



MICHIGAN COURTS



ACCESS · TRANSPARENCY · TRUST

*Overview of the FY 2022-23
Judiciary Budget Request
Appropriations Subcommittee on Judiciary
February 15, 2022*



Presentation Outline



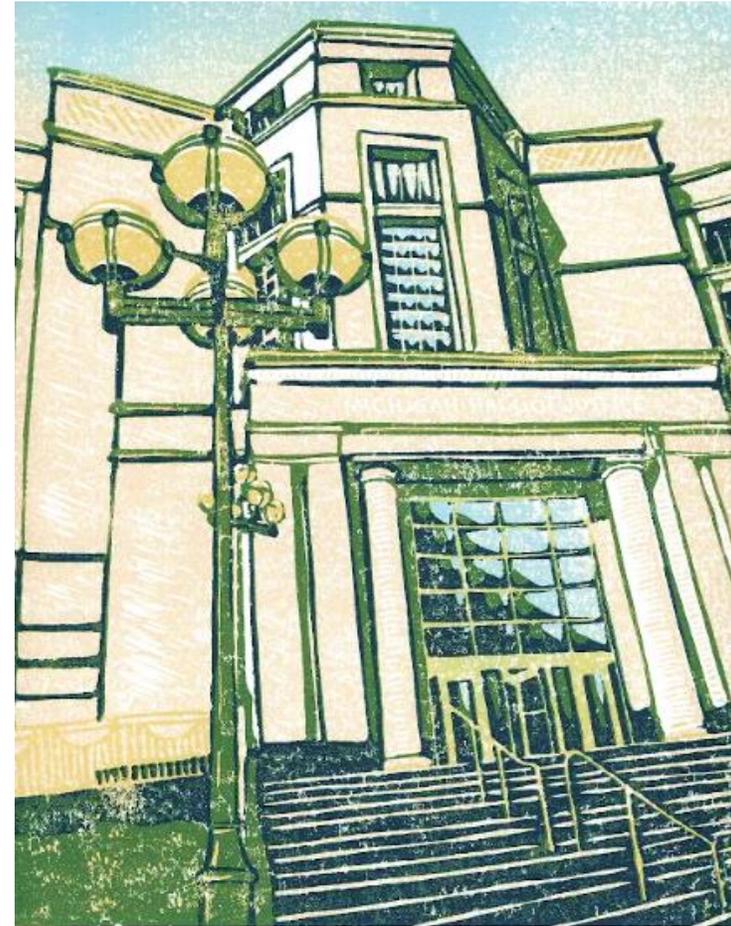
- **Judicial Branch Goals**
- **Recent Accomplishments**
- **New Initiatives**
- **Budget Priorities**



Judicial Branch Goals



- Implementation of Criminal Justice Reforms
- Ramping up Civil Justice Reform
- Building Statewide Data Infrastructure
- Using Technology to Expand Access



Recent Accomplishments

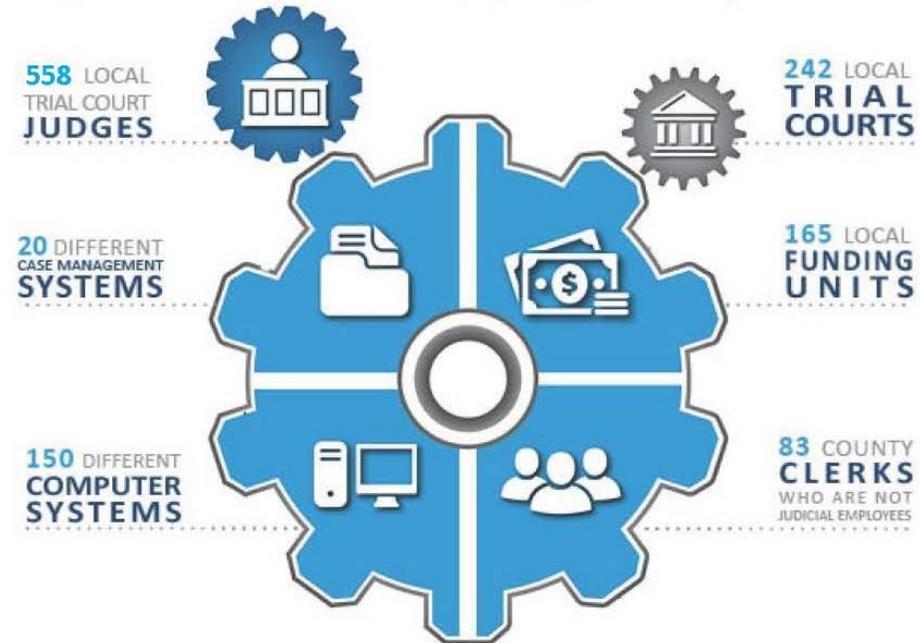


- **Recent Accomplishments**

- Remote Hearings Keep Judiciary Running
- Online Dispute Resolution Statewide
- Eviction Diversion is Successful Partnership
- New www.courts.mi.gov website

- **Despite Michigan's Decentralized Judiciary**

MICHIGAN'S DECENTRALIZED JUDICIARY



Remote Proceedings Keep Judiciary Running



MiCOURT Virtual Courtroom Directory



Search

BY LOCATION
Locate a virtual courtroom by county or current location (click 📍)

Oakland County

OR

BY JUDGE
Locate a virtual courtroom by Judge or Hearing Officer

Enter Judge or Hearing Officer

Results only include existing Virtual Courtrooms

COVID-19 Each court's local administrative order for *Return to Full Capacity* can be found [here](#).

Click a county to see available virtual courtrooms

■ Live now ■ Offline ■ Unknown

- Virtual Courtroom Directory has been used more than 460,000 times.
- Trial court YouTube channels have nearly 190,000 subscribers.
- YouTube hearings have been viewed by millions.
- Nearly 1,000 court officers have presided over more than 5 million hours of remote hearings



MI-Resolve – Online Dispute Resolution



- Michigan is the first state with Online Dispute Resolution services available statewide.
- Expanding to more case types.
- Piloting kiosks to reach parties without computers or Internet access.

www.courts.mi.gov/miresolve

- System designed to resolve money disputes, minor landlord/tenant matters (like the return of a damage deposit), contract matters, and neighborhood disputes.

MI-Resolve
Citizens Mediation Service
A service supported by the Michigan Supreme Court

Log In

Home About FAQ

Invite the Other Party to MI-Resolve

To use MI-Resolve, you will need to know basic contact details such as name, email, and street address, of the other party with whom you wish to resolve the pending matter. Once you enter your and the other party's contact information, you will receive a link to register for an account.

Please note: If there is an open court case for the matter you wish to resolve you'll need to know your case information.

Are you the plaintiff or the defendant- You are the **PLAINTIFF** if you are the person who filed the case in court and you are the **DEFENDANT** if you are responding to the court case. You can also reference your court documents to confirm your role as plaintiff or defendant. For more information go to Frequently asked Questions or consult MichiganLegalHelp.org



New Collaborations Produce Results



To prevent an eviction nightmare, utilize the nation's court systems

BY BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 07/27/21 05:31 PM EDT
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

306 COMMENTS

195 SHARES



SHARE



TWEET



Just In...

The Hill's Morning Report - Presented by Facebook - A huge win for Biden, centrist senators
MORNING REPORT — 12M 1S AGO

House at war over Jan. 6 inquiry, mask mandate
HOUSE — 39M 56S AGO

Virginia Democrats seek to tie Youngkin to Trump's election claims
CAMPAIGN — 40M 1S AGO

'Blue wave' Democrats eye comebacks after losing reelection
CAMPAIGN — 40M 6S AGO

Democrats consider scaling back new funds



© Getty Images

One of the great fears throughout the ongoing pandemic was that millions of renters forced out of their jobs would be unable to pay rent, triggering a wave of evictions and homelessness. Government action, thanks to the tireless efforts of housing advocates and lawyers, prevented such a nightmare scenario. Still, rather than a tsunami of evictions, what emerged was a hastily dammed reservoir. Watertight or built-to-last? It

Ad closed by Google

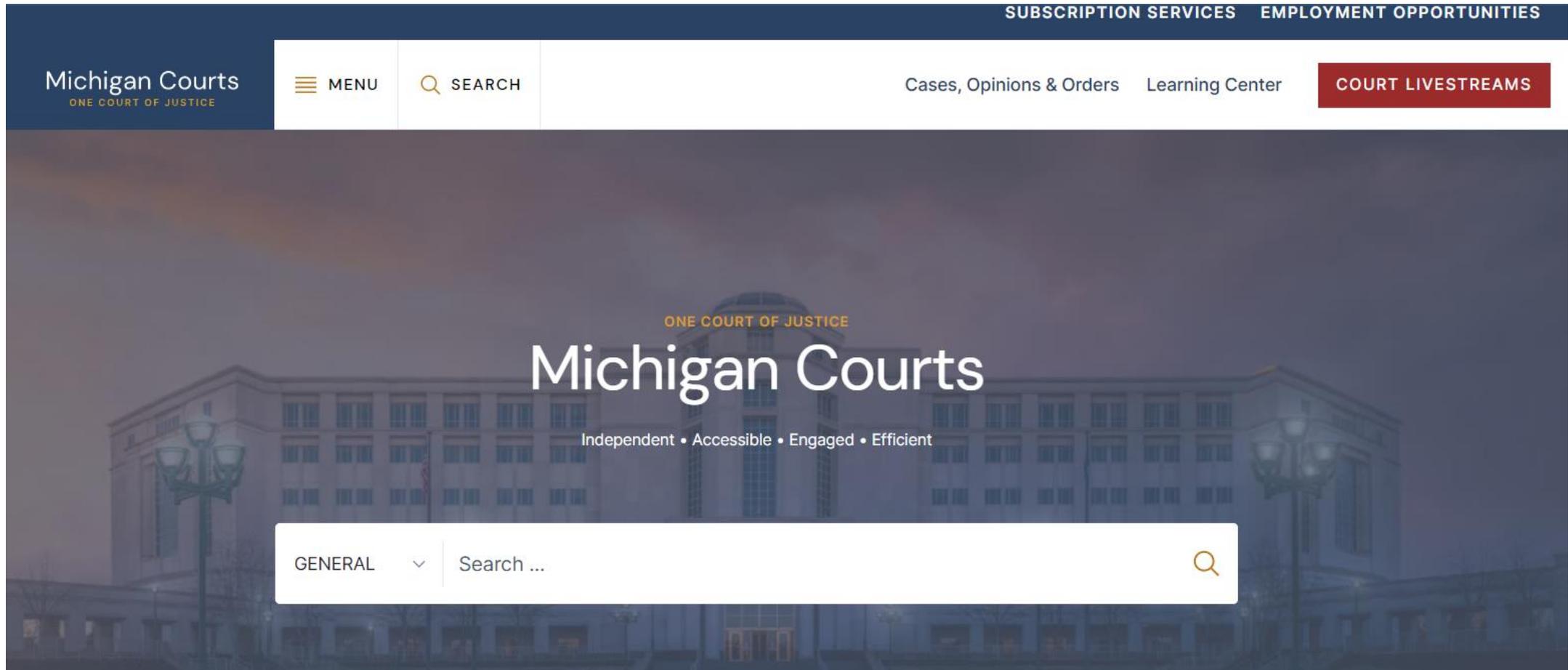
- In Michigan, all three branches of government worked together to design, enact, fund and implement our statewide [eviction diversion program](#).
- For the first time statewide, local housing agencies, legal aid, and courts were connected and collaborating.
- Through administrative order, Michigan courts have modified landlord-tenant cases so that tenants can access counsel and rent payment options.
- Landlords are able to recover full payment from the program's funding, and tenants are given help navigating the process and staying in their homes.
- Since March 2021, the CERA program has assisted 129,000 MI residents and provided \$463M in rental/utility aid.



One Court of Justice Website Redesign



- Delivered on time and on budget



New Justice System Initiatives



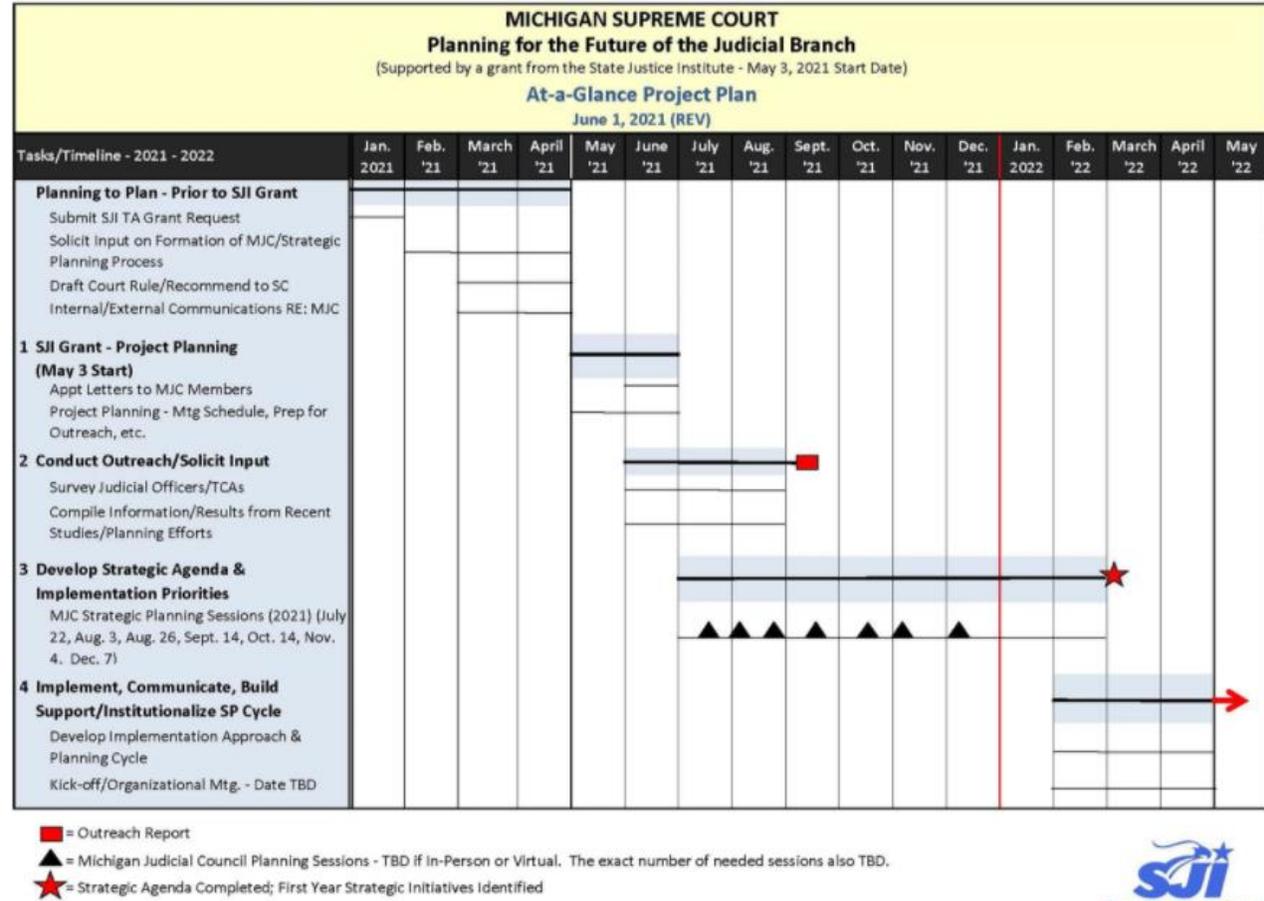
- Michigan Judicial Council
- Justice for All Commission
- Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform (State of Michigan)



Michigan Judicial Council



For the first time, our judiciary has a diverse group of justice system stakeholders working together to develop a strategic plan.



Justice for All Strategic Plan



MICHIGAN JUSTICE FOR ALL TASK FORCE
Strategic Plan and Inventory Report

December 2020

JUSTICE  FOR ALL



- Simplify, streamline and create uniform processes to improve the ability to navigate the court system.
- Test and implement new ways of providing affordable legal services, educate public and stakeholders on available resources.
- Improve technology and access at legal self-help centers and increase public awareness of these tools.
- JFA Commission established, hard at work.
- [Read the JFA Report](#)



Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform



The Problem: Different approaches in each county lead to disparate outcomes and lack of data prevents understanding and addressing issues that could either have prevented the juvenile from entering the system or get them out sooner with community support.

- Just as with the Jails Task Force, we don't know enough about the juveniles in the system, who they are, why they are there, or the results of their interaction with the justice system.
- Task Force has engaged the Council of State Governments to help collect and analyze needed data.
- Goal is for the data to drive reforms that are evidence-based and encourage broad collaboration.
- [Task for on Juvenile Justice Reform](#) Executive Order.



Judiciary Budget Priorities



We are at a breakthrough moment. We must take advantage of the opportunities before us, take risks, and change lives along the way.

Our justice system is at a crossroads and needs investment to continue improving. A trusted and efficient justice system promotes economic stability and helps employers keep employees.

Fundamentally, innovation is a win-win because a justice system that works is good for families, makes neighborhoods safer, and helps Michigan prosper.



Budget Priority – Accountability/Efficiency



- **REQUEST:** \$175,000,000 (designated as a work project appropriation)
- **PURPOSE:** To support the development and implementation of a **Statewide Judicial Case Management System**.
- **WHY:** For too long, Michigan courts have struggled with cumbersome workarounds and technical barriers to innovation created by lack of a unified case management system. By working together on one system, waste and duplication of efforts will be eliminated and courts will be more efficient.
- **DETAILS:**
 - In recommending a statewide case management system, the Trial Court Funding Commission noted: “In a data-driven world, a common data collection point is vital for service improvement.”
 - By creating a common platform to manage case files, data collection will be less time-consuming, more accurate, and available in real time to generate reports and drive decision-making.
 - New resources will support data conversion, implementation and training, and modernization and replacement of legacy case management systems.



Budget Priority – Accountability/Efficiency



- **REQUEST:** \$1,005,900
- **PURPOSE:** To rebuild the Judicial branch's operating budget to pre-pandemic levels.
- **WHY:** To help respond to the budget crisis, the Supreme Court implemented a hiring freeze and cut discretionary spending. With the state's improved financial status, the State Court Administrative Office needs those resources to be reinstated in order to better provide management and administrative monitoring and guidance to courts.
- **DETAILS:**
 - The judicial branch was a prudent steward of scarce resources during the crisis.
 - Data collection and analysis in real time is critically important to provide courts statewide with information needed to make decisions.
 - Courts need assistance coping with technological and process changes implemented during the pandemic in order to maximize potential improvements in efficiency and access.



Budget Priority - Accountability



- **REQUEST:** \$460,000 (3 FTEs)
- **PURPOSE:** To implement the mandatory continuing judicial education order issued in October 2021 (effective 1/01/2024).
- **WHY:** With adoption of AO 2021-7, Michigan joined 47 other states with mandatory judicial education programs.
- **DETAILS:**
 - 24 hours every 2 years
 - 6 hours in ethics and 18 in area of judicial practice
 - Rules and statutes change and judges must keep pace



Budget Priority – Accessibility/Efficiency



- **REQUEST:** \$1,048,000 (2 FTEs)
- **PURPOSE:** To build on the work of the Justice for All Commission that began in FY 2022, focused on a goal of 100 percent access to Michigan’s civil justice system.
- **WHY:** Barriers ranging from cost to complexity prevent most Michigan residents from resolving civil legal issues, including landlord/tenant, debt collection, access to benefits, and family-related disputes.
- **DETAILS:**
 - Continuation of 2 FTEs that were funded in FY 22
 - Statewide coordination and expanded support of self-help centers.
 - Providing navigator services.
 - Piloting regulatory reforms to create more affordable pathways to legal solutions.



Budget Priority – Accountability/Efficiency



- **REQUEST:** \$225,000
- **PURPOSE:** To contract with the National Center for State Courts for a workload assessment so that the State Court Administrative Office can publish an updated Judicial Resources Recommendation (JRR) report in FY 2025.
- **WHY:** Population, caseload, case type changes, and case time requirement data must be collected and analyzed to estimate the number of judges needed in each jurisdiction.
- **DETAILS:**
 - Since 2011, based on JRR recommendations, 39 judgeships have been eliminated while five were added for a net reduction of 34 judgeships.
 - Over the same period, reductions in judgeships saved taxpayers \$40 million (although new judgeships may reduce the annual savings going forward).
 - The effect of increased use of remote proceedings must be assessed in order to make sure that resources are being used efficiently.



Budget Priority – Accessibility



- **REQUEST:** \$613,600
- **PURPOSE:** To cover expected 4 percent economic cost increases to maintain the same level of service in Michigan’s problem-solving courts and Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Programs.
- **WHY:** Treatment courts and SSSPPs have a long record of success saving lives, boosting employment, and reducing repeat crime.
- **DETAILS:**
 - PSC graduates are 2-3 times less likely to be convicted of a new crime.
 - 97 percent of Mental Health Court graduates improve mental health status.
 - Employment increase of nearly 100 percent for drug court graduates and 81 percent for veterans treatment court graduates.
 - High risk offenders who graduate from SSSPP are less likely to commit new crimes.



Budget Priority – Engagement/Efficiency



- **REQUEST:** \$300,000 Spending Authority (restricted funds, no GF impact)
- **PURPOSE:** To increase the Private Fund restricted line to allow the State Court Administrative Office to pursue and spend private grants to improve the administration of justice.
- **WHY:** Many regional, state, and national foundations are providing significant resources in grants to both develop new policies and to examine the efficacy of ongoing justice reform projects.
- **DETAILS:**
 - Effective justice system reforms reflect support from grass roots in the community and are driven by data.
 - Public-private partnerships are effective in building community support.



Judicial System Budget Priorities—Summary



- Statewide judicial case management system
- Restore judicial branch budget to pre-pandemic levels
- Mandatory judicial education
- Justice for All Commission efforts to achieve 100 percent access to civil justice system.
- Workload assessment to effectively rebalance judgeships
- Economic increases for Problem-Solving Courts and Swift & Sure Sanctions Probation Programs
- Spending authority for private funds



Bottom Line?



Trial courts that are more accountable, efficient, and accessible can make everyone's lives better.



Find us on Social Media



ONE COURT OF JUSTICE WEBSITE

courts.mi.gov



[@misupremecourt](https://twitter.com/misupremecourt)



facebook.com/misupremecourt



linkedin.com/company/michigan-supreme-court



youtube.com/michigancourts



instagram.com/msc_1836

