

From: Marilyn Antrim <mleonard1050@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 10:24 AM

To: Clerk Info <ClerkInfo@courts.mi.gov>

Subject: Yearly Coursework for Judges

Dear Sir,

I am a retired judge from the state of Colorado. My husband and I moved to Michigan after my retirement to be nearer to family. I was on the bench for twenty years, first as a magistrate then as a district court judge. In Colorado, district courts are the highest trial courts in the state. I believe they have a different name here.

I am contacting you because I read that the Michigan Supreme Court is seeking comments on a proposal to require annual education courses for judges, and I believe that my experience supports that proposal.

In Colorado, we had mandatory coursework every year. The conferences were three day events usually held at a Colorado resort. We earned legal education credits (CLEs). At the same time, prosecutors and public defenders (state paid defense counsel) met at different locations and also earned CLEs. By attending morning and afternoon sessions, a luncheon with an ethics topic, a keynote speaker address and an update on the state of the judiciary outlined by the chief justice, we earned our yearly requirement of CLE credits.

Breakout sessions would include caselaw updates in criminal law, civil law, tribal law, water law, etc. All breakfasts, lunches and one dinner were provided. We were given reduced room rates at the resort and the conferences were held off season. One breakfast was held in separate rooms so that district, county, trust and probate, tribal and other judge groups could meet separately to develop camaraderie.

I am available to chat if your committee thinks that my experience might be helpful. My contact information is at the bottom of this note. I am sure that Colorado justices would also be more than happy to offer input if asked.

Sincerely,

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