



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
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Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2020

TO: All Judges
cc: Court Administrators

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd

RE: Virtual Courtroom Task Force Documents

The [Virtual Courtroom Task Force](#), chaired by Judge Kathryn Viviano, was formed in March 2020 in response to court closures due to the coronavirus pandemic and the spread of COVID-19. We appreciate the work of Judge Viviano and all of the task force members, including judges, court administrators, county clerks, and other county officials. Thanks to their contributions and innovation, Michigan courtrooms have logged more than [650,000 hours of Zoom hearings](#) since April 2020. The Virtual Courtroom Task Force has been recognized nationally by the [Pew Trusts](#) and the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) for producing innovative guidance to keep courts operating during this pandemic.

[The Virtual Courtroom Standards and Guidelines](#), as recently amended, have been posted to the Michigan's One Court of Justice [Virtual Courtrooms webpage](#), and new documents created by the task force have also been posted: [ADA and Remote Hearings Information](#), [Remote Witness Instructions](#), and [Zoom Tips for Attorneys and Parties](#). These documents provide useful guidance to our courts in Michigan, and the Standards and Guidelines have been adapted by NCSC to provide guidance to courts across the country.

We will periodically review and update the Standards and Guidelines to ensure that they stay relevant to our courts as virtual hearings evolve.

Questions and suggestions may be sent to Court Services at courtservices@courts.mi.gov.