



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

Michigan Hall of Justice

P.O. Box 30048

Lansing, Michigan 48909

517-373-0128

Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2020

TO: All Judges

CC: Court Administrators, Clerks, and Probate Registers

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd

RE: Holiday Gifts

At this time of the year, it may be difficult to deal with those who, with good intentions, try to give gifts or gratuities to judges and court staff. The Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 4(E)(4), prohibits judges and their family members from receiving gifts, except in certain limited circumstances. Judges should require court staff under their direction to observe the same high standards to avoid any appearance that the official actions, decisions, or judgments of any court employee could be influenced by gifts. See Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3(B)(2). While the spirit motivating potential gifts to judges and court staff is appreciated, gifts are not appropriate.