



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

John Nevin, Communications Director

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Net Cut of Six Trial Court Judgeships Recommended

LANSING, MI, JULY 16, 2015 – The State Court Administrative Office today released the [2015 Judicial Resources Recommendations](#), calling for a reduction of nine trial court judgeships and the addition of three, for a net cut of six trial court seats. The biennial report analyzes changes in judicial workloads and recommends the most effective number of trial court and Court of Appeals judges statewide. Combined with previous cuts recommended in the 2011 and 2013 reports, taxpayers will save nearly \$200 million once the reductions are fully implemented.

“Our goal is to be the most efficient and responsible stewards of public resources, and judges statewide are committed to sharing resources, eliminating waste, balancing workloads and strengthening our commitment to the highest level of service to the public,” said Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. “We look forward to working with the Legislature as they consider this [plan](#) to continue rightsizing Michigan’s judiciary.”

As a result of the 2011 and 2013 reports, the Michigan Legislature approved the elimination of 45 judgeships, including four Court of Appeals seats. Already, 25 of those seats have been eliminated, saving taxpayers more than \$6.1 million since 2011. Annual savings once all 2011, 2013, and 2015 cuts are implemented are estimated to be \$7.4 million.

The [Judicial Resources Recommendations report](#) is the result of a detailed statistical analysis that takes into consideration the amount of judicial time needed to handle each case type. Based on that analysis, courts deemed to have either too many judges or too few judges were studied further to incorporate factors beyond caseloads into the final recommendation. As noted in the table below, five district court seats are slated for elimination while one is added; two circuit court seats are added; and four probate court seats are recommended to be cut.

2015 Judicial Resource Recommendations	District	Circuit	Probate
36 th District Court (Detroit)	-1		
Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw counties	-1		
Berrien County	-1		
Delta County	-1		
52 nd District (Oakland County)	-1		
44 th District (Royal Oak)	+1		
Ingham County			-1
Monroe County			-1
St. Clair County			-1
Saginaw County			-1
6 th Circuit Court (Oakland)		+1	
16 th Circuit (Macomb)		+1	
Net Result	-4	+2	-4

All reductions are proposed to be accomplished by attrition, when a judge leaves office or dies.