

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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JACK KRESNAK, VETERAN CHILDREN'S ISSUES REPORTER, HONORED BY MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT; FIRST JOURNALIST TO BE RECOGNIZED WITH COURT RESOLUTION

LANSING, MI, November 20, 2007 – Jack Kresnak, a veteran reporter with the Detroit Free Press, was honored today by the Michigan Supreme Court for his coverage of children's issues, including foster care and adoption.

In a resolution signed by the seven Justices, the Court said Kresnak deserves praise for "his work as a gifted and compassionate reporter on children's issues, and for the many reforms that his work has inspired, for which he has rightly received national recognition."

Justice Marilyn Kelly, the featured speaker at Washtenaw County's Michigan Adoption Day event, made the surprise presentation to Kresnak on behalf of the Court. She told adoptive families and others in attendance that "this is the first time in its history that the Michigan Supreme Court has singled out a journalist for special recognition.

"Mr. Kresnak is one of those very rare journalists who not only advance the public's understanding of the child welfare system, but also help the system critique and change itself," Kelly said. "Through his intelligent and compassionate coverage, Jack Kresnak reminds us that the true measure of a society is how well it cares for its children. His work is journalism at its best: holding those in authority accountable and giving a voice to those who have none."

Since 1988, Kresnak has been the Detroit Free Press' reporter on juvenile justice issues, such as child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, child support and custody, and foster care. His 2000 series, "Murder by Neglect: Ariana's Story," about a two-year-old murdered by her parents, led to the passage of Ariana's Law in 2004, to strengthen child protection legislation. A series of articles written by Kresnak in 2002 about foster children who are "absent without legal permission" from their foster care placements helped to spur a statewide effort to find missing foster children, including the Michigan Supreme Court's creation of special dockets in family courts.

Kresnak's work also includes the 2007 series, "Losing Isaac," which explored the events leading to a foster child's death, and coverage of the death of Ricky Holland, who was killed by his adoptive parents.

Kresnak is a graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit and was a University of Michigan Journalism Fellow in 1989-90. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the

Toni House Award, which is presented annually by the American Judicature Society to honor outstanding journalism that enhances public understanding of the courts and helps improve the justice system.

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