

... JUDGE TIMOTHY CONNORS ...

Question and Answer with Judge Timothy Connors of the 22nd Circuit Court & Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court; and Co-Chair, Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum

Michigan Supreme Court: *Why did you embrace peacemaking in the court so fully, and in what ways do you see it affecting your community?*

Judge Connors: Because it works. The effectiveness of peacemaking or restorative justice as a concurrent path for conflict resolution in state courts is a national trend. The results are better outcomes for youth, families, communities, and justice systems.

MSC: *Can you elaborate on the ways in which you foster collaboration with the tribal courts in our state?*

JC: Peacemaking is a gift shared with us from our Tribal neighbors. When we honor and share this gift in a good way, both communities benefit.

MSC: *In what ways has serving on the Forum informed your work in your own court?*

JC: Awareness. A deeper appreciation for where we have been, why we are facing the challenges we have now, and where we need to go.

MSC: *How has peacemaking strategy aided you in addressing highly sensitive cases such as juvenile and family cases?*

JC: By focusing on the root core values of resiliency and healing: relationships, responsibility, respect, and renewal. As opposed to emphasizing the core energy of dismemberment and disconnect: power, property, proscription, and punishment.

MSC: *How did your work as Judge Pro Tem for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians influence the work you do now in Washtenaw County?*

JC: Every experience I have had with our tribal courts in and outside of Michigan—the depth, the humility, the kindness, the honesty, the bravery, and the wisdom I have seen consistently demonstrated by Tribal Judges in this country—has profoundly affected me. ↖



Judge Connors and the Washtenaw Peacemaking Court team