



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Michigan Supreme Court appoints members to the Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions

LANSING, MI, February 2, 2017 – Pursuant to [Administrative Order No. 2013-13](#), seven attorneys and judges joined 14 committee members, having been appointed or reappointed to serve on the 21-member Committee on Model Criminal Jury Instructions; members serve staggered three-year terms.

The committee is composed of attorneys and judges whose duty it is to ensure that the [criminal jury instructions](#) accurately and understandably inform jurors about the legal process in which they will participate and the law that they are to apply. The instructions are intended to describe trial procedures and duties in a manner that makes the legal process comprehensible to jurors, and to correctly state the law so that the jurors can apply it to the facts as they determine them to be.

Members represent prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges and include:

Prosecutors: Timothy Baughman, Michael Frezza, John Hunt, Charles Justian, Laura Moody and Melissa Powell.

Defense Attorneys: Stacia Buchanan, Michael McCarthy, John Minock, Michael Mittlestat, Stephen Rabaut, Jerome Sabbota, and Lisa Kirsch Satawa.

Judges: Committee Chair Hon. Timothy Hicks, Hon. Kathleen Brickley, Hon. Paul Cusick, Hon. Joyce Draganchuk, Hon. Hala Jarbou, Hon. David Law, Hon. Alexander Lipsey, and Hon. Kurt Wilder.

In September 2011, the Michigan Supreme Court adopted a comprehensive package of jury reform court rule amendments. Before adopting the rules, the Court conducted a two-year pilot project in which 12 judges tested proposed reforms in actual trials and reported on their experiences. The Court also surveyed jurors, who strongly favored the reforms in both civil and criminal cases.

In 2012, the Court was honored by the National Center for State Courts and received the G. Thomas Munsterman Award for comprehensive jury reforms to recognize significant improvements or innovations. Changes included permitting jurors to take notes, submit questions for witnesses, and discuss the evidence among themselves before final deliberations.

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