



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

November 22, 2019

Ingham County Circuit Judge Laura Baird 2019 Recipient of the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award

Who: Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Laura Baird to receive the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award for Exemplary Service to Michigan's Children and Families during Adoption Day festivities at the Hall of Justice. Chief Justice McCormack will preside over the event with the assistance of Justice Elizabeth Clement. Judicial colleagues and nominator, Macomb County Circuit Judge Tracey Yokich, will present the award.

What: The award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge. A former director of the Friend of the Court Bureau and Child Welfare Services division of the State Court Administrative Office, Wright helped create the state's "adoption forums" to deal with adoption barriers that were keeping children in foster care. He worked on legislation to give foster children a voice in decisions about their lives. The law now requires courts to consult the child when holding a hearing about permanent home placement.

When: Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.
Michigan Supreme Court, 6th Floor
Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing

Why: With the theme of "Giving Thanks for Families," more than 30 courts statewide will celebrate Adoption Month, 2019. Held on or near the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year, Adoption Month has become a holiday tradition, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care. Many courts will finalize adoptions, while others will hold informational events to reach potential adoptive parents.

The Court broadcasts oral arguments and other hearings [live](#). Streaming will begin shortly before the ceremony begins.

A list of statewide events is available [here](#). For information about this event, please contact Lynn Seaks, Court Relations Program Coordinator at 517-373-1067.

