<br>Lita Masini Popke<br>Daniel P. Ryan<br>Richard M. Skutt<br>Mark T. Slavens<br>Leslie Kim Smith<br>Virgil C. Smith<br>Martha M. Snow<br>Jeanne Stempien<br>Craig S. Strong<br>Brian R. Sullivan<br>Lawrence S. Talon<br>Deborah A. Thomas<br>Margaret M. VanHouten<br>Robert L. Ziolkowski | 8       | Ionia                                    | David A. Hoort<br>Suzanne Kreeger   |
| 4       | Jackson   | Susan E. Beebe<br>Richard N. LaFlamme<br>John G. McBain, Jr.<br>Thomas D. Wilson   | 9       | Kalamazoo                                | Gary C. Giguere, Jr.<br>Stephen D. Gorsaltz<br>J. Richardson Johnson<br>Pamela L. Lightvoet<br>Alexander C. Lipsey  |
| 5       | Barry     | Amy McDowell   | 10      | Saginaw                                  | Janet M. Boes<br>Fred L. Borchard<br>James T. Borchard<br>Darnell Jackson<br>Robert L. Kaczmarek  |
|         |           |  | 11      | Alger<br>Luce<br>Mackinac<br>Schoolcraft | William W. Carmody  |
|         |           |  | 12      | Baraga<br>Houghton<br>Keweenaw           | Charles R. Goodman  |
|         |           |  | 13      | Antrim<br>Gd. Traverse<br>Leelanau       | Thomas G. Power<br>Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.   |
|         |           |  | 14      | Muskegon                                 | Timothy G. Hicks<br>William C. Marietti<br>John C. Ruck<br>Annette Rose Smedley   |
|         |           |  | 15      | Branch                                   | Patrick W. O'Grady  |
|         |           |  | 16      | Macomb                                   | James M. Biernat, Sr.<br>Richard L. Caretti<br>Mary A. Chrzanowski<br>Diane M. Druzinski<br>John C. Foster<br>Peter J. Maceroni<br>Edward A. Servitto, Jr.<br>Mark S. Switalski<br>Matthew S. Switalski<br>Kathryn A. Viviano<br>Tracey A. Yokich   |



## JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT *(Cont.)*

| Circuit | County                              | Judge  | Circuit | County                         | Judge   |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------------|---|
| 17      | Kent                                | George S. Butth<br>Paul J. Denenfeld<br>Kathleen A. Feeney<br>Donald A. Johnston, III<br>Dennis B. Leiber<br>James Robert Redford<br>Paul J. Sullivan<br>Mark A. Trusock<br>Christopher P. Yates<br>Daniel V. Zemaitis | 34      | Ogemaw<br>Roscommon            | Michael J. Baumgartner  |
| 18      | Bay                                 | Harry P. Gill<br>Kenneth W. Schmidt<br>Joseph K. Sheeran   | 35      | Shiawassee                     | Gerald D. Lostracco   |
| 19      | Benzie<br>Manistee                  | James M. Batzer  | 36      | Van Buren                      | Kathleen Brickley<br>Paul E. Hamre  |
| 20      | Ottawa                              | Kent D. Engle<br>Jon H. Hulsing<br>Edward R. Post<br>Jon Van Allsburg  | 37      | Calhoun                        | Allen L. Garbrecht<br>James C. Kingsley<br>Stephen B. Miller<br>Conrad J. Sindt |
| 21      | Isabella                            | Paul H. Chamberlain<br>Mark H. Duthie  | 38      | Monroe                         | Michael W. LaBeau<br>Michael A. Weipert<br>Daniel White                         |
| 22      | Washtenaw                           | Archie Cameron Brown<br>Timothy P. Connors<br>Carol Anne Kuhnke<br>Donald E. Shelton<br>David S. Swartz  | 39      | Lenawee                        | Margaret Murray-Scholz Noe<br>Timothy P. Pickard                                |
| 23      | Alcona<br>Arenac<br>Iosco<br>Oscoda | Ronald M. Bergeron<br>William F. Myles   | 40      | Lapeer                         | Michael P. Higgins<br>Nick O. Holowka   |
| 24      | Sanilac                             | Donald A. Teeple   | 41      | Dickinson<br>Iron<br>Menominee | Mary Brouillette Barglind<br>Richard J. Cejello                                 |
| 25      | Marquette                           | Jennifer Mazzuchi<br>Thomas L. Solka   | 42      | Midland                        | Michael J. Beale  |
| 26      | Alpena<br>Montmorency               | Michael G. Mack  | 43      | Cass                           | Michael E. Dodge  |
| 27      | Newaygo<br>Oceana                   | Anthony A. Monton<br>Terrence R. Thomas  | 44      | Livingston                     | Michael P. Hatty<br>David Reader  |
| 28      | Missaukee<br>Wexford                | William M. Faggerman   | 45      | St. Joseph                     | Paul E. Stutesman   |
| 29      | Clinton<br>Graftiot                 | Michelle M. Rick<br>Randy L. Tahvonen  | 46      | Crawford<br>Kalkaska<br>Otsego | Janet M. Allen<br>George J. Mertz   |
| 30      | Ingham                              | Rosemarie E. Aquilina<br>Laura Baird<br>Clinton Canady, III<br>William E. Collette<br>Joyce Draganchuk<br>James S. Jamo<br>Janelle A. Lawless  | 47      | Delta                          | Stephen T. Davis  |
| 31      | St. Clair                           | Daniel J. Kelly<br>Cynthia A. Lane<br>Michael L. West  | 48      | Allegan                        | Margaret Bakker<br>Kevin W. Cronin  |
| 32      | Gogebic<br>Ontonagon                | Roy D. Gotham  | 49      | Mecosta<br>Osceola             | Scott P. Hill-Kennedy<br>Ronald C. Nichols                                      |
| 33      | Charlevoix                          | Richard M. Pajtas  | 50      | Chippewa                       | Nicholas J. Lambros   |
|         |                                     |  | 51      | Lake<br>Mason                  | Richard I. Cooper   |
|         |                                     |  | 52      | Huron                          | M. Richard Knoblock   |
|         |                                     |  | 53      | Cheboygan<br>Presque Isle      | Scott Lee Pavlich   |
|         |                                     |  | 54      | Tuscola                        | Amy Grace Gierhart  |
|         |                                     |  | 55      | Clare<br>Gladwin               | Thomas R. Evans<br>Roy G. Mienk   |
|         |                                     |  | 56      | Eaton                          | Janice K. Cunningham  |
|         |                                     |  | 57      | Emmet                          | Charles W. Johnson  |

## MICHIGAN PROBATE COURTS AND PROBATE COURT DISTRICTS



**Constitution of Michigan of 1963  
Article VI, Sec. 15**

“In each county organized for judicial purposes there shall be a probate court. The legislature may create or alter probate court districts of more than one county if approved in each affected county by a majority of the electors voting on the question . . .”

### 2013 Courts and Judgeships

| LEGEND                                   | TOTALS                        |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ⊕ - Probate Court Districts              | 103 - Judgeships              |
| (#) - Number of Probate Court Judgeships | 78 - Number of Probate Courts |

## JUDGES OF THE PROBATE COURT

| County                   | Judge of Probate          | County                      | Judge of Probate            |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alcona . . . . .         | Laura A. Frawley          | Mecosta . . . . .           | ****                        |
| Alger . . . . .          | *                         | Menominee . . . . .         | William A. Hupy             |
| Allegan . . . . .        | Michael L. Buck           | Midland . . . . .           | Dorene S. Allen             |
| Alpena . . . . .         | Thomas J. LaCross         | Missaukee . . . . .         | Charles R. Parsons          |
| Antrim . . . . .         | Norman R. Hayes           | Monroe . . . . .            | Frank L. Arnold             |
| Arenac . . . . .         | Richard E. Vollbach, Jr.  |                             | John A. Hohman, Jr.         |
| Baraga . . . . .         | Timothy S. Brennan        | Montcalm . . . . .          | Charles W. Simon, III       |
| Barry . . . . .          | William M. Doherty        | Montmorency . . . . .       | Benjamin T. Bolser          |
| Bay . . . . .            | Karen Tighe               | Muskegon . . . . .          | Neil G. Mullally            |
| Benzie . . . . .         | John Mead                 |                             | Gregory Christopher Pittman |
| Berrien . . . . .        | Mabel Johnson Mayfield    | Newaygo . . . . .           | Graydon W. Dimkoff          |
|                          | Thomas E. Nelson          | Oakland . . . . .           | Linda S. Hallmark           |
| Branch . . . . .         | Kirk A. Kashian           |                             | Daniel A. O'Brien           |
| Calhoun . . . . .        | Michael L. Jaconette      |                             | Elizabeth M. Pezzetti       |
| Cass . . . . .           | Susan L. Dobrich          |                             | Kathleen A. Ryan            |
| Charlevoix . . . . .     | ***                       | Oceana . . . . .            | Bradley G. Lambrix          |
| Cheboygan . . . . .      | Robert John Butts         | Ogemaw . . . . .            | Shana A. Lambourn           |
| Chippewa . . . . .       | Elizabeth Biolette Church | Ontonagon . . . . .         | Janis M. Burgess            |
| Clare . . . . .          | ****                      | Osceola . . . . .           | *****                       |
| Clinton . . . . .        | Lisa Sullivan             | Oscoda . . . . .            | Kathryn Joan Root           |
| Crawford . . . . .       | Monte Burmeister          | Otsego . . . . .            | Michael K. Cooper           |
| Delta . . . . .          | Robert E. Goebel, Jr.     | Ottawa . . . . .            | Mark A. Feyen               |
| Dickinson . . . . .      | Thomas D. Slagle          | Presque Isle . . . . .      | Donald J. McLennan          |
| Eaton . . . . .          | Thomas K. Byerley         | Roscommon . . . . .         | Douglas C. Dossou           |
| Emmet . . . . .          | ***                       | Saginaw . . . . .           | Faye M. Harrison            |
| Genesee . . . . .        | Jennie E. Barkey          |                             | Patrick J. McGraw           |
|                          | F. Kay Behm               | St. Clair . . . . .         | Elwood L. Brown             |
| Gladwin . . . . .        | ****                      |                             | John Tomlinson              |
| Goebic . . . . .         | Joel L. Massie            | St. Joseph . . . . .        | David C. Tomlinson          |
| Grand Traverse . . . . . | Melanie Stanton           | Sanilac . . . . .           | Gregory S. Ross             |
| Gratiot . . . . .        | Kristin M. Bakker         | Schoolcraft . . . . .       | *                           |
| Hillsdale . . . . .      | Michelle Snell Bianchi    | Shiawassee . . . . .        | Thomas J. Dignan            |
| Houghton . . . . .       | Fraser T. Strome          | Tuscola . . . . .           | Nancy Thane                 |
| Huron . . . . .          | David L. Clabuesch        | Van Buren . . . . .         | Frank D. Willis             |
|                          | David B. Herrington       | Washtenaw . . . . .         | Darlene A. O'Brien          |
| Ingham . . . . .         | R. George Economy         |                             | Nancy Cornelia Wheeler      |
|                          | Richard Joseph Garcia     | Wayne . . . . .             | June E. Blackwell-Hatcher   |
| Ionia . . . . .          | Robert S. Sykes, Jr.      |                             | Freddie G. Burton, Jr.      |
| Iosco . . . . .          | Christopher P. Martin     |                             | Judy A. Hartsfield          |
| Iron . . . . .           | C. Joseph Schwedler       |                             | Terrance A. Keith           |
| Isabella . . . . .       | William T. Ervin          |                             | Milton L. Mack, Jr.         |
| Jackson . . . . .        | Diane M. Rapplepey        |                             | Cathie B. Maher             |
| Kalamazoo . . . . .      | Curtis J. Bell            |                             | Lisa Marie Neilson          |
|                          | Patricia N. Conlon        |                             | Frank S. Szymanski          |
|                          | Donald R. Halstead        | Wexford . . . . .           | Kenneth L. Tacoma           |
| Kalkaska . . . . .       | Lynne Marie Buday         |                             |                             |
| Kent . . . . .           | Patricia D. Gardner       | * District 5 . . . . .      | Charles C. Nebel            |
|                          | G. Patrick Hillary        | Alger                       |                             |
|                          | David M. Murkowski        | Schoolcraft                 |                             |
|                          | George J. Quist           | ** District 6 . . . . .     | W. Clayton Graham           |
| Keweenaw . . . . .       | James G. Jaaskelainen     | Luce                        |                             |
| Lake . . . . .           | Mark S. Wickens           | Mackinac                    |                             |
| Lapeer . . . . .         | Justus C. Scott           | *** District 7 . . . . .    | Frederick R. Mulhauser      |
| Leelanau . . . . .       | Larry J. Nelson           | Charlevoix                  |                             |
| Lenawee . . . . .        | Gregg P. Iddings          | Emmet                       |                             |
| Livingston . . . . .     | Miriam Cavanaugh          | **** District 17 . . . . .  | Marcy A. Klaus              |
| Luce . . . . .           | **                        | Clare                       |                             |
| Mackinac . . . . .       | **                        | Gladwin                     |                             |
| Macomb . . . . .         | Kathryn A. George         | ***** District 18 . . . . . | Marco S. Menezes            |
|                          | Carl J. Marlinga          | Mecosta                     |                             |
| Manistee . . . . .       | Thomas N. Brunner         | Osceola                     |                             |
| Marquette . . . . .      | Cheryl L. Hill            |                             |                             |
| Mason . . . . .          | Jeffrey C. Nellis         |                             |                             |

## DISTRICT COURT — JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



**Act 236 of 1961,  
Sec. 8101(1)**

“A district court is established in the state. The district court is a court of record. The state is divided into judicial districts of the district court each of which is an administrative unit subject to the superintending control of the supreme court.”

Unnumbered counties are shown in detail on the following pages.

### 2013 Courts and Judgeships

| LEGEND                                   | TOTALS                          |
|--|---------------------------------|
| # - District Court                       | 249 - Judgeships                |
| ⊕ - Number of District Court Judgeships* | 104 - Number of District Courts |

\*In a few counties, the probate judge also serves as the district court judge. Those district courts are listed as having 0 judges.

## JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT

| District | Geographical Area   | Judge  |
|----------|---|--|
| 1        | Monroe County . . . . .   | Mark S. Braunlich<br>Terrence P. Bronson<br>Jack Vitale  |
| 2A       | Lenawee County . . . . .  | Laura S. Schaedler<br>James E. Sheridan  |
| 2B       | Hillsdale County . . . . .  | Donald L. Sanderson  |
| 3A       | Branch County . . . . .   | Brent R. Weigle  |
| 3B       | St. Joseph County . . . . .   | Jeffrey C. Middleton<br>Robert Pattison  |
| 4        | Cass County . . . . .   | Stacey A. Rentfrow   |
| 5        | Berrien County . . . . .  | Gary J. Bruce<br>Scott Schofield<br>Sterling R. Schrock<br>Dennis M. Wiley   |
| 7        | Van Buren County . . . . .  | Arthur H. Clarke, III<br>Robert T. Hentchel  |
| 8        | Kalamazoo County . . . . .  | Anne E. Blatchford<br>Paul J. Bridenstine<br>Robert C. Kropf<br>Julie K. Phillips<br>Richard A. Santoni<br>Vincent C. Westra |
| 10       | Calhoun County & the City of Battle Creek . . . . .                             | Samuel I. Durham, Jr.<br>John A. Hallacy<br>John R. Holmes<br>Franklin K. Line, Jr.  |
| 12       | Jackson County . . . . .  | Joseph S. Filip<br>Daniel A. Goostrey<br>Michael J. Klaeren<br>R. Darryl Mazur   |
| 14A      | Washtenaw County, except City of Ann Arbor &<br>Township of Ypsilanti . . . . . | Richard E. Conlin<br>J. Cedric Simpson<br>Kirk W. Tabbey   |
| 14B      | Township of Ypsilanti . . . . .   | Charles Pope   |
| 15       | City of Ann Arbor . . . . .   | Joseph F. Burke<br>Christopher S. Easthope<br>Elizabeth Pollard Hines  |
| 16       | City of Livonia . . . . .   | Sean P. Kavanagh<br>Kathleen J. McCann   |
| 17       | Township of Redford . . . . .   | Karen Khalil<br>Charlotte L. Wirth   |
| 18       | City of Westland . . . . .  | Sandra A. Cicirelli<br>Mark A. McConnell   |
| 19       | City of Dearborn . . . . .  | William C. Hultgren<br>Sam A. Salamey<br>Mark W. Somers  |
| 20       | City of Dearborn Heights . . . . .  | Mark J. Plawecki<br>David Turfe  |
| 21       | City of Garden City . . . . .   | Richard L. Hammer, Jr.   |
| 22       | City of Inkster . . . . .   | Sabrina L. Johnson   |
| 23       | City of Taylor . . . . .  | Geno Salomone<br>William J. Sutherland   |
| 24       | Cities of Allen Park & Melvindale . . . . .                                     | John T. Courtright<br>Richard A. Page  |
| 25       | Cities of Lincoln Park & Ecorse . . . . .                                       | Michael F. Ciugan<br>David J. Zelenak  |

## JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

| District | Geographical Area  | Judge  |
|----------|--|--|
| 27       | Cities of Wyandotte & Riverview . . . . .  | Randy L. Kalmbach  |
| 28       | City of Southgate. . . . .   | James A. Kandrevas   |
| 29       | City of Wayne . . . . .  | Laura Redmond Mack   |
| 30       | City of Highland Park . . . . .  | Brigette R. Officer  |
| 31       | City of Hamtramck . . . . .  | Paul J. Paruk  |
| 32A      | City of Harper Woods . . . . .   | Roger J. La Rose   |
| 33       | Cities of Trenton, Gibraltar, Woodhaven, Rockwood &<br>Flat Rock; Townships of Brownstown & Grosse Ile . . . . . | Jennifer Coleman Hesson<br>James Kurt Kersten<br>Michael K. McNally  |
| 34       | Cities of Romulus and Belleville;<br>Townships of Sumpter, Van Buren & Huron . . . . .                           | Tina Brooks Green<br>Brian A. Oakley<br>David M. Parrott   |
| 35       | Cities of Northville & Plymouth;<br>Townships of Northville, Plymouth & Canton . . . . .                         | Michael J. Gerou<br>Ronald W. Lowe<br>James A. Plakas  |
| 36       | City of Detroit. . . . .   | Lydia Nance Adams<br>Roberta C. Archer<br>Joseph N. Baltimore<br>Nancy McCaughan Blount<br>Izetta F. Bright<br>Demetria Brue<br>Esther L. Bryant-Weekes<br>Ruth C. Carter<br>Donald Coleman<br>Prentis Edwards, Jr.<br>Wanda Evans<br>Deborah Geraldine Ford<br>Ruth Ann Garrett<br>Ronald Giles<br>Katherine Hansen<br>Shannon A. Holmes<br>Paula G. Humphries<br>Patricia L. Jefferson<br>Alicia A. Jones-Coleman<br>Kenneth J. King<br>Deborah L. Langston<br>Leonia J. Lloyd<br>Miriam B. Martin-Clark<br>William McConico<br>Donna R. Millhouse<br>B. Pennie Millender<br>Cylenthia LaToye Miller<br>Kevin F. Robbins<br>David S. Robinson, Jr.<br>Brenda K. Sanders<br>Michael E. Wagner |
| 37       | Cities of Center Line & Warren . . . . .   | Dean Ausilio<br>John M. Chmura<br>Jennifer Faunce<br>Matthew P. Sabaugh  |
| 38       | City of Eastpointe . . . . .   | Carl F. Gerds, III   |
| 39       | Cities of Roseville & Fraser . . . . .   | Joseph F. Boedeker<br>Marco A. Santia<br>Catherine B. Steenland  |
| 40       | City of St. Clair Shores. . . . .  | Mark A. Fratarcangeli<br>Joseph Craigen Oster  |

## JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

| District   | Geographical Area   | Judge  |
|------------|---|--|
| 41A        | Cities of Utica & Sterling Heights;<br>Townships of Shelby & Macomb . . . . .   | Michael S. Maceroni<br>Douglas P. Shepherd<br>Stephen S. Sierawski<br>Kimberley Anne Wiegand                   |
| 41B        | City of Mt. Clemens; Townships of Clinton & Harrison . . . . .  | Linda Davis<br>Carrie Lynn Fuca<br>Sebastian Lucido  |
| 42, Div. 1 | Cities of Memphis & Richmond; Townships of<br>Bruce, Washington, Armada, Ray & Richmond . . . . .   | Denis R. LeDuc   |
| Div. 2     | City of New Baltimore; Townships of Lenox &<br>Chesterfield . . . . .   | William H. Hackel, III   |
| 43         | Cities of Madison Heights, Ferndale & Hazel Park . . . . .  | Charles G. Goedert<br>Keith P. Hunt<br>Joseph Longo  |
| 44         | City of Royal Oak . . . . .   | Terrence H. Brennan<br>Derek W. Meinecke   |
| 45         | Cities of Huntington Woods, Oak Park &<br>Pleasant Ridge; Township of Royal Oak . . . . .   | Michelle Friedman Appel<br>David M. Gubow  |
| 45A        | City of Berkley . . . . .   | James L. Wittenberg  |
| 46         | Cities of Southfield & Lathrup Village;<br>Township of Southfield . . . . .   | Shelia R. Johnson<br>Debra Nance<br>William J. Richards  |
| 47         | Cities of Farmington & Farmington Hills . . . . .   | James Brady<br>Marla E. Parker   |
| 48         | Cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Sylvan Lake,<br>Keego Harbor & Orchard Lake Village;<br>Townships of Bloomfield & West Bloomfield . . . . . | Marc Barron<br>Diane D'Agostini<br>Kimberly Small  |
| 50         | City of Pontiac . . . . .   | Ronda Fowlkes Gross<br>Michael C. Martinez<br>Preston G. Thomas<br>Cynthia Thomas Walker                       |
| 51         | Township of Waterford . . . . .   | Jodi R. Debbrecht<br>Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.  |
| 52, Div. 1 | Cities of Novi, South Lyon, Wixom & Walled Lake;<br>Townships of Milford, Highland, Commerce,<br>Lyon & Novi . . . . .                              | Robert Bondy<br>Brian W. MacKenzie<br>Dennis N. Powers   |
| Div. 2     | City of Clarkston; Townships of Springfield,<br>Independence, Holly, Groveland, Rose,<br>White Lake & Brandon . . . . .                             | Joseph G. Fabrizio<br>Kelley Renae Kostin  |
| Div. 3     | Cities of Rochester, Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills &<br>Lake Angelus; Townships of Oxford, Addison,<br>Orion & Oakland . . . . .                    | Lisa L. Asadoorian<br>Nancy Towlin Carniak<br>Julie A. Nicholson<br>William E. Bolle<br>Kirsten Nielsen Hartig |
| Div. 4     | Cities of Clawson & Troy . . . . .  | Theresa M. Brennan<br>L. Suzanne Geddis<br>Carol Sue Reader  |
| 53         | Livingston County . . . . .   | Louise Alderson<br>Patrick F. Cherry<br>Hugh B. Clarke, Jr.<br>Frank J. DeLuca<br>Charles F. Filice            |
| 54A        | City of Lansing . . . . .   | Richard D. Ball<br>Andrea Andrews Larkin   |
| 54B        | City of East Lansing . . . . .  |  |

## JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

| District   | Geographical Area  | Judge   |
|------------|--|---|
| 55         | Ingham County, except Cities of Lansing & East Lansing . . .   | Donald L. Allen<br>Thomas P. Boyd   |
| 56A        | Eaton County . . . . .   | Harvey J. Hoffman<br>Julie H. Reincke   |
| 56B        | Barry County . . . . .   | Michael Lee Schipper  |
| 57         | Allegan County . . . . .   | William A. Baillargeon<br>Joseph S. Skocelas  |
| 58         | Ottawa County . . . . .  | Craig E. Bunce<br>Susan A. Jonas<br>Bradley S. Knoll<br>Kenneth D. Post   |
| 59         | Cities of Grandville & Walker . . . . .  | Peter P. Versluis   |
| 60         | Muskegon County . . . . .  | Harold F. Closz, III<br>Maria Ladus Hoopes<br>Michael Jeffrey Nolan<br>Andrew Wierengo  |
| 61         | City of Grand Rapids . . . . .   | David J. Buter<br>J. Michael Christensen<br>Jeanine Nemesi LaVille<br>Ben H. Logan, II<br>Donald H. Passenger<br>Kimberly A. Schaefer |
| 62A        | City of Wyoming . . . . .  | Pablo Cortes<br>Steven M. Timmers   |
| 62B        | City of Kentwood . . . . .   | William G. Kelly  |
| 63, Div. 1 | Cities of Cedar Springs & Rockford; Townships of Tyrone,<br>Solon, Nelson, Spencer, Sparta, Algoma, Courtland,<br>Oakfield, Alpine, Plainfield, Cannon & Grattan . . . . . | Steven R. Servaas   |
| Div. 2     | Cities of East Grand Rapids & Lowell;<br>Townships of Grand Rapids, Ada, Vergennes, Cascade,<br>Lowell, Byron, Gaines, Caledonia & Bowne . . . . .                         | Sara J. Smolenski   |
| 64A        | Ionia County . . . . .   | Raymond P. Voet   |
| 64B        | Montcalm County . . . . .  | Donald R. Hemingsen   |
| 65A        | Clinton County . . . . .   | Richard D. Wells  |
| 65B        | Gratiot County . . . . .   | Stewart D. McDonald   |
| 66         | Shiawassee County . . . . .  | Ward L. Clarkson<br>Terrance P. Dignan  |
| 67, Div. 1 | Cities of Flushing & Clio; Townships of Flushing,<br>Flint, Montrose, Thetford & Vienna . . . . .  | David J. Goggins  |
| Div. 2     | Cities of Davison & Burton; Townships of Davison,<br>Forest, Richfield & Atlas . . . . .   | John L. Conover<br>Mark W. Latchana<br>Larry Stecco   |
| Div. 3     | City of Mt. Morris; Townships of Mt. Morris & Genesee . .  | Mark C. McCabe  |
| Div. 4     | Cities of Fenton, Grand Blanc & Swartz Creek;<br>Townships of Fenton, Argentine, Grand Blanc, Mundy,<br>Gaines & Clayton . . . . .   | Christopher Odette  |
| 68         | City of Flint . . . . .  | Tracy L. Collier-Nix<br>William H. Crawford, II<br>Mary Catherine Dowd<br>Herman Marable, Jr.<br>Nathaniel C. Perry, III              |
| 70, Div. 1 | Cities of Saginaw & Zilwaukee; Townships of<br>Zilwaukee, Buena Vista, Carrollton & Bridgeport . . . . .   | Terry L. Clark<br>M. Randall Jurrens<br>M. T. Thompson, Jr.   |
| Div. 2     | Saginaw County, except Cities of Saginaw &<br>Zilwaukee, Townships of Zilwaukee, Buena Vista,<br>Carrollton & Bridgeport . . . . .   | Alfred T. Frank<br>Kyle Higgs Tarrant   |
| 71A        | Lapeer County . . . . .  | Laura Cheger-Barnard  |
| 71B        | Tuscola County . . . . .   | Kim David Glaspie   |



## JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

| District | Geographical Area                                    | Judge   |
|----------|--|---|
| 72       | St. Clair County . . . . .                           | Michael L. Hulewicz<br>John D. Monaghan<br>Cynthia Siemen Platzer |
| 73A*     | Sanilac County . . . . .                             | None  |
| 73B*     | Huron County . . . . .                               | None  |
| 74       | Bay County . . . . .                                 | Mark E. Janer<br>Timothy J. Kelly<br>Dawn A. Klida                |
| 75       | Midland County . . . . .                             | Stephen Carras<br>John Henry Hart                                 |
| 76       | Isabella County . . . . .                            | William R. Rush   |
| 77       | Mecosta & Osceola Counties . . . . .                 | Susan H. Grant  |
| 78       | Oceana & Newaygo Counties . . . . .                  | H. Kevin Drake  |
| 79       | Mason & Lake Counties . . . . .                      | Peter J. Wadel  |
| 80       | Clare & Gladwin Counties . . . . .                   | Joshua M. Farrell   |
| 81       | Alcona, Arenac, Iosco & Oscoda Counties . . . . .    | Allen C. Yenior   |
| 82       | Ogemaw County . . . . .                              | Richard E. Noble  |
| 83       | Roscommon County . . . . .                           | Daniel L. Sutton  |
| 84       | Missaukee & Wexford Counties . . . . .               | David A. Hogg   |
| 85*      | Benzie & Manistee Counties . . . . .                 | None  |
| 86       | Antrim, Grand Traverse & Leelanau Counties . . . . . | Michael J. Haley<br>Thomas J. Phillips<br>Michael Stepka          |
| 87A      | Otsego County . . . . .                              | Patricia A. Morse   |
| 87B*     | Kalkaska County . . . . .                            | None  |
| 87C*     | Crawford County . . . . .                            | None  |
| 88       | Alpena & Montmorency Counties . . . . .              | Theodore O. Johnson   |
| 89       | Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties . . . . .          | Maria I. Barton   |
| 90       | Charlevoix & Emmet Counties . . . . .                | James N. Erhart   |
| 91*      | Chippewa County . . . . .                            | None  |
| 92       | Luce & Mackinac Counties . . . . .                   | Beth Gibson   |
| 93       | Alger & Schoolcraft Counties . . . . .               | Mark E. Luoma   |
| 94       | Delta County . . . . .                               | Glenn A. Pearson  |
| 95A      | Menominee County . . . . .                           | Jeffrey G. Barstow  |
| 95B      | Dickinson & Iron Counties . . . . .                  | Christopher S. Ninomiya   |
| 96       | Marquette County . . . . .                           | Dennis H. Girard<br>Roger W. Kangas                               |
| 97       | Baraga, Houghton & Keweenaw Counties . . . . .       | Mark A. Wisti   |
| 98       | Gogebic & Ontonagon Counties . . . . .               | Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.   |

\* In a few counties, the probate judge also serves as the district court judge. Those district courts are listed as having no judges.

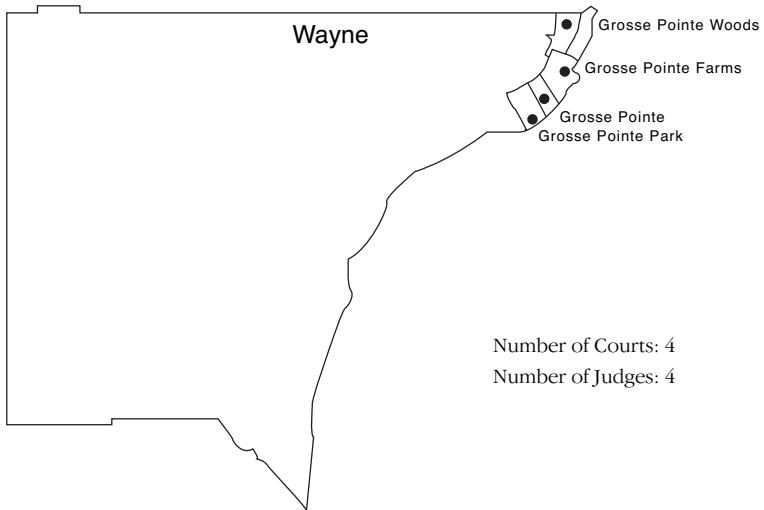
## MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal courts were organized subject to Act 5 of 1956, although most were organized under either Act 279 of 1909 or Act 269 of 1933. They have exclusive original jurisdiction over all ordinance violations, criminal jurisdiction equal to that of district court, and civil jurisdiction of claims limited to \$3,000.

The District Court Act of 1968 abolished most of the municipal courts, but permitted some municipalities to retain their courts. Four such municipal courts remain: Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, and Grosse Pointe Woods, all in Wayne County.

Municipal judges must be lawyers and residents and electors of their municipalities. They are paid by the municipalities and are elected for 4-year terms.

In 2010, 35,736 cases were filed, continuing a downward trend seen in previous years. Thirty-seven percent of cases filed are traffic related.



## JUDICIAL BRANCH AGENCIES

### ***State Appellate Defender Office***

The Michigan Supreme Court established the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) through a 1969 federal grant award, followed by a 1970 administrative order, Order 1970-1, charging it with providing high-quality and efficient legal representation to indigent criminal defendants in post-conviction matters. In 1979, legislation was enacted to formally establish and fund the office, with mandates to handle no less than 25% of statewide appellate assignments, and to provide legal resources to the criminal defense bar. Public Act 620 of 1978 (MCL 780.711 et seq.) created a seven-member Appellate Defender Commission, charged with developing and supervising a coordinated system for providing counsel for all indigent criminal appeals in Michigan.

SADO has offices in Detroit and Lansing providing appellate representation to indigent criminal appellants in all state and appropriate federal courts. Its attorneys routinely obtain corrections to client sentences that produce cost savings for Michigan taxpayers, as well as new trials and exonerations in a smaller percentage of cases. SADO has a comprehensive training program for its staff, and trains law students through clinics or classes offered at all Michigan law schools. Special projects are funded through a variety of federal grants. In recent years, projects have included: (1) a Crime Lab Project providing advocacy for persons adversely affected by the closure of the Detroit Police Crime Lab, (2) a Fast Response for Wrongful Conviction Project that identifies and investigates forensic and evidentiary issues in sufficient time to allow for their development on appeal, and (3) a Social Worker Sentencing Project that uses a social worker/attorney team to seek non-prison and shorter sentences for clients posing little risk to public safety. Community outreach and holistic client support are provided through a variety of special events and materials developed by SADO staff.

SADO's Criminal Defense Resource Center (CDRC) provides support services and training to Michigan's criminal defense community using its portal site, [www.sado.org](http://www.sado.org). Services include online databases (pleadings, expert testimony, and more), court opinion summaries, four practice manuals (the Defender Books), technology and sentencing training events throughout the state, an online discussion group, and direct research support for attorneys practicing in Michigan's busiest criminal court, Wayne Circuit Court. The CDRC administers approximately \$300,000 in training funds awarded to SADO annually, partnering with the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan, Criminal Advocacy Program of Wayne Circuit Court, and others.

### ***Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS)***

Assigned private counsel handle 75% of all indigent felony appeals in Michigan. Until the advent of MAACS, there existed no uniform statewide method of qualifying and selecting those attorneys. Each jurisdiction had its own method of appointing appellate counsel and of paying them from county funds. The result was wide disparity in the quality of representation provided.

Act 620 of 1978 requires the commission to compile and keep current a statewide roster of attorneys eligible for, and willing to accept, appointment as criminal appellate defense counsel and to provide continuing legal education for those attorneys. MAACS is the administrative office that screens the qualifications of attorneys seeking to join the statewide roster, compiles local lists of roster attorneys willing to accept appointments in circuit court, provides training programs and resource materials to roster attorneys, and monitors compliance with the Minimum Standards for Indigent Criminal Appellate Defense Services.

Pursuant to its statutory mandate to develop a comprehensive service delivery system, the Appellate Defender Commission has adopted regulations designed to insure that appellate assignments are fairly distributed among qualified lawyers and that assigned private counsel remain professionally independent. MAACS monitors the process by which appellate counsel are selected in each jurisdiction, the distribution of cases among private counsel, and the allocation of cases between private counsel and SADO. MAACS also provides training programs and other reference materials to the attorneys on its roster. MAACS is located at 1375 S. Washington, Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48913. Thomas Harp is the current administrator.



### ***Attorney Discipline Board***

The Michigan Attorney Discipline Board was created by the Michigan Supreme Court, effective October 1, 1978, as the adjudicative arm of the Supreme Court for the discharge of the court's constitutional responsibility to supervise and discipline Michigan attorneys.

The Attorney Discipline Board consists of 9 members who serve without compensation and who are appointed by the Supreme Court as follows: 6 lawyers and 3 public members (nonlawyers), each of whom may serve no more than 2 3-year terms.

The role of the board in disciplinary proceedings begins after a grievance has been investigated by the grievance administrator and approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission for the filing of a formal complaint with the board. Grievances against attorneys are confidential during the investigation stage; however, the formal complaint, pleadings, hearing transcript, and orders are a matter of public record. All hearings conducted by the Attorney Discipline Board and its hearing panels are open to the public.

As appointees of the Attorney Discipline Board, approximately 425 Michigan attorneys serve as volunteers on the 3-member panels, which act as the trial level of the board's proceedings. The board may also refer a matter for examination by a special master when a complaint involves specialized questions of fact or is of such complexity or volume that it requires prolonged hearing time or expedited attention.

Proceedings before a hearing panel are governed by the Michigan Court Rules applicable to a civil matter tried without a jury and by the Michigan Rules of Evidence. Special procedural rules apply in cases based upon an attorney's conviction of a crime or an adjudication of professional misconduct in another jurisdiction. In all other disciplinary proceedings, professional misconduct must be established by a preponderance of the evidence. If misconduct is established, the hearing panel must conduct a separate hearing to determine the appropriate level of discipline. A hearing panel may enter orders of probation, reprimand, suspension for a stated period of time (minimum — 30 days), or disbarment. A hearing panel is empowered to order restitution to the attorney's client(s) and must order reimbursement to the State Bar of Michigan of the expenses of the hearing. A separate court rule governs proceedings before a hearing panel based upon a complaint by the grievance administrator to place an attorney on inactive status because of mental or physical incapacity.

A hearing panel's order to dismiss a complaint or to impose discipline becomes a final order unless appealed to the Attorney Discipline Board. Appeals from hearing panel decisions are heard by the full board as a matter of right and are based upon the record before the panel. Appeals from a decision by the board may be pursued only by leave of the Michigan Supreme Court. Appeals may be filed by the grievance administrator, the respondent/attorney, or the original complainant(s).

Attorneys who are found to be physically or mentally unable to continue in the practice of law may be placed on inactive status for an indefinite period; disciplinary complaints against such individuals are held in abeyance during the period of incapacity.

Attorneys suspended for 179 days or less may be automatically reinstated upon the filing of an affidavit of compliance with the order of discipline. In cases of suspension for 180 days or more, the attorney must file a petition for reinstatement, which is followed by a new investigation and establishment by the respondent/attorney of his or her fitness to reenter the practice of law. Attorneys suspended for 3 years or more must, in addition to reinstatement proceedings, undergo examination and recertification by the State Board of Law Examiners. In Michigan, an attorney who has been disbarred may petition for reinstatement after 5 years. The office of the board is located in Suite 1410, 211 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226. John F. Van Bolt, Executive Director.

Further information about the board, including board orders and opinions, notices of discipline and the most recent annual reports may be obtained at the board's website: [www.adbmich.org](http://www.adbmich.org).

### ***Attorney Grievance Commission***

The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission was created by the Michigan Supreme Court, effective October 1, 1978. Along with the simultaneously created Attorney Discipline Board, the commission succeeded the former State Bar Grievance Board. Pursuant to MCR 9.108(A), the commission is the prosecutorial arm of the supreme court for the discharge of its constitutional responsibility to supervise and discipline Michigan attorneys.

The Attorney Grievance Commission has 9 members. Three members are lay persons and 6 are attorneys, appointed by the Supreme Court.

Pursuant to MCR 9.108(E)(1), the commission has the power and duty to recommend attorneys to the Supreme Court for appointment as grievance administrator and deputy grievance administrator. The grievance administrator serves as executive director and chief prosecutor.

Sub-chapter 9.100 of the Michigan Court Rules governs attorney disciplinary proceedings.

Grievances filed against attorneys are denominated “requests for investigation.” Any person may file a request for investigation with the grievance administrator and the grievance administrator may also file a request.

Following the filing of a request for investigation, the grievance administrator must determine whether a prima facie allegation of professional misconduct, i.e., a violation of Michigan Court Rule 9.104, exists. The grievance administrator may reject the request for investigation on its face or after a preliminary investigation, or he or she may conduct a full investigation. If the grievance administrator does not reject the request for investigation, he or she will, upon conclusion of the investigation, recommend to the commission that (1) the matter be closed as there is not evidence of professional misconduct sufficient to sustain the burden of proof at a disciplinary proceeding, or (2) the commission admonish the respondent attorney pursuant to MCR 9.106(6) (this does not constitute discipline), or (3) authorization be granted for the issuance of a formal complaint.

Upon being authorized to file a formal complaint by the commission, the grievance administrator causes a complaint to be prepared and filed with the Attorney Discipline Board. The only exception to this is in the case of criminal convictions, where an order is issued by the board commanding the respondent to show cause why discipline should not be imposed.

Public hearings on charges of misconduct are held before 3-lawyer hearing panels of the Attorney Discipline Board. In the case of a formal complaint, the grievance administrator is required to prove his or her case by a preponderance of the evidence. Upon conclusion of the hearing, if the panel finds that the grievance administrator has failed to prove misconduct alleged in the formal complaint by a preponderance of the evidence, the charge against the respondent must be dismissed. If the panel concludes that misconduct has been proven by a preponderance of the evidence, the panel must enter an order of discipline, which may consist of a reprimand, probation, suspension, or disbarment. Restitution to an aggrieved party may also be required.

Any party may appeal an order of a hearing panel, as a matter of right, to the Attorney Discipline Board, and may seek leave to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court from an order of the Attorney Discipline Board. The office of the commission is located in Suite 1700, 535 Griswold St., Detroit, MI 48226. Robert L. Agacinski, Grievance Administrator.



### ***Judicial Tenure Commission***

Michigan’s Judicial Tenure Commission was established in 1968 when voters approved H.J.R. PP, which added Sec. 30 to Article VI of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. The commission serves to promote the integrity of the judicial process and preserve public confidence in the courts by holding judges accountable for their misconduct without jeopardizing or compromising the essential independence of the judiciary. The basis for commission action is a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Rules of Professional Responsibility. The code is published with the Michigan Court Rules.

On recommendation of the Judicial Tenure Commission, the Michigan Supreme Court may censure, suspend with or without salary, retire, or remove a judge for conviction of a felony, physical or mental disability that prevents the performance of judicial duties, misconduct in office, persistent failure to perform duties, habitual intemperance, or conduct that is clearly prejudicial to the administration of justice. The office is located at Cadillac Place, 3034 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202. Paul J. Fischer, Executive Director. For more information, see [www.jtc.courts.mi.gov](http://www.jtc.courts.mi.gov).



### ***State Board of Law Examiners***

The State Board of Law Examiners, constituted by Act 236 of 1961, consists of 5 active members of the bar, each of whom holds office for 5 years and one of whom is appointed by the governor on nomination by the Supreme Court on the first day of July each year.

The board has charge of the investigation and examination of all persons who initially apply for admission to the bar of this state. The board offices are located at 4th Floor, Hall of Justice, P.O. Box 30052, Lansing, MI 48909. Timothy J. Raubinger, Assistant Secretary. For more information, see <http://courts.mi.gov/courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/BLE>.



## STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

According to the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Article VI, Section 3, “. . . the supreme court shall appoint an administrator of the courts and other assistants of the supreme court as may be necessary to aid in the administration of the courts of this state. The administrator shall perform administrative duties assigned by the court.” Under the general direction of the Supreme Court, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is responsible for assisting in the administration of justice in Michigan’s trial courts. The state court administrator is also responsible for advising the Supreme Court, as well as the executive and legislative branches, on matters relating to the management of Michigan’s One Court of Justice. For more information on SCAO, go to [www.courts.michigan.gov/scao](http://www.courts.michigan.gov/scao).

The **State Court Administrative Office (SCAO)** provides management assistance and oversight to chief judges and judges of 244 trial courts and their trial court staff on matters relating to trial court management. SCAO collects, analyzes, and publishes management information regarding operations of trial courts. This information is used by the Supreme Court and state court administrator in evaluating the performance of Michigan courts and making decisions regarding their operations. The office provides analyses of legislative and executive branch policy initiatives in terms of their administrative impact on the judiciary. SCAO also assists in the evaluation of court rules and legislation affecting administration of courts, proposes changes to rules and statutes where appropriate, and advises the Supreme Court on administrative matters.

SCAO is comprised of 6 divisions: Trial Court Services, Child Welfare Services, Office of Dispute Resolution, Judicial Information Systems, Michigan Judicial Institute, and Regional Administration. Each division has a director responsible for oversight, coordination, improvement efforts, and overall management of each of their respective divisions. Each division director reports directly to the state court administrator.

**Trial Court Services** is responsible for providing management assistance to courts; administering, participating in, and providing support to a variety of court improvement projects; developing and implementing policies and procedures; conducting legislative and policy analyses; providing standards for trial court operations; serving as liaison to court management organizations and executive and legislative branch agencies; and producing various publications, procedural manuals, and standard court forms are used in everyday operations within the courts. Trial Court Services’ Friend of the Court Bureau offers policy and operational support to family division judges and friend of the court offices, including recommending procedures and guidelines for child support, custody, and parenting time cases. Trial Court Services also provides staff support to the Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review, which establishes criteria and administers tests for certification of court reporters and recorders. Special projects include the Drug Treatment Court Grant Program and Trial Court Collections.

**Child Welfare Services (CWS)** provides assistance to circuit court family divisions on child welfare matters, including child protective proceedings, foster care, adoption, coordination with Indian tribes, termination of parental rights, permanency outcomes, and data collection and analysis. CWS administers the Michigan Court Improvement Program (CIP) and the Foster Care Review Board Program (FCRB) and provides 25 to 30 multi-disciplinary trainings each year on a variety of child welfare issues. The CIP is part of a nationwide effort to improve how courts handle child abuse and neglect cases. The program is funded by federal grants that are guided by and operate through a statewide, cross-disciplinary task force aimed at improving the three key elements of child protective proceedings: safety, permanency, and well-being for children. The CIP allows Michigan to implement necessary reforms, track its progress toward meeting state and federal laws, national standards, and program improvement plans to improve child protective court proceedings. The FCRB provides independent, periodic review of cases in the state foster care system. A statewide advisory committee, including leaders from the child welfare community, ensures that the program fulfills its statutory mandates and provides maximum benefit to improving the foster care system.

The **Office of Dispute Resolution** is responsible for developing dispute resolution practices and protocols for the trial courts, providing technical assistance to the trial courts, implementing dispute resolution practices mandated or permitted by court rule or statute, evaluating dispute resolution systems, and providing recommendations to the state court administrator for improving dispute resolution services for Michigan citizens.

The office also provides project administration, oversight, and evaluation of the Community Dispute Resolution Program. Created by Public Act 260 of 1988, this program also provides financial support to nonprofit organizations that in turn provide free or low-cost mediation in a wide variety of disputes as an alternative to the traditional adversarial court process.

The office serves as liaison to dispute resolution service providers, academic programs, associations, courts, and other agencies and organizations having special focus on dispute resolution research, services, and evaluation.

The **Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Division**, with offices in Lansing and Detroit, is responsible for developing and maintaining office automation applications for the Michigan Supreme Court and to subscribers of its trial court applications. JIS currently provides support and training to more than 247 judicial branch employees and to 249 of 319 trial court locations that use its Circuit, District and Probate Courts case management system. Sixty-four locations use the Jury management system. JIS advises and assists trial courts in the selection, acquisition, installation, programming, and operation of automated data processing systems. The division coordinates with other state agencies in the development, support, accumulation, and submission of court-related data to state repositories. JIS also participates in other Supreme Court initiatives where technological advances contribute to improved service, performance, and access to the judiciary. These initiatives include trial court connectivity, improving electronic submission of data to state agencies, web-enabled applications for court payments and e-filing, data warehousing, and the next generation of case management software for the state's trial courts.

The **Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi)** was developed by the Michigan Supreme Court in 1977 to provide judges and court personnel with opportunities to develop and enhance professional skills. Continuing judicial branch education is provided in many formats, including live seminars; publications (e.g., judicial benchbooks, monographs, manuals); distance learning opportunities (e.g., video conferencing, webcast seminars, and CD-rom programs, web-based training and a resource library that includes materials from the State Justice Institute, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, National Association of State Judicial Educators, National Association for Court Management; and MJi-sponsored programs. MJi is also responsible for the Supreme Court Learning Center, located in the Hall of Justice, and designed to educate the public on the Michigan court system. Electronic versions of MJi training materials can be accessed at [www.courts.mi.gov/mji](http://www.courts.mi.gov/mji). The Supreme Court Learning Center information is available at <http://courts.mi.gov/education/mji>.

**Regional Administration** is comprised of 5 regional offices that provide direct services to the courts and serve as links between the Supreme Court and the local trial courts. Each regional office provides management assistance to trial court chief judges and staff in the administration of judicial business. They implement Supreme Court judicial administration policy, monitor workload and caseflow, and serve as a primary contact for local funding units and other local justice system stakeholders regarding judicial operations. Regional administrators and their staff visit courts in their respective regions and meet with judges, court staff, county commissioners, other local officials, attorneys, and litigants. In addition, the regional offices issue judicial assignments authorizing judges to serve in courts outside of their jurisdiction when necessary.

The *Region I State Court Administrative Office* is located in Detroit and serves the trial courts in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties. The *Region II State Court Administrative Office* is located in Lansing and serves the trial courts in Genesee, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Shiawassee, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties. The *Region III State Court Administrative Office* is located in Mt. Pleasant and serves the trial courts in Alcona, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. The *Region IV State Court Administrative Office* is located in Gaylord and serves the trial courts in Alger, Alpena, Antrim, Baraga, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iron, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ontonagon, Otsego, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft, and Wexford counties. The *Region V State Court Administrative Office* is located in Lansing and serves the trial courts in Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties.

