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Duly Noted

July is Juror Appreciation Month, Michigan Supreme Court announces; courts across state to promote jury service, thank jurors

The jury's role in American democracy will be the focus of "Juror Appreciation Month" in July, as the Michigan Supreme Court and courts across the state thank citizens for serving the courts - and their fellow citizens - as jurors.

The Supreme Court chose July, the month in which Americans celebrate independence, to honor jurors and encourage jury service, said Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly.

"Jury service is the community's participation in the justice system," said Kelly. "Juror Appreciation Month recognizes that jury service is truly democracy in action."

In a resolution designating July as Juror Appreciation Month, the Court said that "the right to trial by jury is one of the core values of American citizenship."

Kelly said she hopes that Juror Appreciation Month encourages potential jurors to respond willingly when summoned.

"For most of us, our first thought on getting a jury summons is 'How do I get out of it?' the chief justice noted. "But in my experience, even the most reluctant jurors find the experience very rewarding. They come away with a renewed appreciation for the justice system, and for their part in bringing justice to those whose cases they hear."

Information about jury service, including a public service announcement recorded by Kelly, can be found at <http://www.courts.mi.gov>.

michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/Juror/index.htm. Visitors to the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center web site can also play an online game to test their knowledge about jury service at <http://www.courts.mi.gov>.

courts.michigan.gov/lc-gallery/jury.htm.

The Learning Center is located on the first floor of the Hall of Justice at 925 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, at the corner of Allegan Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Walk-in visitors are welcome. Docent-led tours are available for groups of eight or more.

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