



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

Field Services Division

Michigan Hall of Justice

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SCAO Monthly Update February 2026

D District/Municipal Court

C Circuit Court

P Probate Court

- * It is recommended that all information be reviewed, with symbols highlighting key items that may be of particular interest to this court.

Resources and Information

1. [Judicial Outreach Opportunities: Take Part in Child Welfare Events in 2026](#) - The Michigan Supreme Court, State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), and SCAO Child Welfare Juvenile Justice Services offer two major ways to celebrate Michigan families every year: Michigan Reunification Day (Thursday, June 25) and Michigan Adoption Day (Tuesday, November 24), both held at the Hall of Justice in Lansing. Trial courts interested in taking part should complete the [participation form](#) by March 1.
 - Also, check out the [Judicial Outreach web page](#) to learn more about the importance of community engagement, find outreach opportunities, see past examples from various courts, and share your court's own outreach activities.
2. [Get Ready for 2026 MSC Reunification Day](#) - The Michigan Supreme Court, State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), and SCAO Child Welfare Juvenile Justice Services will celebrate Michigan families made whole again by presenting the annual Michigan Reunification Day program on Thursday, June 25, at the Hall of Justice in Lansing. Trial courts interested in participating should complete the [participation form](#). Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate and support families in your community!
3. [Report Shows How Missed Appearances Impact Courts & Provides Solutions](#) - The National Center for State Courts has issued a new report, "Missing In Actions: How low appearance rates impact courts," which outlines four ways these no-shows affect court operations and provides practical solutions to help courts increase appearance rates and ensure access to justice.

Forms

1. The following items have been posted to the website:
 - a. [Explanation of changes](#) to MC 20.
 - b. [Explanation of changes](#) to MC 100.
 - c. [Explanation of changes](#) to PC 637. **P**

Education

1. [Bringing Your Best-Self to the Bench: Trauma Awareness and Judicial Officers Webinar](#) - This webinar will explore how both personal and vicarious trauma can impact individuals who are appearing before the court, as well as the judicial officers. It will also offer practical strategies for judicial officers to maintain well-being, resilience, and professionalism on the bench. This program is eligible for 1.0 continuing judicial education (CJE) credit [Integrity & Demeanor].
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2. [Navigating the Specialty Court Restricted License Process in Your State Certified Problem-Solving Court Virtual Webinar](#) - In this training, the Michigan Department of State will inform attendees about the processes related to the Specialty Court Restricted License and Ignition Interlock Program for state-certified problem-solving courts. This training is designed for all problem-solving court types. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of relevant statutes and the roles of the court, the Michigan Department of State, and the participants.
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **DC**
3. [New Friend of the Court Employees Webinar](#) - The Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi), in collaboration with the Friend of the Court Bureau, is pleased to offer a webinar for new(er) friend of the court (FOC) staff. The webinar is designed for FOC staff with two years or less experience.
Thursday, February 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **C**
4. [Supporting Justice-Involved Youth and Families Through the Re-Entry Process, Part 1](#) - Join us for a two-part webinar series, *Supporting Justice-Involved Youth and Families Through the Re-Entry Process*, in which our presenters will provide an overview of the evidence-based service model Intensive Care Coordination with Wraparound (ICCW), discuss the Serious Emotional Disturbances Waiver (SEDW), and describe the youth re-entry process.
Friday, February 27, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **CP**
5. [Grant Management Training Series - PSC/SSSPP Grant Claims and Mid-Year Status Reports](#) - In this module of the Grant Management Training Series, PSC analysts will guide programs through the claim preparation and submission process, address common errors, and offer information to assist in completing Mid-Year Status Reports. This training will be held in person at the Hall of Justice in Lansing.
Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **DC**
6. [Artificial Intelligence, Hearsay, and the Confrontation Clause: Emerging Issues Webinar](#) - Devices that record, collect, and store personal data are everywhere. But what happens when the witness to a crime is an algorithm? How do you cross examine data? And ultimately - is the right of

confrontation meaningless in the age of artificial intelligence? This webinar will explore how AI, machine learning, and algorithmic evidence interface with the Confrontation Clause, rules of evidence, and existing caselaw. This webinar is eligible for 1.0 continuing judicial education (CJE) credit [Judicial Practice & Related Areas].

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

7. [Supporting Justice-Involved Youth and Families Through the Re-Entry Process, Part 2](#) - Join us for a two-part webinar series, *Supporting Justice-Involved Youth and Families Through the Re-Entry Process*, in which our presenters will provide an overview of the evidence-based service model Intensive Care Coordination with Wraparound (ICCW), discuss the Serious Emotional Disturbances Waiver (SEDW), and describe the youth re-entry process.

Friday, March 13, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. CP

8. [PSC Best Practice Series: Phase Structure and Advancements Webinar](#) - This session will provide an overview of why treatment courts should have a clear phase structure that addresses participants' needs in a manageable and effective sequence. The overview will highlight the participants' progress to the next phase when they have achieved specific, attainable goals necessary for them to accomplish more challenging long-term goals. Attendees will learn how this progression is independent of the participants' treatment plans and is not based on the level, dosage, or type of treatment they are receiving. This training will be held remotely via Zoom.

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. DC

9. [How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice Responses](#) - This training is open to criminal justice professionals on a problem-solving court team. Therapists need NOT sign-up as they are already trained in trauma. Attendees will learn what trauma is, how to create an awareness of the impact that trauma has on behavior, and how to develop trauma-informed responses. This is an interactive training tailored for criminal justice professionals to help avoid re-traumatizing individuals, to increase safety for all, and decrease recidivism. This training will be held in person at the Hall of Justice in Lansing, and lunch will be provided.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. DC

Opportunities

1. MSC Opportunities:
 - a. [Intern to Justice Kimberly A. Thomas](#)
 - b. [Intern to Chief Justice Megan Cavanagh](#)
 - c. [Law Clerk to Justice Bernstein](#)
2. SCAO Opportunities:
 - a. [Application Developer I/II, Judicial Information Services](#)
3. [Appointment Opportunities](#):
 - a. [Michigan Judicial Council - Attorney and Court Administrator or Probate/Juvenile Register](#)

Proposed: Court Rules & Administrative Orders

MCR Cite:	MCR 1.111
ADM File:	2025-03
Comment Period Expires:	March 1, 2026
Staff Comment:	The proposed amendment of MCR 1.111 would expand free foreign language interpretation services to civil cases as suggested by several commenters on the Court’s initial proposal in this ADM file, which was adopted by the Court with some revisions. The initial proposal only contemplated free interpretation services in criminal cases. The Court is now interested in receiving additional comments regarding its proposal to expand free interpretation services to civil cases. Please note that subrule (F)(5), which would be struck under this proposal, reflects the version of subrule (F)(5) adopted by the Court in its initial proposal that becomes effective on January 1, 2026.
ADM/MCR Cite:	ADM File No. 2026-X, Rescission of ADM File No. 2012-7, and MCR 2.407, MCR 8.110
ADM File:	2019-40
Comment Period Expires:	April 1, 2026
Staff Comment:	Proposed Administrative Order No. 2026-X would clarify when, from where, and how a judicial officer may participate remotely. A related proposed amendment of MCR 2.407 would strike a reference to Administrative Order No. 2012-7 being suspended, and that administrative order would be rescinded. The proposed amendment of MCR 8.110 would authorize chief judges to require a judge’s in-person or remote presence to perform work.
MCR Cite:	MCR 8.120 and Rule 5 of the Rules for the Board of Law Examiners
ADM File:	2022-49
Comment Period Expires:	April 1, 2026
Staff Comment:	The proposed amendment of MCR 8.120 would allow law students and recent law graduates to: (1)staff certain legal programs that provide assistance to indigent persons in civil matters under the supervision by a member of the state bar, and (2) appear on behalf of indigent persons in all Michigan courts. The proposal would also expand the definition of a “recent law graduate” from one year to 15 months. The proposed amendment of BLE Rule 5 would expand the qualifications for a special certificate of qualification to practice law.
MCJC Cite:	MCJC Canon 3
ADM File:	2024-08
Comment Period Expires:	April 1, 2026
Staff Comment:	The proposed amendment of Canon 3 would clarify a judge’s responsibility to not knowingly allow unauthorized broadcasting, televising, recording, or taking of photographs in or out of the courtroom

during sessions of court or recesses between sessions.

MCR Cite: **MCR 9.108 and 9.110**
ADM File: [2024-19](#)
Comment Period Expires: April 1, 2026
Staff Comment: The proposed amendments of MCR 9.108 and 9.110 would address mid-term member vacancies and would eliminate the 2-full term officer limit for the Attorney Grievance Commission and the Attorney Discipline Board.

MCR Cite: **MCR 7.312**
ADM File: [2025-37](#)
Comment Period Expires: April 1, 2026
Staff Comment: The proposed amendment of MCR 7.312 would establish rule-based briefing deadlines in leave granted and MOAA cases where it appears necessary to appoint counsel for the indigent defendant.

Adopted: Court Rules & Administrative Orders

MCR Cite: **Housekeeping Amendments**
ADM File: [2025-42](#)
Effective Date: January 28, 2026
Staff Comment: These amendments update cross-references and make other nonsubstantive revisions to clarify the rules.

AO Cite: **AO No. 2026-1**
ADM File: [2025-46](#)
Effective Date: January 28, 2026
Staff Comment: The Court approves adoption of the following concurrent jurisdiction plan, effective immediately: The 39th Circuit Court, the 2A District Court, and the Lenawee County Probate Court.

AO Cite: **AO No. 2026-2**
ADM File: [2025-47](#)
Effective Date: January 28, 2026
Staff Comment: The Court approves adoption of the following concurrent jurisdiction plan, effective immediately: The 26th Circuit Court, the 88th District Court, and the Alpena and Montmorency County Probate Courts.

MCR Cite: **MCR 6.201 – Discovery**
ADM File: [2021-29](#)
Effective Date: May 1, 2026
Staff Comment: The amendment of MCR 6.201(B)(2) requires, before providing a police report or interrogation record to the defendant, redaction of certain information and information subject to a protective order under the rule.

Legislation

N/A

Case Law

Civil Topics

[*Leiendecker v Ascension Genesys Hosp*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Common-Law Doctrine of *Ferae Naturae* – Negligence and Premises Liability

[*Nugent v Spectrum Health Juvenile Justice Servs*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Comparative Fault – Suicide
- Social Services Agency Liability Act (SSALA) – Immunity and Gross Negligence

[*Swanson v Bittersweet Ski Resort, Inc*](#) (On Remand), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Ski Area Safety Act (SASA) – Gross Negligence

[*Bazzy v Citizens Ins Co of America*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Arbitration – Timeliness Defenses

[*Hoffman Machinery Corp v Reid Machinery Corp*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Breach of Contract – Bailment
- Conversion – Common Law and Statutory
- Conversion – Treble Damages

[*In re Higgins Lake*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA)
 - Special Assessment Districts
 - Timeliness of Petition
 - Due Process

[*Love v Rudolph*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- No-Fault Insurance
 - Involvement of Specific Motor Vehicle
 - Priority and Insured's Election to Exclude Personal Protection Insurance (PIP) Coverage

Family

[*In re Alexander*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Child Protective Proceedings – Court-Appointed Counsel and Orders for Reimbursement

[*Plachta v Plachta*](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Custody Change – Burden of Proof

Criminal Topics

[People v Goulder](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Felony Sentencing – Fines, Costs, and Assessments Following Probation
- Felony Sentencing – Offense Variable (OV) 19

[People v Geary](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Carrying a Concealed Weapon (CCW) – Possessory-Interest Exception

[People v Sims](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Felony Sentencing – Imposition of Sentence, Sentence Commencement, and Resentencing
- Plea Withdrawal After Acceptance But Before Sentence - Misconduct

[Case v Montana](#), 607 US ___, ___ (2026)

- Fourth Amendment – Emergency Aid Exception to Warrant Requirement

[People v Bryson](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Due Process
 - *Brady* Violation
 - Prosecution Failure to Correct False Testimony

[People v Campbell](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Felony Sentencing – Term-of-Years Sentence for 18-Year-Old Convicted of Second-Degree Murder

[People v Davis](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- First-Degree Child Abuse – Omission

[Halasz v Cass City Pub Schs](#), ___ F4th ___ (CA 6, 2025)

- Fourth Amendment – Seizure of Public-School Student

[People v Anderson](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Reasonable Suspicion – Intoxication

[People v Morrow](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2025)

- Second-Degree Murder by Omission – Starvation

[People v Kardasz](#), ___ Mich ___, ___ (2025)

- Sex Offenders Registration Act (SORA) – Cruel and/or Unusual Punishment

[People v Allen](#), ___ Mich App ___, ___ (2026)

- Successive Motion for Relief From Judgment – Newly Discovered Evidence