



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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Legal Terms

Appellant – The party who brings an appeal after losing a case, or one or more claims in the case, in the lower court.

Appellee – The party who opposes the appeal and seeks to preserve the lower court’s ruling.

Michigan Court of Appeals – The intermediate appellate court for the state of Michigan.

Plaintiff – In civil cases, the individual or organization that brings a lawsuit against another. In criminal cases, the plaintiff is the “People of the state of Michigan,” represented by the prosecutor.

Defendant – In civil cases, the individual or organization being sued. In criminal cases, the person who is being prosecuted for allegedly committing a crime.

Michigan Supreme Court – The state’s highest court, the Supreme Court hears and decides cases that pose important but unclear questions of law, or that have great public significance.