



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Chief Justice McCormack, Justice Zahra to Lead Task Force ‘Town Hall’ Meetings to Address the Civil Justice Gap

The Michigan Supreme Court created the Justice for All (JFA) Task Force to work toward achieving 100 percent access to our civil justice system. With input from stakeholders all across Michigan, the Task Force is currently inventorying available resources, identifying gaps, and then will develop and implement a comprehensive plan to fill those gaps. The planned [town hall meetings](#) will give the public the opportunity to provide input and shape Michigan’s plan.

Who: Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack
Justice Brian K. Zahra
[Justice for All Task Force Members](#)

What: [Two “town hall” meetings](#) to seek input from the public and local stakeholders on addressing the civil justice gap.

**When/ :
Where** Meeting # 1 – **GRAND RAPIDS**
Friday, February 14, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation
1530 Madison Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

Meeting #2 – **DETROIT**
Monday, February 24, 2020
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Hall
1358 Abbott Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Why: The right to a lawyer in the United States applies only in criminal cases, not civil cases, creating a massive civil justice gap. For example, in three of four civil cases, at least one side represents themselves in court because they can’t afford to pay an attorney. As a result, people who have done nothing wrong often lose their cases in court because they don’t have the legal information or help they need.

For more information, visit www.courts.mi.gov/justiceforall.

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