

# Chapter V

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## THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



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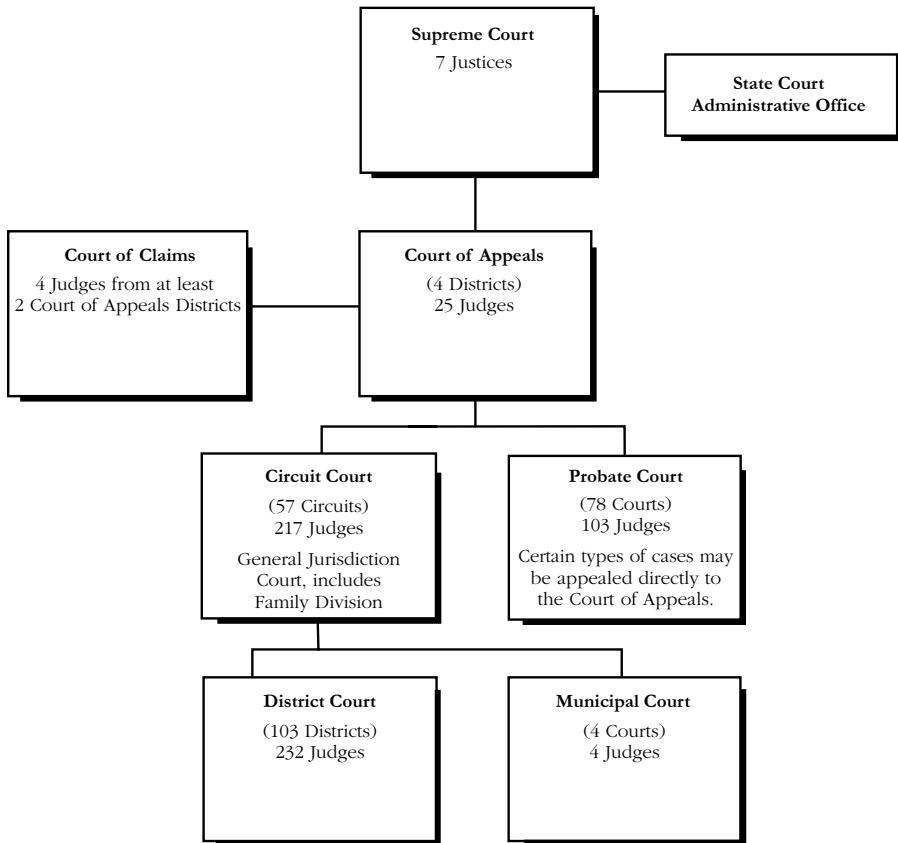
The Judicial Branch information is provided by the Michigan Supreme Court and Court Administrative Office, updated April 2021.



2021–2022



## 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*

BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK, Chief Justice . . . . .	JAN. 1, 2029
RICHARD H. BERNSTEIN . . . . .	JAN. 1, 2023
MEGAN KATHLEEN CAVANAGH . . . . .	JAN. 1, 2027
ELIZABETH T. CLEMENT . . . . .	JAN. 1, 2027
DAVID F. VIVIANO . . . . .	JAN. 1, 2025
ELIZABETH M. WELCH . . . . .	JAN. 1, 2029
BRIAN K. ZAHRA . . . . .	JAN. 1, 2023

[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 two associate justices. The state was then divided into three 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 three associate justices.

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

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 VI, 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. VI, 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. VI, 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 seven justices. One justice is selected every two years by the court as chief justice. Two justices are elected every two 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, that 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 contains sites for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, Michigan trial courts, Michigan court rules, and other areas 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 BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK**

Term expires January 1, 2029

Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack joined the Michigan Supreme Court in January 2013, and became Chief Justice in January 2019.

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, Chief Justice McCormack continues to teach at the Law School.

Chief Justice McCormack is a graduate of the New York University Law School, where she was a Root-Tilden scholar. She spent the first five years of her legal career in New York, with the Legal Aid Society and the Office of the Appellate Defender. 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 named 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 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 over 22 people so far, and has shined a light on the important justice issues underlying wrongful conviction.

In 2014, the Attorney General of the United States appointed Chief Justice McCormack to the National Commission on Forensic Science. In 2019, Governor Whitmer appointed her as cochair of the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration.

Chief Justice McCormack is an editor on the ABA's *Litigation Magazine*, a member of the ABA Council on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, a board member of the Washtenaw County Chapter of Families Against Narcotics, a member of the University Musical Society's National Council, and a board member of Kids Kicking Cancer.

Chief Justice McCormack publishes regularly in professional journals and media.

As the Chief Justice, McCormack has promoted statewide initiatives devoted to improving the courts service to the public, and in particular on improving equal access to justice.

Chief Justice McCormack is married to Steven Croley, a partner at Latham and Watkins. They have four adult children and enjoy frequent family trips to west Michigan.



**JUSTICE**  
**RICHARD H. BERNSTEIN**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Justice Richard Bernstein became the first blind justice, elected by voters statewide, to the Michigan Supreme Court in November 2014. With a commitment to justice and fairness, Bernstein began his 8-year term in January 2015.

Prior to being elected to Michigan's highest court, Justice Bernstein was known as a tireless advocate for disabled rights as an attorney heading the public service division for The Sam Bernstein Law Firm in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Blind since birth, Justice Bernstein is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan and earned his juris doctorate from Northwestern University School of Law.

Committed to taking action to help clients who needed him, Justice Bernstein's cases often set national standards protecting the rights and safety of people with and without disabilities.

Among his cases in private practice, he represented the Paralyzed Veterans of America in partnership with the United States Department of Justice in an action against the University of Michigan to allow for safe access for disabled individuals when the university's alterations to the stadium failed to accommodate and represent disabled visitors. The case helped establish guidelines that are used by all commercial facilities across the country.

He also successfully partnered with the United States Department of Justice to force the City of Detroit to fix broken wheelchair lifts on its buses, establishing a precedent for accessibility in public transportation. Further, Bernstein represented disabled residents against the Oakland County Road Commission after "roundabout" traffic circles were built without disabled access, impacting future ADA compliance for road construction throughout the United States.

In a landmark settlement against Delta Airlines and Detroit Metro Airport, Bernstein gained accessibility for disabled fliers, helping set the standard for which airlines and airports are to be covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A proponent of education, he argued for, and won, preservation of special education funding throughout the state and filed a federal suit against the American Bar Association to put an end to its discriminatory practices toward blind students via requirement of the Law School Admissions Test. He also challenged the City of New York to make Central Park and all parks safer for visitors and accessible for disabled and visually impaired individuals.

Bernstein previously served an 8-year term on the Wayne State University Board of Governors, elected by voters statewide, serving as its chair from 2009 to 2010. He also served as an adjunct professor in the political science department at the University of Michigan.

Honors Justice Bernstein has received include: "Michiganian of the Year" by the *Detroit News*, one of Crain's Detroit Business' "40 Under 40" and recognition on worldwide television by CNN as a leader in keeping government honest. He was selected by The Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan as the 2003 to 2004 Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recipient for outstanding commitment to public service and is the recipient of the 2008 John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award from the State Bar of Michigan in recognition of his leadership as an advocate and activist.

*Michigan Lawyers Weekly* named Justice Bernstein a 2009 Leader in the Law, and the University of Michigan presented him with the James T. Neubacher Award in 2011 for his unwavering commitment to equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities. Also in 2011, L. Brooks Patterson, Michigan's Oakland County Executive, selected Justice Bernstein as one of the region's Elite 40 Under 40. In 2013, Justice Bernstein was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

In his spare time, Justice Bernstein is an avid runner, completing 24 marathons—including 14 New York City marathons—the full Ironman triathlon in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 2008 and the Israman triathlon's half Ironman in Eilat, Israel in 2011. He also previously cohosted a 1-hour legal radio show called "Fighting for Justice" on WCHB-AM (1200) in Metro Detroit.



**JUSTICE**  
**MEGAN KATHLEEN CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2027

Justice Megan Kathleen Cavanagh is a life-long Michigander who grew up in East Lansing and lives in metro Detroit. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan College of Engineering and Wayne State University Law School. Before joining the Michigan Supreme Court in January of 2019, she had over 15 years of experience as one of Michigan's top appellate attorneys and was a shareholder at Garan Lucow Miller P.C. in Detroit.

Justice Cavanagh is the Supreme Court Liaison to Tribal Courts, Child Welfare Services, the Attorney Grievance Commission and the Judicial Tenure Commission. She also serves on the Attorney General's Elder Abuse Task Force.

Justice Cavanagh has served as chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Michigan, as a council person for the Negligence Section of the State Bar of Michigan, as cochair of the Michigan Bench Bar Appellate Conference Foundation, and as a member of the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission.

Prior to her election to the Court, Justice Cavanagh was rated as one of Michigan's Super Lawyers. She was honored by *Michigan Lawyer's Weekly* as Lawyer of the Year in 2006 and a Woman in the Law in 2017.

Justice Cavanagh and her husband have four children.





**JUSTICE**  
**ELIZABETH T. CLEMENT**

Term expires January 1, 2027

Justice Elizabeth T. Clement joined the Michigan Supreme Court on November 17, 2017, becoming the 113th Justice and the 11th woman to serve on the bench. Clement serves as the Court's liaison to the State Court Administrative Office Department of Child Welfare Services and liaison to Juvenile Justice in Michigan. Child Welfare Services provides assistance to juvenile courts on child welfare matters, including child protective proceedings, foster care, adoption, termination of parental rights, permanency outcomes, and data collection and analysis.

Clement has recently presented as a panelist for the National Association of Women Judges Webinar- "The Critical Roles of Child Welfare Judicial Leadership and Community Collaboration: Building Resilience in the Wake of COVID-19." She coauthored *"The Moment to Transform Child Protective Courts"* with University of Michigan Professor Vivek Sankaran for the *Child Welfare League of America Essay Collection: COVID-19 and Child Welfare: Challenges and Responses*. Clement also serves as cochair with Justice Megan Cavanagh and MDHHS Child Welfare Director Joo Chang for the Child Welfare Leadership Workgroup, a collaborative effort between the judiciary and MDHHS focused on child welfare system improvement.

In addition to her role with Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, Clement also serves as the liaison to the 199 Problem-Solving Courts in the state of Michigan and the Michigan Judicial Institute. Problem-Solving Courts include drug and sobriety, mental health, veterans, and other nontraditional courts. These special court programs focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders, resulting in improved quality of life, reduced crime, safer communities, and avoiding costly incarceration. The Michigan Judicial Institute is the Court's training arm for the judiciary.

Prior to her election to the court, Clement served as chief legal counsel in the Executive Branch, advising on a wide variety of legal, legislative, and policy matters. Her duties as chief legal counsel included working with the Attorney General's Office on litigation affecting the state of Michigan, negotiating tribal compacts and settlement agreements, and interviewing and recommending appointees to Court of Appeals and Supreme Court judicial vacancies. She previously held the positions of cabinet secretary and deputy chief of staff, as well as deputy legal counsel in the Governor's Office.

Clement also served as legal counsel in the Michigan Senate in 2010 where she provided legal research, analysis, and advice on legislation and management of the office. In addition, she was responsible for the State Senate advice and consent process including providing reports and recommendations on appointees. Prior to this role, she served in the Senate Majority Policy Office from 2006 to 2010, where Clement provided analysis and research to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senate Health Policy Committee, and the Senate Local and State Affairs Committee.

Clement was a partner at Clement Law, PLLC, from 2002 to 2006, where she represented individuals primarily in the areas of family law, adoption, probate, estate planning, and criminal law. Prior to working in private practice, Justice Clement worked as a legislative aide to the Senate Majority Leader in the Michigan Senate.

Clement was licensed to the State Bar of Michigan in 2002. She graduated from Michigan State University College of Law that same year, where she served as an executive member of the Moot Court Board. She attended Michigan State University on an academic scholarship and graduated in 1999 with a B.A. in political science.

Justice Clement lives with her husband and their four children in East Lansing.



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

Term expires January 1, 2025

David F. Viviano is the 109th Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He was appointed to the Supreme Court by former Governor Rick Snyder in 2013 and was re-elected to the court by wide margins in 2014 and 2016. He is the Supreme Court's point person for court technology and supervises Michigan's statewide e-filing initiative.

Justice Viviano previously served as chief judge of the Macomb County Circuit and Probate Courts. As chief judge, he was responsible for the administration of one of the busiest trial courts in Michigan. He was first-elected to the circuit court in 2006, and during his tenure as a trial judge presided over both civil and criminal cases. He also had the privilege of serving on the circuit court bench with his father, retired Judge Antonio Viviano, and his sister, Judge Kathryn Viviano.

Justice Viviano has participated in a number of initiatives to improve the administration of justice. In 2008, he worked with a small group of judges to test reforms to Michigan's jury system, many of which were adopted and are being used throughout Michigan. For their efforts, Justice Viviano and his colleagues received a national award for jury innovation. Justice Viviano also teaches jury management at the Michigan Judicial Institute's New Judges' School.

Justice Viviano is a strong advocate for technological innovation in the court system. He has long been a proponent of a statewide e-filing system and has worked to improve how our local courts manage electronic data and share it with the public and other units of government.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Viviano practiced law at two nationally-recognized law firms and then founded his own law firm in Mt. Clemens. 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.

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



**JUSTICE  
ELIZABETH M. WELCH**

Term expires January 1, 2029

Justice Elizabeth M. Welch joined the Michigan Supreme Court on January 1, 2021. Prior to joining the Supreme Court, she counseled nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individuals on labor/employment law matters and represented her clients in arbitrations, administrative agency matters, and litigation. Justice Welch also handled abuse/neglect matters (pro bono), worked of counsel to a criminal defense law practice, counseled nonprofit organizations on board governance, and served as local counsel for municipal clients on litigation related to the opioid epidemic. Justice Welch is a trained mediator and volunteered for many years with the West Michigan Dispute Resolution Center.

Justice Welch received her law degree from Ohio State University, where she served as research editor of the *Law Journal* and graduated from Penn State University with honors *magna cum laude* in 1992. After law school, she practiced labor/employment law at large law firms located in Louisville, KY and Grand Rapids, MI prior to starting her own law practice. She also published many articles in academic and industry publications, including serving as a Chapter Editor for *The Developing Labor Law* treatise.

Justice Welch served as a Trustee for the Grand Rapids Bar Association and is a past board member for the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan-Western Region (where she also served as President).

Justice Welch is currently vice president of the Steelcase Foundation and a trustee of the Grand Valley University Foundation (where she serves on the nominating committee). She has served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations.

Justice Welch devoted a large amount of her time the past 15 years to public education advocacy in Michigan. Beyond having served as Vice President and a Trustee on the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, she worked with leaders across the state to engage and train community members to be advocates for local public schools and regularly worked with legislators on public school policy and legislation. She also served on the School Finance Research Collaborative (a statewide coalition of education stakeholders who commissioned a study to determine the true cost of educating a child in Michigan).

Justice Welch served on the Grand Rapids Mayor's Task Force in 2013 and 2016, which was charged with examining and improving local elections, and oversaw large-scale voter protection efforts in West Michigan in 2016 and 2018.

Justice Welch was recognized as a Grand Rapids Business Journal "40 Under 40" Business Leader (2009) and received the Women Lawyers Association-Western Region's Outstanding Member Award. She has received several awards in recognition for her public school, conservation, and other community work.

Justice Welch and her husband Brian Schwartz have four adult children. Their oldest son is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and their other three children are all in college.



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

Term expires January 1, 2023

Justice Brian K. Zahra was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the Michigan Supreme Court on January 14, 2011. The people of Michigan subsequently elected him in November 2012 to a partial term and then reelected him in November 2014 to a full term.

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. Justice Zahra later opened a grocery outlet, also in Detroit, with two partners. In 1987, he graduated with honors from the University Of Detroit School Of Law, where he served as a member of the Law Review and as Articles Editor of the State Bar of Michigan's *Corporation and Finance Business Law Journal*. Upon graduation, he served as law clerk to Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, before joining and eventually becoming a partner in the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman. In 1994, Governor John M. Engler appointed him to the Wayne County Circuit Court where in 1996 he was elected to a 6-year term. In December of 1998, he was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor John M. 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 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. Justice Zahra 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. He is currently a Senior Fellow of Law and Public Policy at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, as well as a Distinguished Fellow at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan. He previously served on the adjunct faculty at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School.

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 former board member and officer of the Catholic Lawyers Society, and past officer of the Federalist Society, where he currently serves as a member of the advisory board to the Michigan chapter.

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

# JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, 1836-2021

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. Christiancy . . . . .	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

# JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, 1836-2021 *(Cont.)*

Name	Residence	Years
Clark J. Adams . . . . .	Pontiac . . . . .	1952-1953
Harry F. Kelly . . . . .	Detroit. . . . .	1954-1971
Talbot Smith <sup>22</sup> . . . . .	Ann Arbor . . . . .	1955-1961
Eugene F. Black . . . . .	Port Huron . . . . .	1956-1973
John D. Voelker <sup>23</sup> . . . . .	Ishpeming . . . . .	1957-1959
George C. 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 <sup>25</sup> . . . . .	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, 1985-1997
James H. Brickley <sup>32</sup> . . . . .	Traverse City . . . . .	1982-1999
Michael F. Cavanagh . . . . .	East Lansing. . . . .	1983-2014
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 Jean Kelly. . . . .	Bloomfield Hills. . . . .	1997-2012
Clifford W. Taylor . . . . .	Laingsburg. . . . .	1997-2009
Maura D. Corrigan . . . . .	Grosse Pointe Park . . . . .	1998-2011
Robert P. Young Jr. <sup>36</sup> . . . . .	Grosse Pointe Park . . . . .	1998-2017
Stephen J. Markman . . . . .	Mason . . . . .	1999-2020
Diane M. Hathaway <sup>37</sup> . . . . .	Grosse Pointe Park . . . . .	2009-2013
Mary Beth Kelly <sup>38</sup> . . . . .	Grosse Ile . . . . .	2011-2015
Brian K. Zahra . . . . .	Northville . . . . .	2011-
Bridget Mary McCormack . . . . .	Ann Arbor . . . . .	2013-
David F. Viviano . . . . .	Sterling Heights . . . . .	2013-
Richard H. Bernstein. . . . .	Detroit. . . . .	2015-
Joan L. Larsen <sup>39</sup> . . . . .	Scio Township. . . . .	2015-2017
Kurtis T. Wilder . . . . .	Canton . . . . .	2017-2018
Elizabeth T. Clement . . . . .	East Lansing. . . . .	2017-
Megan Kathleen Cavanagh . . . . .	Birmingham. . . . .	2019-
Elizabeth M. Welch . . . . .	Grand Rapids. . . . .	2021-

<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 C. 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.

**JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT,  
1836-2021 *(Cont.)***

<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; Kurtis T. Wilder appointed May 9, 2017.

<sup>37</sup> Resigned; David F. Viviano appointed Feb. 27, 2013.

<sup>38</sup> Resigned; Joan L. Larsen appointed Sept. 30, 2015.

<sup>39</sup> Resigned; Elizabeth T. Clement appointed Nov. 17, 2017.

# MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS



**CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY, CHIEF JUDGE**  
**JANE M. BECKERING, CHIEF JUDGE PRO TEM**

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

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The court of appeals was created by the Constitution of 1963, art. VI, 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 6-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 once a year in Marquette or 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 Public Act 40 of 2012)

County	Population in 2010	County	Population in 2010
<b>1st District</b>		<b>4th District</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
		Charlevoix . . . . .	25,949
		Cheboygan . . . . .	26,152
		Chippewa . . . . .	38,520
		Clare . . . . .	30,926
		Clinton . . . . .	75,382
		Crawford . . . . .	14,074
		Delta . . . . .	37,069
		Dickinson . . . . .	26,168
		Emmet . . . . .	32,694
		Gladwin . . . . .	25,692
		Gogebic . . . . .	16,427
		Grand Traverse . . . . .	86,986
		Gratiot . . . . .	42,476
		Houghton . . . . .	36,628
		Huron . . . . .	33,118
		Ingham . . . . .	280,895
		Iosco . . . . .	25,887
		Iron . . . . .	11,817
		Isabella . . . . .	70,311
		Kalkaska . . . . .	17,153
		Keweenaw . . . . .	2,156
		Lake . . . . .	11,539
		Lapeer . . . . .	88,319
		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
<b>2nd District</b>			
Genesee . . . . .	425,790		
Macomb . . . . .	840,978		
Oakland . . . . .	1,202,362		
Total . . . . .	2,469,130		
<b>3rd District</b>			
Allegan . . . . .	111,408		
Barry . . . . .	59,173		
Berrien . . . . .	156,813		
Calhoun . . . . .	136,146		
Cass . . . . .	52,293		
Eaton . . . . .	107,759		
Ionia . . . . .	63,905		
Jackson . . . . .	160,248		
Kent . . . . .	602,622		
Mason . . . . .	28,705		
Montcalm . . . . .	63,342		
Muskegon . . . . .	172,188		
Newaygo . . . . .	48,460		
Oceana . . . . .	26,570		
Ottawa . . . . .	263,801		
Van Buren . . . . .	76,258		
Washtenaw . . . . .	344,791		
Total . . . . .	2,474,482		

**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.

**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.”

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District **IV**: Balance of counties for State of Michigan

## JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

### ***1st District***

*Term expires*

THOMAS C. CAMERON, Northville Township . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2023
KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY, Grosse Pointe Park . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025
ANICA LETICA, Canton . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY, Grosse Pointe Farms, Chief Judge . .	Jan. 1, 2027
MICHAEL J. RIORDAN, Plymouth. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025
CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS, Detroit. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2023
vacant <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027

### ***2nd District***

MARK J. CAVANAGH, Royal Oak . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER, Pleasant Ridge . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025
KATHLEEN JANSEN, St. Clair Shores . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025
COLLEEN A. O'BRIEN, Clarkston . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2023
DEBORAH A. SERVITTO, Royal Oak . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025
vacant <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027

### ***3rd District***

JANE M. BECKERING, Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025
MARK T. BOONSTRA, Holland . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
JANE E. MARKEY, Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
JAMES ROBERT REDFORD, East Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
DAVID H. SAWYER, East Grand Rapids . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2023
DOUGLAS B. SHAPIRO, Ann Arbor . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025

### ***4th District***

STEPHEN L. BORRELLO, Saginaw. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2025
MICHAEL F. GADOLA, Haslett. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2023
MICHAEL J. KELLY, Maple City. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
AMY RONAYNE KRAUSE, Lansing . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
MICHELLE M. RICK, DeWitt . . . . .	Jan. 1, 2027
BROCK A. SWARTZLE, Okemos. . . . .	Jan. 1, 2023

<sup>1</sup>Judge Karen Fort Hood passed away on August 15, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Judge Jonathan Tukul passed away on September 17, 2021.

# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES

## *First District Judges*

### JUDGE

#### **THOMAS C. CAMERON**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Judge Thomas C. Cameron was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2017, and previously served as a judge on the Wayne County Circuit Court bench from 2014 until his appointment to the Court of Appeals.

Previously, Judge Cameron worked for the Michigan Department of Attorney General where he supervised several large civil and criminal divisions for the Attorney General, including the Civil Rights Division, Corrections Division, Criminal Division, and Alcohol and Gambling Division. Prior to him serving as a senior manager, he served as an assistant Attorney General, where he litigated high-profile public corruption and cold-case homicides. He is the former chairman of the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

Judge Cameron currently serves on the Michigan Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Treatment Board and also as cochair of the Criminal Justice Committee for the Michigan Judges Association. He is a member of the Michigan Chapter of the Federalist Society, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Catholic Lawyer's Society, the Incorporated Society of Irish-American Lawyers and a member of the University of Detroit Mercy Inns of Court. He serves as an adjunct professor for the University of Toledo School of Law.

Judge Cameron is a graduate of Western Michigan University and Wayne State University School of Law.

### JUDGE

#### **KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2025

Court of Appeals Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts degree in 1978, and from the University of Detroit School of Law with a juris doctor degree in 1981. She joined the Detroit law firm of Durant and Durant, where she practiced civil litigation, and became a partner in the firm in 1987. In 1987, she was elected to the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court, and she was twice reelected to that position. After taking time off in 1991 following the birth of her third child, Judge Kelly formed another law firm and practiced both civil and criminal law. In 1994, she was appointed to the Wayne Circuit Court by Governor John Engler.

In 1997, Chief Justice Conrad Mallett appointed her presiding judge of the Family Division of the Wayne Circuit Court. In 1999, she was appointed as the presiding judge of the juvenile division of the Wayne Circuit Court. Judge Kelly was elected to the Court of Appeals in 2000. She is the chairman of the Court of Appeals Quality Review committee and serves on the Rules committee as well. She is a frequent speaker for the ICLE Family Law Seminars.

Judge Kelly has served two terms as president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Judges, served on the board of directors of the Michigan District Judges Association, and has been a hearing panel vice chairman for the Attorney Grievance Commission. She has been a volunteer with the Legal Alternatives for Women Program, supervising and instructing attorneys and lay volunteers in the proper application and implementation of domestic violence law and is active in the Women Lawyers of Michigan.

Judge Kelly's civic activities include being an advisory board member for KIDS-Talk, a member of Leadership Detroit XVII, a charter member of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary, a board member of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan and a current board member of the Detroit Executive Leadership Committee for the Kidney Foundation. Judge Kelly and her husband, William B. Kelly, have three children. She and her family attend St. Ambrose Catholic Church.

## **JUDGE**

### **ANICA LETICA**

Term expires January 1, 2027

Judge Anica Letica was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2018.

She first joined the Court of Appeals as a prehearing attorney in 1985. Thereafter, she clerked for the Honorable John H. Gillis.

Judge Letica then worked in the Appellate Division of the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, handling hundreds of appeals and supporting legislation benefitting crime victims, law enforcement, and the public.

In 2009, the Michigan Attorney General appointed Judge Letica to serve as an Assistant Attorney General in the Department's Criminal Appellate Division. There, she supervised criminal appeals for 56 county prosecutors along with in-state prisoner litigation. Judge Letica also coordinated the Department's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative projects to investigate and prosecute cases arising from the testing of previously untested sexual assault kits. In addition, Judge Letica assisted the Human Trafficking Commission and represented the Attorney General on the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

Judge Letica is a member of the State Bar's Criminal Law and Appellate Practice Sections, previously serving on the latter's Council. For a number of years, she also served on the Standard Criminal Jury Instruction Committee and was a member of the workgroup responsible for proposing revisions to the court rules governing circuit-court appellate practice.

Judge Letica has lectured for the Michigan Judicial Institute and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. She contributed to the post-conviction and appellate chapters in *Michigan Criminal Procedure for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education* and served on the editorial advisory committee for the Michigan Judicial Institute's *Criminal Proceedings Benchbook, Volume 3*.

Judge Letica graduated from the University of Michigan with high distinction, receiving her bachelor of arts degree. She then graduated from the Wayne State University Law School, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif.

## **CHIEF JUDGE**

### **CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY**

Term expires January 1, 2027

Judge Murray has been a judge on the Court of Appeals since 2002. He was appointed Chief Judge in April of 2018. Previously, he served as a judge on the Wayne Circuit Court, as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor John M. Engler, and as an attorney in private practice.

Judge Murray currently serves on the Board of Law Examiners and is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Michigan Lawyers Division of the Federalist Society. He is also a member of the Executive Committee for the Council of Chief Judges of State Courts of Appeal. Judge Murray was formerly the chairman of the State Board of Ethics, previously served as a member of the Local Government Claims Review Board, the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, and was on the board of directors for the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, the Society of Irish-American Lawyers, and the Catholic Lawyers Society. Judge Murray graduated from Hillsdale College and received his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law.

## **JUDGE**

### **MICHAEL J. RIORDAN**

Term expires January 1, 2025

Governor Rick Snyder appointed the Honorable Michael J. Riordan to the Michigan Court of Appeals on March 16, 2012. In November 2012, Judge Riordan was elected to a full six-year term. He was re-elected in 2018.

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 a senior attorney in the Enforcement Division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Riordan served a two-year clerkship for the Honorable Robert E. DeMascio, of the United States District for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Riordan is an adjunct professor of securities regulation, administrative law, and business organizations at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and was selected Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2010. Prior to law school, Judge Riordan was a Catholic

secondary school English teacher and served as an Inspector with the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, now known as U.S. Customs & Border Protection. He is a member of the Federalist Society, is a past-president of the Michigan Lawyers Chapter and serves as chair of its Board of Advisors. He was a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners from 2006 through 2018. He also 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 president of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Alumni Association and is on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Lawyers' Society; Detroit's Loyola High School; the PB&J Ministry; Marywood Nursing Center; and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. He also is a member of the Board of Advisors for Detroit's Cristo Rey High School. Among other things, Judge Riordan is a recipient of the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel's Judicial Excellence Award; the Detroit Mercy Law Alumni Association Time & Talent Award; the Michigan Irish-American Chamber of Commerce Legal Expert Award; and the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers' Charles Rutherford, Jr. and Thomas P. "Tiger" Thornton Awards.

Judge Riordan received his B.A. from Michigan State University and his J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Detroit School of Law where he served as Executive Editor (inside articles) of the Law Review.

## **JUDGE**

### **CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Prior to her appointment to the Court of Appeals in 2008, Judge Cynthia Diane Stephens served as a general jurisdiction trial judge for 23 years. Judge Stephens was appointed to the Third Circuit Court in 1985 after service as a 36th District Court Judge. She was the Chief Judge Pro Tempore, Mediation Tribunal Chair, and Presiding Civil Division Judge of the 3rd 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 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. She has been honored by many civic and religious organizations including the inaugural Woodrow Smith Community Service Award from the Shrines of the Black Madonna, the Golden Heritage Award from Little Rock Baptist Church and the Susan B. Anthony Award from the City of Detroit Human Rights Department. 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 faculty member for the National Judicial College and the Michigan Judicial Institute and the Emory Law School Kessler-Eidson Program for Trial Techniques. She was a contributing author to the Lawyer's Co-Operatives "*Michigan Nonstandard Jury Instructions*" as well as numerous articles on subjects ranging from jury selection to ethics.

She 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.

## ***Second District Judges***

## **JUDGE**

### **MARK J. CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2027

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**

### **ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER**

Term expires January 1, 2025

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, 2025

Judge Jansen was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1989. In November 1982, she was the first woman ever to be elected to the Macomb County Probate Court. In November 1984, she was the first woman elected to the Macomb County Circuit Court. Prior to her elections, she worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Jansen received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and attended Western Washington State University for graduate studies. She obtained her law degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1982.

## **JUDGE**

### **COLLEEN A. O'BRIEN**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Judge Colleen O'Brien was appointed to the Court of Appeals in October of 2015. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1978 with a bachelor of arts degree and from the Detroit College of Law with a juris doctor degree in 1981. Judge O'Brien practiced law for 17 years prior to being elected to the Oakland County Circuit Court in 1998. As a Circuit Judge, she served as the Presiding Judge of the Female Adult Treatment Court for twelve years and as the Presiding Judge of the Civil/Criminal Division for several years.

Judge O'Brien is a long-time member of the Michigan Judges Association and served as President in 2015. She has also served as President of the Oakland County Women's Bar Association and served on the Board of Directors of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. An active member of the Oakland County Bar Association, Judge O'Brien received the Distinguished Public Servant Award in 2011.

Judge O'Brien's civic activities include serving on the Advisory Board to Crossroads for Youth, serving as a member of the Indigent Defense Advisory Commission, and serving as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

## **JUDGE**

### **DEBORAH A. SERVITTO**

Term expires January 1, 2025

Judge Deborah A. Servitto was born in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Oakland University in 1978 with a bachelor's 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 three 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, 2025

Judge Jane M. Beckering has served on the Michigan Court of Appeals since 2007. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Beckering was a trial attorney for 17 years. She began her career at McDermott, Will & Emery, LLP, in Chicago, Illinois, before she returned to her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan and later founded the law firm of Buchanan & Beckering, PLC. Judge Beckering received her undergraduate degree, with distinction, from the University of Michigan and her law degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Wisconsin. As a practicing lawyer, she was AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, earned listing in *The Best Lawyers in America*, and was named one of the “Top 100 Lawyers” and “Top 50 Women Lawyers” by *Michigan Super Lawyer*.

Judge Beckering is the Chief Judge Pro Tempore of the Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and serves on the Steering Committee for the Hillman Advocacy Program, a learn-by-doing three-day trial skills workshop sponsored by the Western District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Judge Beckering is a regular contributor to the *Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)* and serves as a co-consulting editor and chapter author of its litigation practice manual, *Michigan Civil Procedure*.

### **JUDGE**

#### **MARK T. BOONSTRA**

Term expires January 1, 2027

Judge Boonstra was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals in March 2012, and subsequently was elected in 2012 and 2014. In addition to his appellate duties, Judge Boonstra began serving a 2-year term on the Michigan Court of Claims, by appointment of the Michigan Supreme Court, effective May 1, 2015. Before joining the Court of Appeals, Judge Boonstra was a senior principal in the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC, where he practiced law for 27 years, including serving as a deputy chair of the firm’s Litigation Practice Group and as cochair 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’s 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 to 2011 and as chair of the Antitrust, Franchising, and Trade Regulation Section, 2000 to 2001—as well as the Federal Bar Association and various local bar associations, including as a founding member of the Washtenaw American Inn of Court, 2011. He currently serves as chair of the State of Michigan Supreme Court Committee on the Model Civil Jury Instructions and as vice chair of the State of Michigan Retirement Board. He has been an author of, or contributor to, a number of legal publications and presentations.

### **JUDGE**

#### **JANE E. MARKEY**

Term expires January 1, 2027

Judge Markey was elected to the Court in 1994 and reelected in 2002, 2008 and 2014. Judge Markey received her B.A., with high honors in Spanish/Secondary Education, from Michigan State University and her law degree, *cum laude*, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She served as the first Editor-in-Chief of Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Judge Markey began her legal career as a prehearing attorney/law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals. She then entered private practice with the law firms of Baxter & Hammond and then Dykema Gossett, specializing in civil litigation.



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 Western Michigan University/TMC Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1995 to present. She has previously served on the State Bar Grievance Committee, 1990 to 1992 and as a hearing panelist for the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board, 1989 to 1995, the Academic Advisory Committee for District Court, 1993 to 1995 and currently is assigned to the Quality Review, Personnel, and ACE Award Committees for the Court of Appeals.

Judge Markey is also a long-time member of the board of directors for 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, National Conference of Law Review Boards, Appellate Bench Bar Conferences and graduation commencement speaker for WMU/TMC. In 2012, Judge Markey was selected One of West Michigan's 50 Most Influential Women.

## **JUDGE**

### **JAMES ROBERT REDFORD**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Judge Redford was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2018. Prior to his appointment, he was the Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and previously served as Governor Rick Snyder's Chief Legal Counsel from January 2015 until February 2016.

Judge Redford was a Kent County Circuit Judge from 2003 until 2015. Prior to his election to the trial bench, he was in private practice with Plunkett Cooney and served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan and on active duty in the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps for five years. In addition to his active duty military service, he served in the Navy Reserves for 23 years in a variety of assignments including commanding officer of the Navy Reserve Trial Judiciary and five years as a trial judge in the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary. Judge Redford transferred to the retired-reserve list in August 2012 at the rank of Captain.

Judge Redford has been active in many Bar and community organizations. He has served on and been chair of the Michigan Supreme Court Model Civil Jury Instructions Committee. He is a lifelong member of the Boy Scouts of America. He has also served on several non-profit boards including the Boy Scouts of America, Gerald R. Ford Council and the West Michigan Shores Council of the Girl Scouts of America.

Judge Redford received his bachelor of science in Business Administration from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1982 and his juris doctor from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1985.

## **JUDGE**

### **DAVID H. SAWYER**

Term expires January 1, 2023

The Honorable 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. He has served as the commission's chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. Judge Sawyer currently serves on the State of Michigan Retirement Board. He served as Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Michigan Court of Appeals from November 2009 through December 2014. 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, 2025

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, 2025

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**

#### **MICHAEL F. GADOLA**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Judge Gadola was appointed to the Court effective January 5, 2015. He is a graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College (B.A., 1985) and graduated with honors from the Wayne State University Law School (J.D., 1990), where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Wayne Law Review*. He practiced law with the Dickinson Wright law firm in both Detroit and Lansing. He served as Deputy Legal Counsel, Counsel for Executive Organization, and Director of the Office of Regulatory Reform for Governor John Engler. He went on to serve as House Majority Counsel in the Michigan Legislature and as Michigan Supreme Court Counsel. He then served as Legal Counsel to Governor Rick Snyder. Judge Gadola is a fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, a member of the Advisory Board for the Michigan Chapter of the Federalist Society, and is a former chairman of the Saint Vincent Catholic Charities board of directors and former board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing.

### **JUDGE**

#### **MICHAEL J. KELLY**

Term expires January 1, 2027

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 juris doctor from the Detroit College of Law in 1988.

### **JUDGE**

#### **AMY RONAYNE KRAUSE**

Term expires January 1, 2027

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. 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 has also served 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 has previously served her community as a board member with the Lansing Educational Advancement Foundation and the Uplift Our Youth Foundation. Currently, she serves on 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 and in 2013 became chair of the committee.

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

## **JUDGE**

### **MICHELLE M. RICK**

Term expires January 1, 2027

The Honorable Michelle Rick was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals bench in November 2020, and began serving her term in January 2021. Judge Rick represents the 4th Judicial District. Judge Rick served as a trial judge for the 29th Circuit Court from 2007- 2020. Before that, Judge Rick worked briefly as a private practitioner before transitioning to a career in public service. That service included working as an assistant prosecutor, a senior assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan, and deputy legal counsel to Michigan's Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

Judge Rick is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She is a member of the UDM Law Justice Frank Murphy Honor Society. Judge Rick is a District Director for the National Association of Women Judges. She is an Officer of the Michigan Judges Association and a member of the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Council. Judge Rick is a member of the Michigan Bar Association Limited Scope Representation work group, and she serves as an advisor to the State Bar Affordable Legal Services committee. Judge Rick is also a committee member of the State Bar Corrections and Prisons section.

In 2015, the Women Lawyers Association of Mid-Michigan awarded Judge Rick the Carolyn A. Stell Award. January 2019, the Michigan Supreme Court recognized Judge Rick as a judge who gives back and makes a difference. In 2020, the State Bar of Michigan awarded Judge Rick and select University of Detroit Mercy School of Law faculty and students the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award. The award was given for creating and executing "Project Access," a traveling expungement clinic that brought expungement relief to 6 rural communities in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula.

Judge Rick teaches Access to Justice at Detroit Mercy Law School. She is a frequent guest speaker and lecturer at various statewide and local law-related events. Judge Rick is a Michigan State Bar Foundation Fellow and an American Bar Foundation Fellow. Judge Rick is married to her college sweetheart, Matthew, and they have 4 children.

## **JUDGE**

### **BROCK A. SWARTZLE**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Judge Brock A. Swartzle was appointed to the Court in 2017. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Swartzle was Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, as well as General Counsel for the House, where he worked on numerous legal and policy issues, including the Detroit bankruptcy settlement package. Judge Swartzle was previously a litigation partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, where he practiced in antitrust, healthcare fraud, white-collar crime, securities, and other areas. Judge Swartzle had extensive experience in federal court prior to joining the Michigan Court of Appeals, clerking for three years in both the Eastern District of Michigan and the Western District of Michigan, as well as four years with the Hon. David W. McKeague on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Swartzle currently sits on the editorial board of the American Bar Association's *Appellate Practice Journal*, a publication for which he was Co-Editor-in-Chief for several years, as well as on the George Mason Law & Economics Center's Judicial Education Advisory Board. He has authored numerous legal articles as well as co-authored a chapter in the practitioner treatise, *Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts* (West). Judge Swartzle received his B.S. with distinction from the University of Michigan and his J.D. with honors from George Mason University School of Law, where he served on the George Mason Law Review Board of Editors.

Judge Swartzle is married with three children. He volunteers with the U of M Club of Greater Lansing and is a member of the Williamston United Methodist Church.

# MICHIGAN TRIAL COURTS

[www.courts.mi.gov/courts/trialcourts/pages/default.aspx](http://www.courts.mi.gov/courts/trialcourts/pages/default.aspx)

## ***Circuit Court***

The history of the circuit court dates back to 1824 when three 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 three 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 six 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 six 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** 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 a court of statewide, limited jurisdiction established to hear and determine all civil actions filed against the State of Michigan and its agencies. The Court of Claims is located in the Michigan Court of Appeals. Four Court of Appeals judges, including a chief judge, are assigned to the Court of Claims by the Michigan Supreme Court. Each Court of Claims case is heard by a single judge. The Court of Claims operates much like any other Michigan circuit court. In the Court of Claims, however, there is no right to a jury trial.

## ***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 four years. The Constitution of 1850 provided for a probate court in each county, and the Constitution of 1963 expanded the term of office to six 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 ten northern counties that have consolidated to form five 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 Public 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 Public Act 5 of 1956, although most were established under either Public Act 279 of 1909 or Public 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 Public Act 236 of 1961, Chapter 5)

County	Population in 2010	County	Population 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.)

County	Population in 2010	County	Population in 2010
<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		
Total . . . . .	46,148	<b>49th Circuit</b>	
<b>35th Circuit</b>		Mecosta . . . . .	42,798
Shiawassee . . . . .	70,648	Osceola . . . . .	23,528
<b>36th Circuit</b>		Total . . . . .	66,326
Van Buren . . . . .	76,258	<b>50th Circuit</b>	
<b>37th Circuit</b>		Chippewa . . . . .	38,520
Calhoun . . . . .	136,146	<b>51st Circuit</b>	
<b>38th Circuit</b>		Lake . . . . .	11,539
Monroe . . . . .	152,021	Mason . . . . .	28,705
<b>39th Circuit</b>		Total . . . . .	40,244
Lenawee . . . . .	99,892	<b>52nd Circuit</b>	
<b>40th Circuit</b>		Huron . . . . .	33,118
Lapeer . . . . .	88,319	<b>53rd Circuit</b>	
<b>41st Circuit</b>		Cheboygan . . . . .	26,152
Dickinson . . . . .	26,168	Presque Isle . . . . .	13,376
Iron . . . . .	11,817	Total . . . . .	39,528
Menominee . . . . .	24,029	<b>54th Circuit</b>	
Total . . . . .	62,014	Tuscola . . . . .	55,729
<b>42nd Circuit</b>		<b>55th Circuit</b>	
Midland . . . . .	83,629	Clare . . . . .	30,926
<b>43rd Circuit</b>		Gladwin . . . . .	25,692
Cass . . . . .	52,293	Total . . . . .	56,618
<b>44th Circuit</b>		<b>56th Circuit</b>	
Livingston . . . . .	180,967	Eaton . . . . .	107,759
<b>45th Circuit</b>		<b>57th Circuit</b>	
St. Joseph . . . . .	61,295	Emmet . . . . .	32,694



## CIRCUIT COURT — JUDICIAL CIRCUITS



### 2021 Courts and Judgeships

LEGEND	TOTALS
# - Circuit Court	217 - Judgeships
(#) - Number of Circuit Court Judgeships	57 - Number of Judicial Circuits

## JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Circuit	County	Judge	Circuit	County	Judge
1	Hillsdale	Sara S. Lisznyai	6	Oakland	Martha D. Anderson Mary Ellen T. Brennan Rae Lee Chabot Jacob James Cunningham Kameshia D. Gant Lisa Ortlieb Gorcyca Nanci J. Grant Shalina Deborah Kumar Denise Langford-Morris Lisa Langton Jeffery S. Matis Cheryl A. Matthews Julie A. McDonald Phyllis C. McMillen Daniel Patrick O'Brien Yasmine Isshak Poles Kwame L. Rowe Lorie N. Savin Victoria Ann Valentine Michael D. Warren Jr.
2	Berrien	Donna Bacolor Howard Charles T. LaSata Angela M. Pasula Jennifer L. Smith-DenDoooven	7	Genesee	Duncan M. Beagle Celeste D. Bell Bernhardt D. Christenson Joseph J. Farah John A. Gadola Elizabeth Anne Kelly Mark W. Latchana David J. Newblatt Brian S. Pickell
3	Wayne	Yvonna C. Abraham David J. Allen Chandra W. Baker Mariam Bazzi Annette J. Berry Gregory D. Bill Karen Y. Braxton Jerome C. Cavanagh Eric William Cholack James R. Chylinski Kevin J. Cox Melissa Anne Cox Paul John Cusick Christopher D. Dingell Prentis Edwards Jr. Charlene M. Elder Wanda A. Evans Edward Ewell Jr. Helal A. Farhat Patricia Susan Fresard Sheila Ann Gibson John H. Gillis Jr. Alexis A. Glendening Tracy E. Green David Alan Groner Adel A. Harb Bridget Mary Hathaway Dana Margaret Hathaway Thomas M.J. Hathaway Charles S. Hegarty Catherine L. Heise Noah P. Hood Susan L. Hubbard Muriel Diane Hughes Edward J. Joseph Mary Beth Kelly Timothy Michael Kenny Donald Knapp Qiana Denise Lillard Kathleen M. McCarthy Cylenthia LaToye Miller Bruce Underwood Morrow John A. Murphy Lynne A. Pierce Kelly Anne Ramsey Mark T. Slavens Leslie Kim Smith Martha M. Snow Brian R. Sullivan Lawrence S. Talon Carla G. Testani Deborah A. Thomas Regina Daniels Thomas Margaret M. VanHouten Shannon Nicol Walker Darnella Williams-Claybourne	8	Montcalm Ionia	Suzanne Hoseth Kreeger Ronald J. Schafer
			9	Kalamazoo	Paul J. Bridenstine Gary C. Giguere Jr. Stephen D. Gorsalitz Pamela L. Lightvoet Alexander C. Lipsey
			10	Saginaw	Janet M. Boes James T. Borchard André R. Borrello Darnell Jackson Manvel Trice III
			11	Alger Luce Mackinac Schoolcraft	Brian Daniel Rahilly
			12	Baraga Houghton Keweenaw	Charles R. Goodman
			13	Gd. Traverse Antrim Leelanau	Kevin A. Elsenheimer Thomas G. Power
			14	Muskegon	Timothy G. Hicks Kathy L. Hoogstra William C. Marietti Annette Rose Smedley
			15	Branch	Patrick W. O'Grady
			16	Macomb	James M. Biernat Jr. Richard L. Caretti Diane M. Druzinski Jennifer Faunce Julie Lynn Gatti James M. Maceroni Carl J. Marlinga Racheal Rancilio Edward A. Servitto Jr. Michael E. Servitto Mark S. Switalski Matthew S. Switalski Joseph Toia Kathryn A. Viviano Tracey A. Yokich
4	Jackson	Susan Esther Beebe Jordan Richard N. LaFlamme John G. McBain Jr. Thomas D. Wilson			
5	Barry	Vicky L. Alspaugh			

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

Circuit	County	Judge	Circuit	County	Judge
17	Kent	Curt A. Benson Paul J. Denenfeld Christina Elmore Kathleen A. Feeney Maureen Gottlieb Deborah L. McNabb Scott A. Noto George Jay Quist J. Joseph Rossi Mark A. Trusock Christopher P. Yates	34	Ogemaw Roscommon	Robert W. Bennett
18	Bay	Harry P. Gill Joseph K. Sheeran	35	Shiawassee	Matthew J. Stewart
19	Benzie Manistee	David A. Thompson	36	Van Buren	Kathleen M. Brickley Jeffrey J. Dufon
20	Ottawa	Kent D. Engle Jon H. Hulsing Karen Jongekrijg Miedema Jon A. Van Allsburg	37	Calhoun	John A. Hallacy Tina Yost Johnson Brian K. Kirkham Sarah Soules Lincoln
21	Isabella	Mark H. Duthie Sara Spencer-Noggle	38	Monroe	Mark S. Braunlich Michael A. Weipert Daniel S. White
22	Washtenaw	Archie Cameron Brown Patrick J. Conlin Jr. Timothy Patrick Connors Carol Anne Kuhnke Tracy Elisabeth Van den Bergh	39	Lenawee	Anna Marie Anzalone Michael R. Olsaver
23	Alcona Arenac Iosco Oscoda	David C. Riffel	40	Lapeer	Michael Hodges Nick O. Holowka
24	Sanilac	Timothy C. Wrathell	41	Dickinson Iron Menominee	Mary Brouillette Barglind Christopher S. Ninomiya
25	Marquette	Jennifer A. Mazzuchi	42	Midland	Michael J. Beale Stephen P. Carras
26	Alpena Montmorency	Keith Edward Black	43	Cass	Mark A. Herman
27	Newaygo Oceana	Robert D. Springstead	44	Livingston	L. Suzanne Geddis Michael P. Hatty Matthew J. McGivney
28	Missaukee Wexford	Jason J. Elmore	45	St. Joseph	Paul E. Stutesman
29	Clinton Gratiot	Cori E. Barkman Shannon L.W. Schlegel	46	Crawford Kalkaska Otsego	Colin G. Hunter George J. Mertz
30	Ingham	Rosemarie Elizabeth Aquilina Clinton Canady III Joyce A. Draganchuk James S. Jamo Carolyn Koenig Lisa K. McCormick Wanda M. Stokes	47	Delta	John B. Economopoulos
31	St. Clair	Daniel A. Damman Cynthia A. Lane Michael L. West	48	Allegan	Margaret Bakker Roberts Kengis
32	Gogebic Ontonagon	Michael K. Pope	49	Mecosta Osceola	Kimberly Lynell Booher Scott P. Hill-Kennedy
33	Charlevoix	Roy C. Hayes III	50	Chippewa	Nicholas J. Lambros
			51	Lake Mason	Susan Kasley Sniegowski
			52	Huron	Gerald M. Prill
			53	Cheboygan Presque Isle	Aaron J. Gauthier
			54	Tuscola	Amy Grace Gierhart
			55	Clare Gladwin	Thomas R. Evans Roy G. Mienk
			56	Eaton	Janice K. Cunningham John Douglas Maurer
			57	Emmet	Jennifer E. Deegan

## JUDGES OF THE PROBATE COURT

County	Judge of Probate	County	Judge of Probate
Alcona . . . . .	Laura A. Frawley	Lenawee . . . . .	Catherine Ann Sala
Alger, Schoolcraft . .	Charles C. Nebel	Livingston . . . . .	Miriam Cavanaugh
Allegan . . . . .	Michael L. Buck	Luce, Mackinac . . .	W. Clayton Graham
Alpena . . . . .	Thomas J. LaCross	Macomb . . . . .	Kathryn A. George
Antrim . . . . .	Norman R. Hayes		Sandra A. Harrison
Arenac . . . . .	Richard E. Vollbach Jr.	Manistee . . . . .	Thomas N. Brunner
Baraga . . . . .	Timothy S. Brennan	Marquette . . . . .	Cheryl L. Hill
Barry . . . . .	William M. Doherty	Mason . . . . .	Jeffrey C. Nellis
Bay . . . . .	Jan A. Miner	Mecosta, Osceola . .	Tyler O. Thompson
Benzie . . . . .	John Mead	Menominee . . . . .	Daniel E. Hass
Berrien . . . . .	Brian Berger	Midland . . . . .	Dorene S. Allen
	Mabel Johnson Mayfield	Missaukee . . . . .	Melissa J. Ransom
Branch . . . . .	Kirk A. Kashian	Monroe . . . . .	Frank L. Arnold
Calhoun . . . . .	Michael L. Jaconette		Cheryl Lohmeyer
Cass . . . . .	Susan L. Dobrich	Montcalm . . . . .	Charles W. Simon III
Charlevoix, Emmet . .	Valerie Snyder	Montmorency . . . .	Lora E. Greene
Cheboygan . . . . .	Daryl Patrick Vizina	Muskegon . . . . .	Gregory Christopher Pittman
Chippewa . . . . .	Eric Blubaugh		Brenda E. Sprader
Clare, Gladwin . . . .	Marcy A. Klaus	Newaygo . . . . .	Melissa K. Dykman
Clinton . . . . .	Lisa Sullivan	Oakland . . . . .	Jennifer S. Callaghan
Crawford . . . . .	Monte Burmeister		Linda S. Hallmark
Delta . . . . .	Perry R. Lund		Daniel A. O'Brien
Dickinson . . . . .	Thomas D. Slagle		Kathleen A. Ryan
Eaton . . . . .	Thomas K. Byerley	Oceana . . . . .	Bradley G. Lambrix
Genesee . . . . .	Jennie E. Barkey	Ogemaw . . . . .	Shana A. Lambourn
	F. Kay Behm	Ontonagon . . . . .	Janis M. Burgess
Gogebic . . . . .	Anna Rose Talaska	Oscoda . . . . .	Cassandra L. Morse-Bills
Grand Traverse . . . .	Melanie Stanton	Otsego . . . . .	Michael K. Cooper
Gratiot . . . . .	Kristin M. Bakker	Ottawa . . . . .	Mark A. Feyen
Hillsdale . . . . .	Michelle Snell Bianchi	Presque Isle . . . . .	Erik J. Stone
Houghton . . . . .	Fraser T. Strome	Roscommon . . . . .	Mark Jernigan
Huron . . . . .	David L. Clabuesch	Saginaw . . . . .	Patrick J. McGraw
	David B. Herrington		Barbara L. Meter
Ingham . . . . .	Shauna Dunning	St. Clair . . . . .	Elwood L. Brown
	Richard Joseph Garcia		John Tomlinson
Ionia . . . . .	Robert S. Sykes Jr.	St. Joseph . . . . .	David C. Tomlinson
Iosco . . . . .	Christopher P. Martin	Sanilac . . . . .	Gregory S. Ross
Iron . . . . .	Donald S. Powell	Shiawassee . . . . .	Thomas J. Dignan
Isabella . . . . .	Stuart Black	Tuscola . . . . .	Nancy Thane
Jackson . . . . .	Diane M. Rappleye	Van Buren . . . . .	David DiStefano
Kalamazoo . . . . .	Tiffany Ankley	Washtenaw . . . . .	Darlene A. O'Brien
	Curtis J. Bell		Julia B. Owdziej
	G. Scott Pierangeli	Wayne . . . . .	David Braxton
Kalkaska . . . . .	Lynne Marie Buday		Freddie G. Burton Jr.
Kent . . . . .	Terence Ackert		Judy A. Hartsfield
	Patricia D. Gardner		Terrance A. Keith
	G. Patrick Hillary		Lisa Marie Neilson
	David M. Murkowski		Lawrence Paolucci
Keweenaw . . . . .	Keith Warren DeForge		David Perkins
Lake . . . . .	Mark S. Wickens		Frank S. Szymanski
Lapeer . . . . .	Justus C. Scott	Wexford . . . . .	Edward Van Alst
Leelanau . . . . .	Marian F. Kromkowski		

# 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.

## 2021 Courts and Judgeships

LEGEND	TOTALS
# - District Court	232 - Judgeships
Ⓝ - Number of District Court Judgeships*	103 - 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 no judges.

## JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT

District	Geographical Area	Judge
1	Monroe County . . . . .	Michael C. Brown William Paul Nichols Jack Vitale
2A	Lenawee County . . . . .	Jonathan L. Poer Laura S. Schaedler
2B	Hillsdale County . . . . .	Megan Stiverson
3A	Branch County . . . . .	Brent R. Weigle
3B	St. Joseph County . . . . .	Jeffrey C. Middleton Robert Pattison
4	Cass County . . . . .	Stacey A. Rentfrow
5	Berrien County . . . . .	Gary J. Bruce Arthur J. Cotter Gordan Gary Hosbein Sterling R. Schrock Dennis M. Wiley
7	Van Buren County . . . . .	Arthur H. Clarke III Michael T. McKay
8	Kalamazoo County . . . . .	Anne E. Blatchford Christopher Haenicke Kathleen P. Hemingway Julie K. Phillips Richard A. Santoni Vincent C. Westra
10	Calhoun County & the City of Battle Creek . . . . .	Paul K. Beardslee Jason C. Bomia Michelle L. Richardson Tracie L. Tomak
12	Jackson County . . . . .	Allison Bates Joseph S. Filip Daniel A. Goostrey Michael J. Klaeren
14A	Washtenaw County, except City of Ann Arbor & Township of Ypsilanti . . . . .	Anna M. Frushour J. Cedric Simpson Kirk W. Tabbey
14B	Township of Ypsilanti . . . . .	Erane C. Washington
15	City of Ann Arbor . . . . .	Joseph F. Burke Miriam A. Perry Karen Q. Valvo
16	City of Livonia . . . . .	Sean P. Kavanagh Kathleen J. McCann
17	Township of Redford . . . . .	Krista Licata Haroutunian Karen Khalil
18	City of Westland . . . . .	Sandra A. Ference Cicirelli Mark A. McConnell
19	City of Dearborn . . . . .	L. Eugene Hunt Jr. Sam A. Salamey Mark W. Somers
20	City of Dearborn Heights . . . . .	Mark J. Plawecki David Turfe
21	City of Garden City . . . . .	Richard L. Hammer Jr.
22	City of Inkster . . . . .	Sabrina L. Johnson
23	City of Taylor . . . . .	Geno Salomone Joseph D. Slaven
24	Cities of Allen Park & Melvindale . . . . .	John T. Courtright Richard A. Page
25	Cities of Lincoln Park & Ecorse . . . . .	Gregory A. Clifton David J. Zelenak

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

District	Geographical Area	Judge
27	Cities of Wyandotte & Riverview . . . . .	Elizabeth L. DiSanto
28	City of Southgate . . . . .	Elizabeth Mimi Mullins
29	City of Wayne . . . . .	Breedia K. O'Leary
30	City of Highland Park . . . . .	Brigette R. Officer-Holley
31	City of Hamtramck . . . . .	Alexis G. Krot
32A	City of Harper Woods . . . . .	Rebekah Ruth Coleman
33	Cities of Trenton, Gibraltar, Woodhaven, Rockwood & Flat Rock; Townships of Brownstown & Grosse Ile. . . . .	Jennifer Coleman Hesson Michael K. McNally
34	Cities of Romulus and Belleville; Townships of Sumpter, Van Buren & Huron . . . . .	Tina Brooks Green Lisa Marie Robinson Martin Brian A. Oakley
35	Cities of Northville & Plymouth; Townships of Northville, Plymouth & Canton . . . . .	Michael J. Gerou Ronald W. Lowe James A. Plakas
36	City of Detroit. . . . .	Lydia Nance Adams Roberta C. Archer Christopher Michael Blount Demetria Brue Esther L. Bryant Donald Coleman Kahlilia Yvette Davis Deborah Geraldine Ford Austin William Garrett Kristina Robinson Garrett Ruth Ann Garrett Ronald Giles Adrienne Hinnant-Johnson Shannon A. Holmes Patricia L. Jefferson Kenyetta Stanford Jones Alicia A. Jones-Coleman Kenneth J. King Jacquelyn A. McClinton William McConico Donna Robinson Milhouse Sean B. Perkins Kevin F. Robbins David S. Robinson Jr. Aliyah Sabree Millicent D. Sherman Marlena E. Taylor Michael E. Wagner Larry D. Williams Jr.
37	Cities of Center Line & Warren. . . . .	John M. Chmura Michael Chupa Suzanne Faunce Matthew P. Sabaugh
38	City of Eastpointe . . . . .	Kathleen G. Galen
39	Cities of Roseville & Fraser . . . . .	Joseph F. Boedeker Alyia Marie Hakim Kathleen E. Tocco
40	City of St. Clair Shores. . . . .	Mark A. Fratarcangeli Joseph Craigen Oster
41A	Cities of Utica & Sterling Heights; Townships of Shelby & Macomb . . . . .	Annemarie M. Lepore Douglas P. Shepherd Stephen S. Sierawski Kimberley Anne Wiegand

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

District	Geographical Area	Judge
41B	City of Mt. Clemens; Townships of Clinton & Harrison . . .	Jacob M. Femminineo Carrie Lynn Fuca Sebastian Lucido
42, Div. 1	Cities of Memphis & Richmond; Townships of Bruce, Washington, Armada, Ray & Richmond . . . . .	Jennifer Andary
42, Div. 2	City of New Baltimore; Townships of Lenox & Chesterfield. . . . .	William H. Hackel III
43	Cities of Madison Heights, Ferndale & Hazel Park . . . . .	Brian C. Hartwell Keith P. Hunt Joseph Longo
44	Cities of Royal Oak & Berkley . . . . .	Derek W. Meinecke James L. Wittenberg
45	Cities of Huntington Woods, Oak Park & Pleasant Ridge; Township of Royal Oak . . . . .	Michelle Friedman Appel Jaimie Powell Horowitz
46	Cities of Southfield & Lathrup Village; Township of Southfield . . . . .	Cynthia Arvant Shelia R. Johnson Debra Nance
47	Cities of Farmington & Farmington Hills. . . . .	James Brady Marla E. Parker
48	Cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor & Orchard Lake Village; Townships of Bloomfield & West Bloomfield . . . . .	Marc Barron Diane D'Agostini Kimberly Small
50	City of Pontiac . . . . .	Ronda Fowlkes Gross Michael C. Martinez Cynthia Thomas Walker
51	Township of Waterford . . . . .	Todd A. Fox Richard D. Kuhn Jr.
52, Div. 1	Cities of Novi, South Lyon, Wixom & Walled Lake; Townships of Milford, Highland, Commerce, Lyon & Novi. . . . .	Robert Bondy Thomas David Law Travis Reeds
Div. 2	City of Clarkston; Townships of Springfield, Independence, Holly, Groveland, Rose, White Lake & Brandon . . . . .	Joseph G. Fabrizio Kelley Renae Kostin
Div. 3	Cities of Rochester, Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills & Lake Angelus; Townships of Oxford, Addison, Orion & Oakland . . . . .	Lisa L. Asadoorian Nancy Towlin Carniak Julie A. Nicholson
Div. 4	Cities of Clawson & Troy. . . . .	Kirsten Nielsen Hartig Maureen M. McGinnis
53	Livingston County . . . . .	Daniel B. Bain Shauna Murphy
54A	City of Lansing . . . . .	Louise Alderson Stacia J. Buchanan Kristen D. Simmons Cynthia M. Ward
54B	City of East Lansing. . . . .	Richard D. Ball Molly E. Hennessey Greenwalt
55	Ingham County, except Cities of Lansing & East Lansing . .	Donald L. Allen Richard L. Hillman
56A	Eaton County . . . . .	Kelly E. Morton Julie O'Neill
56B	Barry County . . . . .	Michael Lee Schipper



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

District	Geographical Area	Judge
57	Allegan County . . . . .	William A. Baillargeon Joseph S. Skocelas
58	Ottawa County . . . . .	Juanita F. Bocanegra Craig E. Bunce Bradley S. Knoll Judith K. Mulder
59	Cities of Grandville & Walker. . . . .	Peter P. Versluis
60	Muskegon County . . . . .	Maria Ladas Hoopes Raymond J. Kostrzewa Paula Baker Mathes Geoffrey Thomas Nolan
61	City of Grand Rapids . . . . .	Nicholas S. Ayoub David J. Buter Michael J. Distel Jennifer Faber Jeanine Nemesi LaVille Kimberly A. Schaefer
62A	City of Wyoming. . . . .	Pablo Cortes Steven M. Timmers
62B	City of Kentwood . . . . .	Amanda J. Sterkenburg
63, Div. 1	Cities of Cedar Springs & Rockford; Townships of Tyrone, Solon, Nelson, Spencer, Sparta, Algoma, Courtland, Oakfield, Alpine, Plainfield, Cannon & Grattan. . . . .	Jeffrey J. O'Hara
Div. 2	Cities of East Grand Rapids & Lowell; Townships of Grand Rapids, Ada, Vergennes, Cascade, Lowell, Byron, Gaines, Caledonia & Bowne . . . . .	Sara J. Smolenski
64A	Ionia County. . . . .	Raymond P. Voet
64B	Montcalm County . . . . .	Adam Eggleston
65A	Clinton County . . . . .	Michael E. Clarizio
65B	Gratiot County . . . . .	Stewart D. McDonald
66	Shiawassee County . . . . .	Ward L. Clarkson
67, Div. 1	Cities of Flushing & Clio; Townships of Flushing, Flint, Montrose, Thetford & Vienna . . . . .	David J. Goggins
Div. 2	Cities of Davison & Burton; Townships of Davison, Forest, Richfield & Atlas. . . . .	Jessica J. Hammon Jennifer J. Manley
Div. 3	City of Mt. Morris; Townships of Mt. Morris & Genesee. . .	Vikki Bayeh Haley
Div. 4	Cities of Fenton, Grand Blanc & Swartz Creek; Townships of Fenton, Argentine, Grand Blanc, Mundy, Gaines & Clayton . . . . .	Mark C. McCabe Christopher Odette
Div. 5	City of Flint. . . . .	William H. Crawford II G. David Guinn Herman Marable Jr. Tabitha M. Marsh
70, Div. 1	Cities of Saginaw & Zilwaukee; Townships of Zilwaukee, Buena Vista, Carrollton & Bridgeport . . . . .	Terry L. Clark M. Randall Jurrens
Div. 2	Saginaw County, except Cities of Saginaw & Zilwaukee, Townships of Zilwaukee, Buena Vista, Carrollton & Bridgeport. . . . .	Elian Fichtner Alfred T. Frank David D. Hoffman
71A	Lapeer County . . . . .	Laura Cheger-Barnard
71B	Tuscola County . . . . .	Jason E. Bitzer
72	St. Clair County . . . . .	Mona S. Armstrong Michael L. Hulewicz John D. Monaghan
73A*	Sanilac County . . . . .	None

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

District	Geographical Area	Judge
73B*	Huron County . . . . .	None
74	Bay County . . . . .	Mark E. Janer Timothy J. Kelly Dawn A. Klida
75	Midland County . . . . .	Michael Carpenter
76	Isabella County . . . . .	Eric Janes
77	Mecosta & Osceola Counties . . . . .	Peter Jaklevic
78	Oceana & Newaygo Counties . . . . .	H. Kevin Drake
79	Mason & Lake Counties . . . . .	John David Middlebrook
80	Clare & Gladwin Counties . . . . .	Joshua M. Farrell
81*	Alcona, Arenac, Iosco & Oscoda Counties . . . . .	None
82	Ogemaw and Roscommon County . . . . .	Richard E. Noble
84	Missaukee & Wexford Counties . . . . .	Audrey D. Van Alst
85*	Benzie & Manistee Counties . . . . .	None
86	Antrim, Grand Traverse & Leelanau Counties . . . . .	Robert A. Cooney Michael Stepka
87A*	Otsego County . . . . .	None
87B*	Kalkaska County . . . . .	None
87C*	Crawford County . . . . .	None
88*	Alpena & Montmorency Counties . . . . .	None
89	Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties . . . . .	Maria I. Barton
90	Charlevoix & Emmet Counties . . . . .	Angela Lasher
91*	Chippewa County . . . . .	None
92	Luce & Mackinac Counties . . . . .	Beth Gibson
93	Alger & Schoolcraft Counties . . . . .	Mark E. Luoma
94	Delta County . . . . .	Steve Parks
95A	Menominee County . . . . .	Robert J. Jamo
95B	Dickinson & Iron Counties . . . . .	Julie Ann LaCost
96	Marquette County . . . . .	Roger W. Kangas Karl Weber
97	Baraga, Houghton & Keweenaw Counties . . . . .	Nicholas J. Daavettila
98*	Gogebic & Ontonagon Counties . . . . .	None

\* 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

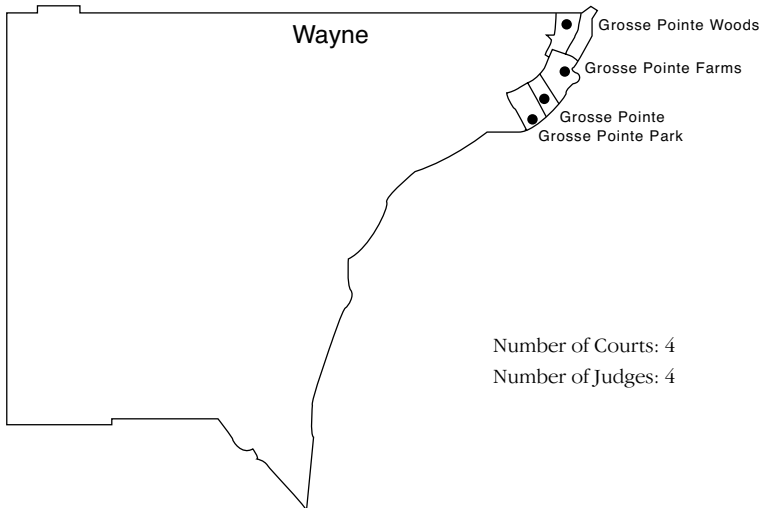
Municipal courts are organized subject to Public Act 5 of 1956, although most were first organized under either Public Act 279 of 1909 or Public Act 269 of 1933. They have exclusive original jurisdiction over all ordinance violations, criminal jurisdiction equal to that of district court, and civil jurisdiction of claims limited to \$6,000.

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 four-year terms.

In 2018, 29,343 cases were filed. Almost 30 percent of cases filed are traffic related.

Grosse Pointe . . . . .	Russell F. Ethridge
Grosse Pointe Park . . . . .	Carl F. Jarboe
Grosse Pointe Woods . . . . .	Theodore A. Metry
Grosse Pointe Farms . . . . .	Matthew R. Rumora



## JUDICIAL BRANCH AGENCIES

### *State Appellate Defender Office*

The State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) functions to implement United States and Michigan constitutional requirements to provide legal representation to people who appeal their criminal convictions and cannot afford their own attorneys.

The Michigan Supreme Court established SADO through a 1969 federal grant award, followed by Administrative 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 pending 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 7-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. SADO public defenders routinely correct errors in client sentences that decrease their prison sentences and thereby produce cost savings for Michigan taxpayers. Appellate representation also results in reversal of unfair trials and at times, exonerations of actually innocent people. SADO also represents most of Michigan's "juvenile lifers"—people serving unconstitutional mandatory sentences of life without parole for offenses committed as children—in new sentencing hearings.

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, (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, and (4) reentry assistance for people returning to their communities from prison. Community outreach and holistic client support are provided through a variety of special events and materials developed by SADO staff.

Assigned private counsel handle approximately 75 percent of all indigent felony pending appeals in Michigan. Until the advent of Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (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.

Public Act 620 of 1978 requires the Appellate Defender 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.

SADO's Criminal Defense Resource Center (CDRC) provides support services and training to MAACS and SADO attorneys and Michigan's criminal defense community on the website, [www.sado.org](http://www.sado.org). Services include online databases (pleadings, expert testimony, and more), court opinion summaries, practice manuals (the *Defender Books*), and training events throughout the state.

Jonathan Sacks, Director, [jsacks@sado.org](mailto:jsacks@sado.org)

## ***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 nine members who serve without compensation and who are appointed by the Supreme Court as follows: six lawyers and three public members (nonlawyers), each of whom may serve no more than two 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 three 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 five years. The office of the board is located in Suite 1410, 211 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226. Mark Armitage, 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 [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 nine members. Three members are lay persons and six 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 2100, 755 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48084. Michael V. Goetz, 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, the Rules of Professional Responsibility, or MCR 9.202(B). 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. Lynn Helland, 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 Public Act 236 of 1961, consists of five active members of the bar, each of whom holds office for five 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. Maribeth Preston, Executive Director. For more information, see [courts.mi.gov/courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/BLE](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 242 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 ten major operational divisions: Court Services, Child Welfare Services, Friend of the Court Bureau, Office of Dispute Resolution, Judicial Information Systems, MiFile, Michigan Judicial Institute, Regional Administration, Specialty Services, and Statistical Research. Each division has a director or manager responsible for oversight, coordination, improvement efforts, and overall management of each of their respective divisions. Each division has a director or manager who reports directly to a senior director, deputy court administrator, or the state court administrator.

**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 and procedural manuals used in everyday operations within the courts.

**Specialty Services** provide staff support to the Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review, which establishes criteria and administers tests for certification of court reporters and recorders, the Language Access Services program, and provide standard forms used in the courts. Special projects include the Problem-Solving Court Programs 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, 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 numerous 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 to ensure that cases are progressing toward permanency. 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 **Friend of the Court Bureau** (FOCB) offers policy and operational support to family division judges and friend of the court offices. The FOCB analyzes statistics, reviews laws, regulations, and court rules; and reviews grievances and responses to provide custody, parenting time and child support guidelines for FOC operations. The division assists courts and FOCB offices in developing and implementing special projects to improve family court services and provides subject matter experts to train FOC and court staff for The Michigan Judicial Institute, Michigan Family Support Conference, and other training conferences. The FOCB also cooperates with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service’s Office of Child Support to coordinate FOC offices in providing services under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and is responsible for developing and revising the Michigan Child Support Formula and created and updates The Michigan Parenting Time Guideline.

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; distance learning opportunities; web-based training; a resource library that includes materials from the State Justice Institute, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, National Association of State Judicial Educators, and 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 [www.courts.mi.gov/education/mji](http://www.courts.mi.gov/education/mji).

**Regional Administration** is comprised of six 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 caseload, 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, and other local officials. 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 Wayne County. The Region II State Court Administrative Office is located in Lansing and serves the trial courts in Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Shiawassee, 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, Gladwin, 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, Kalamazoo, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. The Region VI State Court Administrative Office is located in Detroit and serves the trial courts in Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair counties.



**Statistical Research** collects, maintains, analyzes, and reports credible, accurate, timely and usable information regarding Michigan courts. This division coordinates data collection through the Michigan Court Application Portal (MCAP), including the Caseload Reporting System. The information is used to prepare statistical reports, such as the Judicial Resources Recommendations Report, the Michigan Supreme Court Annual Report, and the statistical supplements.

**MiFILE** is a statewide e-Filing system sponsored by the State Court Administrative Office that provides parties to a case with the ability to electronically file documents in any Michigan court, 24 hours a day, without traveling to a courthouse and waiting in line. It will also allow parties to electronically serve one another with documents and to electronically receive notifications and documents from the courts. MiFILE will be available in all Michigan courts for every eligible case type. The system is operational at several courts around the state and will be rolled out statewide over the next few years.

