



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

John Nevin, Communications Director

Ph: 517-373-0129 Twitter: @MISupremeCourt FB: facebook.com/misupremecourt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack Statement Remembering and Celebrating Juneteenth

Today, I join communities across the country in remembering and celebrating the anniversary of an important moment in our nation's history: Juneteenth. Juneteenth—short for June 19th—commemorates the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to finally inform the last enslaved people in the South that they were free. The news was delivered more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and is commemorated to mark the end of pre-Jim Crow enslavement in the United States.

156 years later, Juneteenth reminds us that the law can be used as a tool for oppression or liberation, and that we can't stop engaging in the long and hard work for the latter. Juneteenth also presents the opportunity to celebrate the history, pride, and resiliency of Black Americans and also to consider how we can meaningfully participate in the fight against anti-Black racism.

We can't build a more just and equitable union without acknowledging the deep wounds inflicted by centuries of state-sanctioned enslavement in the name of white supremacy. I applaud the recent establishment of Juneteenth as a federal holiday and support making it a court holiday in Michigan as well.

Combating systemic racism promotes justice for all—and I encourage my fellow Michiganders to reflect on the ways in which we can all contribute to a fairer, more equitable, more accessible justice system.

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