



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Justice Zahra to Visit Alpena to Hear about Civil Justice Access, Celebrate Drug Court's New Graduates

- Who:** Justice Brian K. Zahra, Michigan Supreme Court
Judge Thomas J. LaCross, 88th District and Probate Courts, Alpena
- What:** Justice for All Task Force public town hall meeting to hear about civil justice gaps.
Celebration for 2 new graduates of 88th District Adult Drug/Alcohol Treatment Court.
- When/
Where:** **Justice for All Task Force Town Hall Meeting**
Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Alpena Community College, Lecture Hall (Room 101)
655 Johnson Street, Alpena, MI 49707
- Drug Court Graduation**
Thursday, March 26, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
88th District Court
719 W. Chisholm St., Suite 3, Alpena, MI 49707
- Why:** **Town Hall** - The right to a lawyer in the United States applies only in criminal cases, not civil cases, creating a massive civil justice gap. For example, in three of four civil cases, at least one side represents themselves in court because they can't afford to pay an attorney. As a result, people who have done nothing wrong often lose their cases in court because they don't have the legal information or help they need. For more information, visit www.courts.mi.gov/justiceforall.

Drug Court - To honor those who have succeeded in completing the 88th District Drug Court program, which was founded in 2011 and has graduated 62 participants, to date. [Problem-solving courts](#) focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders as an alternative to incarceration; these include drug and sobriety, mental health, veterans, and other nontraditional courts. The Michigan Supreme Court assists trial courts in the management of these programs by providing training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding. Drug and sobriety court have proven to be effective in reducing recidivism and unemployment among program graduates.

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