

# MINUTES

## HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

The subcommittee meeting was called to order by Representative VerHeulen at 12:00 p.m.

Roll was taken: Present - Representatives VerHeulen, Brann, Miller, and Pagan

Absent - None

### I. Approval of Minutes from Previous Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was moved by Representative Brann to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on February 21, 2018. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

### II. Michigan State Appellate Defender Office and Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System

Jonathan Sacks, Director, State Appellate Defender Office (SADO), appeared before the subcommittee to present overview and status information on SADO and MAACS, as well as information on budget priorities. Mr. Sacks discussed SADO's budget of \$7.6 million and staff of 49, which includes attorneys, administrators, and investigation and mitigation professionals. Locally-funded private attorneys are overseen by MAACS, the assigned counsel unit of SADO, and SADO provides support services and training to assigned criminal defense attorneys throughout the state, through their Criminal Defense Resource Center.

The primary budget priority for FY 2018-19 is restoration of the appropriation needed for SADO/MAACS to provide post-conviction representation of juvenile lifers in resentencings, pursuant to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the *Montgomery v. Louisiana* case. There are 364 juvenile lifer cases in Michigan. SADO/MAACS represents 193 of the cases. According to the ruling, the juvenile lifer clients are entitled to resentencing in circuit court. Of the 193 clients, 66 have been resentenced to date. The Executive budget eliminated the current year appropriation of \$700,000 GF/GP. SADO/MAACS is requesting restoration of the funding to enable them to continue their work on these cases.

Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

### III. Announce Next Subcommittee Meeting

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 426 of the Capitol Building. Agenda: Jessica Parks, Deputy Director Trial Court Services, will give a presentation on problem-solving courts and the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program.

### IV. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, Representative VerHeulen adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 12:35 p.m.