

You are receiving this newsletter because you registered at courts.mi.gov/plc/ or participated in a Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center tour or program. We encourage you to share this publication with your colleagues. To subscribe, please e-mail LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov.



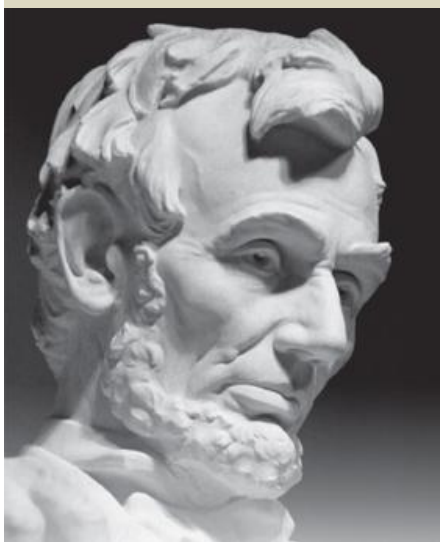
Fall 2008

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Educator Newsletter

CALENDAR

Nov. 25	Michigan Adoption Day
Dec. 3	Motions on Application*
Jan. 7-9	Oral Arguments*
Jan. 14	Public Hearing*
Jan. 21-22	Oral Arguments*
Feb. 10-12	Oral Arguments*
Mar. 3-5	Oral Arguments*
Apr. 7-9	Oral Arguments*
May 1	Law Day at the Learning Center
May 5-6	Oral Arguments*
May 13	Court Community Connections: Supreme Court Oral Arguments in St. Joseph County

*Michigan Supreme Court Oral Arguments, Motions on Application, and Public Hearings are broadcast on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). See www.mgtv.org for dates and times.



Welcome!

Welcome to our first issue of *Justitia* (yoos-TIH-tee-ah). We are extremely pleased to offer this new online publication, named for the international symbol, Lady Justice. Each issue will contain updates on Learning Center programs and tours and discuss resources to help you teach about the Judicial Branch of Government. Please share this newsletter with your colleagues. Anyone may subscribe by sending an e-mail to LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov.



Tours Still Available

A limited number of Learning Center tours are still available for the school year, and we encourage you to make your reservations today. The Center's award-winning gallery is filled with activities to help your students understand the Judicial Branch of Government and Core Democratic Values. To schedule, call 517-373-7171 or visit <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/reservations.htm>.

Connections to the Social Studies Content Expectations are located at <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources/curriculum.htm>.

Law Day 2009

A Legacy of Liberty: Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial

Celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth with the Learning Center on Law Day, May 1. The day's events will include:

- Tours that highlight Lincoln's dedication to the law and civic education.
- Judges and other legal experts as guest speakers.
- Free curriculum materials for your classroom.

Call 517-373-7171 to schedule your tour. More information is also available at <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources/programs.htm>.



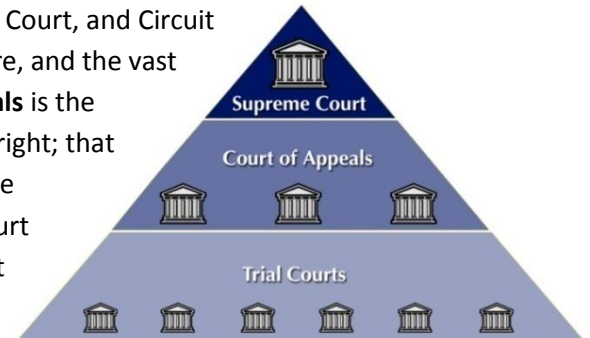
You received this newsletter because you are subscribed to *Justitia*, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center Education Newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters, please email LearningCenter-eNews@courts.mi.gov.

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center · PO Box 30205 · Lansing, MI 48909 | © 2008, Michigan Judicial Institute

In Brief

Understanding the Levels of the State Court System

The Michigan court system is organized into three levels. **(1)** The lowest courts are referred to as **trial courts**. These include the District Court, Probate Court, and Circuit Court—where the Family Division resides. Almost all cases start here, and the vast majority are resolved at this level. **(2)** The **Michigan Court of Appeals** is the state’s intermediate appellate court. In most cases, appeals are by right; that is, the Court of Appeals must hear and decide the appeals that come before it. **(3)** The **Michigan Supreme Court** is the state’s highest court and hears cases at its discretion; that is, the Court hears the cases it deems to be the most important for establishing legal precedent. All lower courts must follow the decisions of the Michigan Supreme Court.



Recommended Resources

Your Guide to Accessing the Michigan Courts (web-based training)
<http://www.accessingmicourts.net/>

Your Guide to the Michigan Courts (printable brochure)
<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/AccessMichCourts.pdf>

Annual Report of the Michigan Supreme Court 2007 (printable booklet)
<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/statistics/2007/2007execsum.pdf>



Best of the Web

Recommended Lessons Online

Elementary—The Michigan Court System

http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/videos/MI_court_system.htm

This four-minute web-based interactive, created by the Learning Center, helps elementary students learn about the Michigan court system. It describes how state courts are organized into three levels, discusses the function of the courts at all three levels, and includes a brief quiz.

High School—Verdict of History: Looking at the Michigan Supreme Court Through Its Significant Cases

http://www.micourthistory.org/lesson_plans_verdict.php

The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society’s Verdict of History unit features some of the Court’s most significant historical cases. Single-day lessons include an overview of the court system, discussion of cases, writing briefs, and instructions for a mini-moot court.

Michigan Supreme
 Court Learning Center
 PO Box 30205
 Lansing, MI 48909
 Phone: 517-373-7171

© 2008, Michigan
 Judicial Institute.