

## Jury duty is a civic responsibility

The Michigan Supreme Court recently declared July as Juror Appreciation Month.

Your local judiciary would like to take this opportunity to thank the many citizens who have been called to serve and graciously offered their time and efforts to the judicial system.

Jury service is a uniquely American responsibility of citizenship.

Few civic activities provide such a direct contact with our democracy as does jury service,

through which the community participates in the delivery of justice. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist stated: "Juries represent laymen's common sense and keep the administration of law in accord with the feelings of the community."

Thomas Jefferson, drafter of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States, said: "I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held

to the principles of its constitution."

Juror Appreciation Month, as stated by Michigan Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor, is our opportunity "to those who answer the call to jury service, and to remind everyone that the jury system is at the heart of our justice system."

We recognize that while jury service is a privilege, it is also often inconvenient. We truly appreciate the contribution of the many Shiawassee County citizens who have served on our

juries.

Once again, your judiciary thanks you.

*Editor's note: Submitted by J. Kevin McKay, magistrate/court administrator; the letter to the editor was signed by Hon. Ward L. Clarkson, District Court judge; Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco, Circuit/Family Court judge; Hon. Terrance P. Dignan, District Court judge; and Hon. James L. Clatterbaugh, Probate/Family Court judge.*