



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

John Nevin, Communications Director

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award; honor recognizes outstanding work in support of Michigan families, children

LANSING, MI, July 27, 2018– Nominations are now open for the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award to honor exceptional service to Michigan’s children. Jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the award is presented each year in conjunction with efforts to encourage and celebrate adoption. As part of its November Adoption Month initiative, the Supreme Court is urging courts statewide to raise awareness of the need for loving parents to adopt children from foster care.

The award was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge, an attorney and longtime leader in child support and child welfare reform. He was credited with the “Michigan Miracle” in 2002 when, as special assistant to then-Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan, he led the state’s efforts to upgrade Michigan’s child support enforcement system by federally-mandated deadlines.

By meeting the deadlines, Wright saved the state \$142 million in federal fines and earned the state a \$36 million refund for fines it had already paid. Later, as director of the Friend of the Court Bureau and Child Welfare Services divisions of the State Court Administrative Office, Wright helped create the state’s “Adoption Forums” to deal with adoption barriers that were stranding children in foster care.

“Dan’s devotion to afford foster children a greater voice in decisions affecting their own lives, continues to this day guide the Court in its work,” said Chief Justice Stephen J. Markman. “He dedicated himself to connecting foster children with adoptive ‘forever families.’ ”

Nominations are open to attorneys, judges, caseworkers, court employees, employees of public and private agencies, employees and members of nonprofits, and others who have a significant record of helping Michigan families and children. To be eligible, a nominee must have 10 years or more experience in his or her field and a record of achievements with demonstrable impact.

Previous recipients include the late Daniel J. Wright; former DHS Director Marilyn Stephen; Crawford County Court Administrator Thomas Haskel; Midland County Probate Judge Dorene Allen; former Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura Corrigan; Calhoun County Friend of the Court Jeffrey Albaugh; Executive Director Children’s Services Agency Steve Yager; Genesee County Circuit Judge Duncan Beagle, and Wexford County Probate Judge Kenneth Tacoma.

To nominate a candidate for the Wright Award, complete the attached form and return it by **Friday, September 28, 2018**. The Wright Award recipient will be honored with a special presentation at the 2018 Michigan Adoption Day event at the Michigan Hall of Justice on November 20.

-MSC-



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

John Nevin, Communications Director

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

Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award

2018 Nomination Form

Nominee's name: _____

Nominee's position or job title: _____

Name of nominee's organization or employer: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Why is your nominee a worthy candidate for the Wright Award? Please be as complete as possible; use a separate sheet if necessary.

Nominator's name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

All nominations are due by Friday, September 28, 2018.

Submit this form by e-mail to WrightAwardNominations@courts.mi.gov or fax to 517-373-9831.

Direct questions should be sent to Lynn Seaks at SeaksL@courts.mi.gov or at 517-373-1067 or Elizabeth Henderson at HendersonE@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-2621.