



Michigan Supreme Court announces Solutions on Self-Help Task Force

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Goals include online resource for those handling legal matters without lawyers

The Michigan Supreme Court today announced the creation of the Solutions on Self-Help Task Force. The task force will support ways to help those who cannot afford a lawyer, including developing a web site for non-lawyers who represent themselves in legal proceedings.

“Legal aid agencies are doing a valiant job, along with the many Michigan attorneys who donate over 30,000 hours of free services each year,” said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly. “But the need far outstrips their capacities.”

Many people who cannot afford to hire an attorney try to represent themselves, Kelly said. But, she said, many self-represented litigants find it very difficult to navigate the legal system and understand legal forms.

“I created this task force to fill the justice gap I see in our state,” Kelly explained. “Many judges and court staff have tried to develop resources for those who represent themselves, but not all those resources are truly helpful or up-to-date. So, among other goals, the SOS Task Force will develop a statewide self-help web site, likely modeled after the [Illinois Legal Aid web site](#) that will help non-lawyers represent themselves as effectively as possible.”

Other projects include developing a self-help program of study for judicial and court staff training, and working with courts to make forms more comprehensible by those with limited literacy and limited English proficiency.

The task force will be co-chaired by the Supreme Court’s Director of Access and Fairness, Detroit attorney Lorraine Weber, and the executive director of the Michigan Bar Foundation, Lansing attorney Linda Rexer.

Source: Michigan Supreme Court



Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly
(Photo: Michigan Supreme Court)

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