

# HEARSAY

GENESEE COUNTY  
CIRCUIT AND  
PROBATE COURTS  
E-NEWSLETTER

*a quarterly publication*

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## HAPPENINGS AT THE HALEY BUILDING

The feature article is written by Stephanie Musser, Region Manager MDOC Adult Probation/Parole

If you ever wonder what happens at the building that occupies the space opposite the Genesee County Circuit Courthouse on the corner of Court and Beach Streets, well wait no more.

The Donald R. Haley Building is home to the Michigan Department of Corrections – Adult Probation Department for the Genesee County Circuit Court. And as for what goes on at this office, please have a look!

### We're Big!

The department is budgeted for 37 probation agent positions with varying caseload numbers based on the types of correctional clients being supervised.

We also have a specialized presentence investigation unit which consists of 6 agents who exclusively write presentence



reports and make recommendations for court sentencing. For this calendar year we have received approximately 1,200 referrals for presentence reports from the court. The total number of offenders under supervision is approaching 2,100.



Probation Agent Shelley Yambrick receives an award for excellence in SCRAM alcohol monitoring.

### Agent Specialization and Caseload Types

There are many training programs that allow the agents to "specialize" in certain caseload types. Caseload specialization allows agents to focus on variables and dynamic risk factors of specific populations. Certain caseloads use a variety of technologies to assist in supervision.

Adult probation has agents who specialize in the following caseload types:

- Gender specific caseloads utilizing a trauma-informed approach
- Offenders with mental health considerations involved with Mental Health Court
- Drug Court Offenders
- Sex Offenders

- Interstate Compact offenders being supervised from other states who come to Michigan
- Electronic Monitoring caseloads of multiple types

Electronic Monitoring includes those cases that are serving sentences similar to house arrest, but with allowable curfews.

There is also SCRAM monitoring where participating offenders wear a device to deter and detect alcohol consumption.

The Department uses the COMPAS instrument to assess the risks and needs of each offender. The goal is to tailor a community supervision plan aimed at assisting the offender to succeed and not unreasonably compromise public safety.

Most of the specialty courts and some specialized caseloads, including sex offenders, utilize a team approach where the progress of offenders and case management decisions are based on the careful consideration of a team of community partners. These include the court and MDOC, all sharing a vested interest in the success of offenders and safety of the public.

### Pilot Programs

Adult Probation is involved in a variety of MDOC-sponsored pilot programs throughout the

(Continued on page 7)

# THE CHIEF SPEAKS

If you have ever ventured into my office you would know that I am a collector of lighthouse photographs.

The [American Heritage Dictionary](#) defines a lighthouse as a "tall structure topped by a powerful light used as a beacon or signal to aid maritime navigation." So, metaphorically speaking, a lighthouse is a beacon. It's something people who are lost can look towards for guidance.

Michigan has over 3,200 miles of shoreline and is bordered by 4 of the 5 Great Lakes. It is not surprising that that Michigan claims more lighthouses than any other state in the country.

Lighthouse historians say there were as many as 247

lighthouses in Michigan, but now less than 100 are in good condition.



*Fort Gratiot* (Port Huron) was the first Michigan lighthouse. It was built in 1814 and guards the strategic juncture of the St. Clair River and Lake Huron. During the war of 1812, this lighthouse protected the international border and prevented the British from launching a land invasion from Canada.

Another nearby lighthouse, is the *Tawas Point Lighthouse*, in

operation since 1876. This lighthouse is a fascinating attraction for maritime buffs and a destination for birdwatchers.

It also offers spectacular views of sunrises over Lake Huron and sunsets over Tawas Bay.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the narrow Straits of Mackinac were among the most treacherous stretches of water for mariners. *Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse*, the unusual Norman Revival "Castle of the Straits," began illuminating the shipping lane in 1889. The light served an immensely important role until 1957, when the Mackinac Bridge and its superior navigational aids rendered the lighthouse obsolete.

The red brick *Big Bay Point Lighthouse* (Big Bay, MI) stands 60 feet high, its square

tower dating from 1896 and topped with a stunning white lantern. Set above Lake Superior atop a sandstone cliff, Big Bay Point has been converted into an inn with 7 guestrooms named for former lighthouse keepers and furnished with period furniture.

Lighthouses are iconic landmarks widely recognized as symbols of our coastal history and maritime heritage. The Great Lakes coastline boasts an amazing collection of lighthouses, lighting the length of the spectacular Great Lakes coastline.

I invite you to take the Michigan lighthouse quiz on page [8](#). Photos of the 4 lighthouses mentioned here are also included. -cjrby

## ADMINISTRATOR CORNER

In April 2019, Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack announced the creation of a bipartisan, inter-branch initiative to examine factors affecting jail populations and make recommendations that reduce incarceration trends, promote public safety and safeguard civil rights.

The task force was created by an Executive Order from Governor Whitmer. The creation of the task force stemmed from the acceptance by the The Pew Charitable Trusts of a joint request from county and state leaders for technical assistance related to factors affecting the jail population trends in Michigan.

The co-chairs of the task force are the Honorable Bridget M. McCormack, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court, and the Honorable Garlin Gilchrist II, Michigan Lieutenant Governor.

The task force is comprised of leaders that include judges, legislators, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, county commissioners, community corrections and victim advocates. The task force will analyze jail data through 2019 and arrive at research based proposals for legislative and administrative reforms in 2020 that may include:



- expanding jail alternative for those that can be managed in the community, safely reducing jail admissions, length of stay and associated costs
- supporting consistent, objective and evidence-based pre-trial decision making
- providing services and support to crime victims
- improving efficiency and effectiveness of justice and public safety systems and

- aligning practices with current research and constitutional mandates

The task force is scheduled to hold public meetings around the state to receive community input before any conclusions and recommendations are made.

For information about meeting locations, task force membership and more in depth background about the mission of the task force, click [HERE](#).

You may also sign up to receive emails or text alerts about task force events and progress. -bam

# TECH UPDATE

## Juror Playback

After evidence has been presented, closing arguments completed and jury instructions provided, the important phase of jury deliberations can begin. During this phase, the jury is under the close and guarded supervision of the judicial office.

It is not uncommon during this phase for a jury to request playback of witness testimony or to replay an audio or video file. The judge's staff will notify the tech team that a jury has requested a review of testimony or evidence.

Presently, the tech staff carefully parse the trial record so that only the requested portion is copied. The file is loaded on a flash drive. An a/v cart with a computer and a 30 inch monitor are brought to the juror deliberation room for viewing. The current process is clunky, time consuming and requires a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to enter the jury deliberation room.

After consulting with the county IT staff, the tech team is rolling out new technology to replace the existing playback carts. A 42 inch monitor, keyboard and mouse will be wall mounted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor west jury deliberation rooms. These units will be networked to the recorded court proceedings.

A TV stick will be inserted into the HDMI port of the monitor, acting like a computer. The TV stick allows the tech staff to remotely load the requested testimony or evidence.

This new approach is more efficient and far less intrusive.

## Zoom Deployment – Michigan Supreme Court (MSC), Court Video Project

The MSC is deploying another phase of the statewide Court Video Project. The video project started in 2012 by placing video conferencing equipment in all court hearing locations to connect with Department of Corrections facilities and the State Police Forensic Lab.

A new enhancement called Zoom will be introduced. Zoom is communications software that expands video conferencing to include online meetings and other types of mobile collaboration.

Each judge will be able to use their virtual courtroom as a meeting place with, remote connectivity for witnesses, attorneys, offenders and others. The maximum number of parties for a virtual court proceeding is five.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Historical Courtrooms

These spaces will receive a cosmetic upgrade by installing wall plates behind the 80" monitors and concealing the HDMI wires that hang down the walls. The HDMI wires facilitate evidence presentation from a laptop or mobile device.

Wireless microphones are also being added to the 3d floor historical courtrooms. This will amplify the voice of the speaker live during the proceeding

*(Continued on page 4)*



•September is the close of the fiscal year (FY) for the county. As part of a year-end closing process, an effort is undertaken to make certain that all items purchased during the FY are paid in full through September. Budgets are reviewed to make certain that expenses, including payroll, are expensed to the correct accounts. Purchase orders are reviewed to make certain that the goods and services were received and expensed prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

•At the September 4<sup>th</sup> Governmental Operations meeting, the circuit court made a presentation to the Board of

Commissioners regarding the future management and operation of Genesee County Juvenile Justice Center. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Commissioners also appointed Steve Kleiner former program manager as the interim director of this facility.

•Congratulations to attorney Terina Carte, a member of the Child Advocacy Team (CAT). CAT represents youth in child welfare and delinquency proceedings. She was selected by SCAO to attend the National Judicial Leadership Summit on Child Welfare in Minneapolis, September 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

The Michigan team included judges, attorneys on child welfare cases, SCAO Administrator Milt Mack and Justice Elizabeth Clement.

•Congratulation to Edith (Edie) Campbell, information desk volunteer, she was featured in the September issue of *My City Magazine*. Her non-profit organization, Pets in Peril, was highlighted for their work on educating pet owners on responsible animal care. Edie has been an information desk volunteer since 2003 and works on Monday and Tuesday mornings.



## AN UPDATE ON THE MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION ACT



67th District Court Judge Mark C. McCabe writes "Ask the Judge" for the *Tri-County Times*.

An Update on the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Act appeared in the September 25th, 2019

In July 2018, I wrote a two-part column about a statute called the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Act.

The purpose of this statute is to ensure that indigent defendants in criminal cases are provided with the effective assistance of competent counsel. The statute provides for a statewide program with one set of rules under the administration of

the newly formed Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC).

At the time I wrote the columns, the statute had not been fully implemented although much of the groundwork had already been laid.

Today I am happy to report that the indigent defense program is now in place and almost all courts have state and locally funded appointed attorneys for eligible defendants starting at the arraignment (first appearance on the criminal charges) and for all critical stages thereafter.

A "critical stage" is defined as a step in a criminal proceeding where the absence of counsel may harm the defendant's right to a fair trial.

As a Genesee County judge, I can tell everyone first hand that our county's courts started the new indigent defense program last spring and everything is going very well.

We have appointed attorneys at each of our seven district court locations every day that defendants are being arraigned or are present for other criminal matters. For felony cases, this representation continues at the Circuit Court level.

This is a work in progress and everyone involved continues to adapt to the new system. I see that it is effective and continues to improve.

What should also be said is this. There are times when one hears that a defendant

has a "court appointed attorney" and is therefore at a disadvantage in their criminal defense.

In my experience, nothing could be further from the truth.

What I constantly see from the appointed attorneys is the highest level of dedication and competence, which everybody can be proud of.

To be an appointed attorney there are a number of requirements including continuing legal education and training. It is not easy. Few people know the time and energy the attorneys spend on their cases.

This has all been a mammoth undertaking. For those interested, there is a full history and many more details at the MIDC website [michiganidc.gov](http://michiganidc.gov).

## TECH UPDATE (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 3)

and on the recorded file. This also gives lawyers the flexibility to traverse the well of the courtroom.

The Polycom microphones will be relocated on the bench to provide better communication to the detention facilities. **JAVS Training for Judicial Advisory Assistants**

**October 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30** the tech team will offer training for the judicial advisory assistants and other court staff who operate the courtroom digital recording system.

Topics to be covered include logging procedure and tools, recording controls and status bar, brief review on microphone use and placement, audio meters, equipment set-

up, basic operation and maintenance.

This will be a standing meeting offered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. You can signup by clicking [HERE](#).

Novembers Tech Talk will be covering OnBase followed by user submitted topics in December.

All users are encouraged to submit topics they would like to learn more about. Previous topics included JIS, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word. – jep

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Left to Right: Zachary Leachman, Nicole Neveau

**Zachary Leachman** joined the Friend of the Court on August 26 as the support enforcement caseworker assigned to Judge Gadola. Zach was a case manager at an adult assisted living facility before joining the FOC.

**Nicole Neveau** started with the Friend of the Court on August 27 as the support enforcement caseworker assigned to Judge Kelly. Nicole worked at Ban-

nun, a federal half-way house before accepting her position at the FOC.

**Sargent Mohamed Sanchez** returned to the Friend of the Court on July 1. Moe worked with the FOC as a deputy until 2016 when he was promoted to a Sargent. Moe has returned to the FOC and will be assisting with efforts to build relationships with other law enforcement agencies.

**Paige Riem** is Judge Kelly's judicial advisory assistant. She graduated with honors from Michigan State University, criminal justice program. In May 2019, she graduated



Sergeant Mohamed Sanchez

*magna cum laude* from the Michigan State University College of Law.

**John Ryan** is Judge Newblatt's judicial advisory assistant. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University in political science. He attended the Ph.D. political science program at Syracuse University for a period of time. Subsequently, he left the program to attend Wake Forest University School of Law where he received his Juris Doctor.

**Dylan Kert** is Judge Theile's judicial advisory assistant. As an undergrad, he attended Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English. He earned his Juris Doctor from Michigan State University School, graduating *magna cum laude*. As a graduate stu-

dent he worked with Judge Amy Krause of the Michigan Court of Appeals.

**Jami Vert** is the new secretary in the reimbursement office. She has over 7 years of experience working with government offices, most recently in the City of Saginaw, Office of the Assessor. In that petition she was a Michigan Certified Assessing Technician (MCAT). She also has other experience working with other



Michelle DeHate

divisions of the City of Saginaw. Prior to working for the court, she had a brief stint at the Register of Deeds office.

**Michelle DeHate** started as a deputy register with the Probate Court on August

27. She received her Bachelor's Degree from U of M-Flint in political science and pre-law.



Left to Right: Paige Riem, John Ryan, Dylan Kert, Jami Vert



# geneseeLIVING

Fredricka Savage is the columnist for geneseeLIVING.

Dropping temperatures have a tendency to cause people to want to stay home and hibernate, but there are still a lot of events going on right here in Genesee County. Colder weather can trigger the “winter blues” or seasonal depression. An article entitled “[7 Ways to Beat Office Winter Blues](#)” on NBCNews.com, reports that staying active and maintaining a healthy diet can help keep the blues at bay. The article also suggests that doing something charitable can lift your spirits if you are feeling down. Hopefully this list of events will inspire you to continue exploring what Genesee County has to offer or even offer some cheer to someone else.

If you are feeling like you suffer from seasonal depression, make sure you reach out and talk to someone and consult a professional. Genesee County offers an Employee Assistance Program through HelpNet. (800) 969-6162 [www.helpnetcap.com](http://www.helpnetcap.com)

Gc4me.com

## Flint's Second Friday ART-WALK

Partake in delicious food, tasty beverages, live music and the works of various artists on display throughout a variety of downtown Flint galleries and businesses. Stop by the Greater Flint Arts Council (816 S. Saginaw Street) for a copy of this month's walking tour, while supplies last. For more information vis-

it [geneseefun.com](http://geneseefun.com).

**Date:** Friday, October 11, 2019

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Flint's Downtown Entertainment District

## The New McCree Theatre presents: “Memphis the Musical”

Memphis is set in the places where rock and roll was born in the 1950s: the seedy nightclubs, radio stations and recording studios of the musically-rich Tennessee city. With an original score, it tells the fictional story of DJ Huey Calhoun (based loosely on real life DJ, Dewey Phillips, who began playing black music as early as 1952), a good ole' local boy with a passion for R&B music and Felicia Farrell, an up-and-coming black singer. For more information and a schedule of upcoming performances at McCree Theatre visit [thenewmccreetheatre.com](http://thenewmccreetheatre.com)

**Date:** Saturday, October 5, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The New McCree Theatre 2138 W. Carpenter Road Flint, MI 48505

Admission: \$5 per person

## Fenton Village Players presents: “One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest”

This Tony Award winning play pits the charming rogue, MacMurphy, against very tightly wound and controlling Nurse Ratchet. MacMurphy mistakenly thinks he can get out of a short prison sentence by faking mental illness and going instead to a mental institution. MacMurphy

soon takes over the ‘yard’ and accomplishes what the doctors have been unable to do for 12 years – get the mute Indian Chief to talk. He leads the others out of their introversion however his antics soon lead to the horrifying climax. For more information and a schedule of upcoming performances visit [fentontheatre.org](http://fentontheatre.org).

**Date:** Friday, October 4, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Fenton Village Playhouse 14197 Torrey Road Fenton, MI 48430

## Fall Fashion Brunch

Enjoy Calla Lilies, Emilie B's, Girl Talk, Bavarian Inn's Royal Gift shop and the White House Boutique for a fun time including brunch, mimosas, fashion, shopping, giveaways and so much more. All details above. Advance registration and prepayment required. Visit [HERE](#) for details

**Date:** Sunday, October 6, 2019

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Bavarian Inn Restaurant 713 S Main St, Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Admission: \$35 per person

## Flint Fright Film Fest

The Flint Horror Collective presents the Flint Fright FilmFest, a one day film festival just in time for Halloween featuring diabolical short films from around the world. In partnership with Mott Community College and their Media Arts & Entertainment Technology program enjoy a full day of short horror films culminating in a ceremony to award

six prizes for scariest, best written, best special effects, best overall and more. For more information visit [flinthorrorcon.com](http://flinthorrorcon.com) or at [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

**Date:** Saturday, October 12, 2019

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mott Memorial Building Auditorium 1401 E. Court Street Flint, MI 48503

Admission: \$5 per person (Mott Students Free with ID)

## Halloween Ghosts & Goodies

Make your way to Crossroads Village for one of autumn's greatest traditions. Enjoy treats and tricks, cider and donuts, little monsters and big fun for the whole family. From an Enchanted Forest to the magic show at the Colwell Opera House or the straw maze and treat stops throughout the village, it's sure to put all in the spirit of the season. Don't forget to top off your visit with a 40-minute ride through the autumn countryside on the famous Huckleberry Railroad Ghost Train Express or a cruise around Mott Lake on the Genesee Belle. It is highly recommended that you purchase your train ride early as they often sell out in advance. For more information visit [genesee-parks.org](http://genesee-parks.org).

**Date:** Saturday, October 26, 2019 and Sunday, October 27, 2019

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad 6140 Bray Road Flint, MI 48505

## The Color Purple

The Color Purple is the 2016 Tony Award® winner for Best Musical Revival. Hailed as “a direct hit to the heart” (The

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## geneseeLIVING (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 6)

Hollywood Reporter), this joyous American classic has conquered Broadway in an all-new "ravishingly reconceived production that is a glory to behold" (The New York Times). Don't miss this stunning re-imagining of an epic story about a young woman's journey to love and triumph in the American South. For more information and a schedule of upcoming performances at The Whiting visit [thewhit-ing.com](http://thewhit-ing.com).

**Date:** Saturday, November 2, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** The Whiting 1241 E. Kearsley Street Flint, MI 48503

### Ladies Night Out at Crossroads Village

Enjoy this special girl's night out featuring shopping, crafts, demonstrations, holiday lights, vintage rides, quality vendors of Flint Handmade and more. For more information and a schedule of upcoming County Park events visit [geneseecountyparks.org](http://geneseecountyparks.org).

**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2019

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad 6140 Bray Road Flint, MI 48505

### John Crist Immature Thoughts Tour

With over 1 billion video views, comedian and viral sensation John Crist is the next big thing in standup comedy.

Whether you know him from viral videos like "Millennial International," "Road Rage in the Church Parking Lot," or "Every Parent at Disney," Crist has solidified his comedic prowess with sold out shows from coast to coast. For more information, along with concert packages, and a schedule of upcoming performances at The Whiting visit [thewhit-ing.com](http://thewhit-ing.com)

**Date:** Sunday, November 17, 2019

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Whiting 1241 E. Kearsley Street Flint, MI 48503

### Christmas at Crossroads Holiday Magic

Visit Crossroads when thousands of lights sparkle like tiny stars throughout the village

with live entertainment, model trains, holiday music, costumed villagers making vintage crafts, shops full of great holiday gifts and Santa bringing smiles to faces of all ages. Ride the Huckleberry Railroad for a festive night-time ride. It is highly recommended that you purchase your train ride early as they often sell out in advance. For more information visit [geneseeeparks.org](http://geneseeeparks.org).

**Date:** Friday, November 29, 2019 and Saturday, November 30, 2019

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad 6140 Bray Road Flint, MI 48505 -fs

## HAPPENINGS AT THE HALEY BUILDING (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

year. We currently serve as host to the "Carey Guides." Research demonstrates that some traditional methods of supervision are ineffective in reducing recidivism. In fact, research indicates that effective correctional practices require offenders to understand the personal factors underlying their criminal behavior and be taught the skills to make positive changes.

The Carey Guides are a tool for agents to use to support positive change in offenders by teaching these skills. We are committed to expanding the offender success model to probationers, as we have already done with the parole population.

One local program already underway in Flint is a pilot geared toward homeless probationers. The probation department is partnering with the Court and New Paths to begin the framework of a type of probation offender success program addressing residential stability and other needs, according to individual assessment.

One of the large-scale successes is the training of all MDOC staff in the principles of motivational interviewing techniques designed to assist correctional clients in taking steps toward positive change.

These programs assist staff in upholding the mission of the Michigan Department of Corrections which is to create a safer Michigan by holding offenders accountable while promoting their success.

**We strongly believe that offender success equals long-term public safety.** But it does not stop here.....

### **Always Moving Forward**

The Department continues to move forward and to challenge ourselves to improve over the next five years through the Department's Strategic Plan. Some of the objectives moving forward include continuing to invest in our employees by establishing an Employee Wellness Unit focused on occupational stress.

As we know, occupational stress in the corrections or law enforcement environment can have devastating effects on our employees. Programs are being put into place to address employee wellness and to encourage a healthy work-life balance.

We are continuing to enhance our interactions with offenders by moving to a "coaching model" of supervision where we model pro-social behavior in our interactions with offenders in order to transform their lives.

The Department is statutorily required to adopt evidence-based supervision practices and we will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of offender programs and to research innovative and emerging best practices.

Genesee County is again a true trailblazer in leading the way to new and exciting opportunities to increase the chance for offender success while creating a safe and healthier Flint community! -sm

# LIGHTHOUSE QUIZ



1. This lighthouse is located in Mason County, near a state park.



2. This lighthouse is located on a peninsula in the Grand Traverse Bay.



3. This lighthouse is located on an island in Lake Superior that is part of the national parks system.



4. This lighthouse is adjacent to the Great Lakes Shipwrecks Museum on the Lake Superior shoreline.



5. This lighthouse is located on an island in the Detroit River, constructed of marble and designed by renowned Detroit architect, Alfred Kahn.



Fort Gratiot



Tawas Point Lighthouse

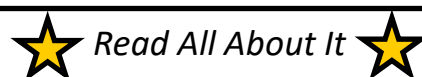


Old Mackinaw Point



Big Bay Point Lighthouse

4.) Whitefish Point Lighthouse, Paradise, MI. 5.) William Livingston Light, Belle Isle, Detroit, MI. 3.) Rock Harbor Lighthouse, Isle Royale National Park. 2.) Mission Point Lighthouse, Mission Peninsula, MI. 2.) Mission Point Lighthouse, Ludington, MI. 1.) Big Sable Lighthouse, Ludington, MI.



Hearsay is now available on the Circuit Court website [www.7thCircuitCourt.com/hearsay-newsletter](http://www.7thCircuitCourt.com/hearsay-newsletter)

We want to hear from you! Send us an email letting us know what you would like to see in the newsletter and feedback on the current edition. You can also submit ideas and information about activity in your department. [hearsay@7thcircuitcourt.com](mailto:hearsay@7thcircuitcourt.com)



# Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration

August 2019

Issue 1

**"The result of our hard work will be well worth it – a legacy of a justice system that other states will look to as a national model."**

– Chief Justice Bridget McCormack

## Major Takeaways

**1. Michigan jail populations nearly tripled in the last 35 years.**

**2. Michigan's rural counties experienced significant jail growth over the last 40 years and currently hold more people in jail than urban areas.**

**3. Michigan counties spent nearly one-half billion dollars on corrections and jail costs in 2017.**

## Contact Information

### General Inquires:

[JailsTaskForce@courts.mi.gov](mailto:JailsTaskForce@courts.mi.gov)

### Task Force Website:

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

### New Resources:

[Meeting Presentation](#)

[Meeting Handout](#)

## First Task Force Meeting

The Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration held their first meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, and heard remarks from Speaker Lee Chatfield, co-chairs Chief Justice Bridget McCormack and Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist, and each task force member.

The Task Force is receiving technical assistance from The Pew Charitable Trusts and is charged with examining data and crafting ambitious, innovative, and thorough recommendations that expand alternatives to jail, safely reduce jail admissions and length of stay, protect the public, and improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of Michigan's justice systems.

## National Data Presentation

Technical assistance staff from The Pew Charitable Trusts presented initial findings about jail population trends from national data sources and the Michigan Treasury Department's county financials dashboard. Local data from Michigan jails and courts will supplement these findings in future meetings.

Michigan jail populations nearly tripled in the last 35 years. Approximately 6,000 people were held in Michigan county jails in the 1970s and, despite the index crime rate peaking in the early 1980s, Michigan's jail population increased to nearly 16,600 people by 2016. Michigan crime rates are at a 50-year low, yet county jail populations have not reflected that decline. In fact, the last time the crime rate was this low (1960s), the jail incarceration rate was a third of what it is today. Notably, while the male inmate population increased by 167% since 1975, the female inmate population increased by 503%.

Michigan's rural counties experienced significant jail growth over the last 40 years and now hold more people in jail than urban counties. Between 1978 and 2013, the federal Census of Jails showed rural jails increased their share of Michigan's jail population from 15% to 24%, while the portion in urban jails decreased from 34% to 19%.

Michigan counties spent \$478 million for county corrections and jail costs in 2017 – nearly three times the average amount spent on community/economic development and recreation/culture.

# Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration



## Getting to Know Your Task Force Members!

- **Chief Justice Bridget McCormack**, Co-chair
- **Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II**, Co-chair
- **Dr. Amanda Alexander**, Detroit Justice Center
- **Hon. Thomas Boyd**, Judge of the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court of Ingham County
- **Sheriff Jerry Clayton**, Washtenaw County
- **Craig DeRoche**, Prison Fellowship and former Michigan Speaker of the House
- **Hon. Prentis Edwards, Jr.**, Judge of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court of Wayne County
- **William Gutzwiller, Sr.**, City of Essexville
- **Dale "DJ" Hilson**, Muskegon County Prosecutor
- **Monica Jahner**, Northwest Initiative
- **Dr. Sheryl Kubiak**, Wayne State University Dept. of Social Work
- **Lt. Jim Miller**, Allegan County Sheriff's Office
- **Rep. Mike Mueller**, 51<sup>st</sup> House District
- **Hon. Dana Nessel**, Michigan Attorney General
- **Takura Nyamfukudza**, Chartier & Nyamfukudza, P.L.C.
- **Bill Peterson**, Alpena County Commissioner
- **Sen. Jim Runestad**, 15<sup>th</sup> Senate District
- **Sen. Sylvia Santana**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District
- **James Talen**, Kent County Commissioner
- **Robert VerHeulen**, Kent County Road Commissioner
- **Rep. Tenisha Yancey**, 1<sup>st</sup> House District

## Task Force Meeting Schedule

### Task Force Meeting #2 (Friday, August 23)

Kirkbride Hall  
700 Cottage Dr. #200  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Business Meeting: 9:30am-12:30pm  
Public Testimony: 1:30pm-4:00pm

### Task Force Meeting #3 (Friday, September 20)

Grand Rapids Community College  
Student Community Center Rm 234  
122 Lyon St NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Business Meeting: 9:30am-12:30pm  
Public Testimony: 1:30pm-4:00pm

### Task Force Meeting #4 (Friday, October 18)

Wayne State University Law School  
Spencer M. Patrich Auditorium  
471 W Palmer St  
Detroit, MI 48202

Business Meeting: 9:30am-12:30pm  
Public Testimony: 1:30pm-4:00pm

### Task Force Meeting #5 (Tuesday, November 19)

Michigan Senate  
Boji Tower  
Senate Hearing Room – Ground Floor  
124 W Allegan St  
Lansing, MI 48933

Business Meeting: 10:30am-12:30pm  
Public Testimony: 1:30pm-4:00pm

### Task Force Meeting #6 (Thursday, January 9)

Michigan Senate  
Boji Tower  
Senate Hearing Room – Ground Floor  
124 W Allegan St  
Lansing, MI 48933

Business Meeting: 9:30am-11:00am





## MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

*John Nevin, Communications Director*

Ph: 517-373-0129 Twitter: @MISupremeCourt FB: facebook.com/misupremecourt

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Chief Justice McCormack Serves as Visiting Judge in Van Buren County**

*“Have Gavel, Will Travel” visit also spotlights local drug court graduates, Recovery Month*

PAW PAW, MI, September 9, 2019 – Continuing the new Michigan Supreme Court “Have Gavel, Will Travel” initiative, Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack Friday joined Van Buren County Circuit Court Chief Judge Kathleen M. Brickley to hear cases on the Drug Treatment Court docket. In an effort to increase engagement and build ties between courts and the community, several Justices are serving as visiting judges on district, circuit, and probate courts statewide, hearing and deciding real cases.

“The doors to an independent and efficient judiciary must be wide open to everyone,” said Chief Justice McCormack. “By engaging with local communities, we build trust in our judiciary and deliver on the promise of a fair and consistent court system that treats every person with dignity and respect. Chief Judge Brickley understands that living up to that commitment is our top priority.”

“The Van Buren Courts are proud to be partnering with the Michigan Supreme Court in the ‘Have Gavel, Will Travel’ initiative. Having Chief Justice McCormack join me on the bench sends a signal to the entire community that our court is committed to being independent, accessible, engaged, and efficient,” said Chief Judge Brickley.

Chief Justice McCormack also noted that September is National Recovery Month, and highlighted the successful efforts of the county’s wide range of treatment courts. “With one in ten Michiganders in recovery, the problem-solving courts here in Van Buren County are playing a critical role in saving lives, strengthening families, and making communities safer.”

Chief Justice McCormack, Justice Elizabeth T. Clement, and Justice Megan K. Cavanagh each are visiting three courts around Michigan to launch “Have Gavel, Will Travel.” In each instance, the Justices are sitting with a local judge, and hear and decide cases on their own as a visiting judge over two days.

In addition to the benefits of engaging the local community and court system, the experience will be invaluable to helping the Justices understand the day-to-day concerns judges see in their courtrooms, and to appreciate the critical work that is being done in courtrooms from Wayne County to Kent County to Marquette.

-MSC-





## MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Chief Justice McCormack Honors Friend of the Court** *National Leader in Protecting Families Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Year*

LANSING, MI, July 29, 2019 – Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack has joined with the Friend of the Court Association to celebrate August 2019 as the 100th anniversary of Michigan’s Friend of the Court. The Chief Justice also attended the annual meeting of the association and swore in their officers.

“Truly, the one attribute of the 2000 professionals who work for Friend of the Court are just that – a friend to the hundreds of thousands of families who depend on your work,” noted Chief Justice Bridget McCormack. “You are a lifeline for families who are struggling with divorce, parenting time, and other difficult issues. You serve those moms, dads, and children with dignity, respect, compassion, and dedication that is unmatched.”

Chief Justice McCormack presented the association with a Michigan Supreme Court resolution highlighting the anniversary, noting, in part: “...for 100 years, Michigan’s Friend of the Court has been an innovative leader and national pioneer in protecting the welfare of families and children....”

Enacted on August 14, 1919, Friend of the Court legislation was adopted to protect the welfare of families and children by investigating and recommending parenting time, support, and to provide alternative dispute resolution for families.

The Friend of the Court, in 2018, served nearly 750,000 families and supervised distribution of more than \$1.4 billion dollars of child support, medical expenses, and spousal support; and assisted families over 14,000 times in voluntarily resolving custody and parenting time disputes.

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