



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

John Nevin, Communications Director

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Supreme Court Announces July 2019 Oral Argument

LANSING, MI, June 26, 2019 —The Michigan Supreme Court announced that oral arguments in one case will be heard Wednesday, July 17, 2019. The Court will convene to hear the case at 9:30 a.m. in the sixth floor of the Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa Street.

The Court broadcasts its oral arguments and other hearings [live](#) on the Internet via streaming video technology. Watch the stream live only while the Court is in session and on the bench. Streaming will begin shortly before the hearing starts; audio will be muted until Justices take the bench. Follow the Court on [Twitter](#) to receive regular updates as the case is heard. Please contact the Office of Public Information at 517-373-0129 or SeaksL@courts.mi.gov for permission to film or photograph during the hearing. See the link to [Request and Notice for Film and Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings](#). The request must be submitted three days in advance of the hearing.

This brief account may not reflect the way that some or all of the Court's seven justices view the case. The attorneys may also disagree about the facts, issues, procedural history, and significance of this case. For further details about the case, please contact the attorneys.

**Wednesday, July 17, 2019
9:30 a.m.**

[No. 159160](#); In re House of Representatives Request for Advisory Opinion Regarding Constitutionality of 2018 PA 368 & 369.

Eric Restuccia

[No. 159201](#); In re Senate Request for Advisory Opinion Regarding Constitutionality of 2018 PA 368 & 369.

Fadwa Hammoud

In September 2018, two ballot initiatives, one pertaining to the minimum wage (the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act) and one pertaining to paid sick leave (the Earned Sick Time Act), garnered enough petition signatures to qualify for placement on the November 6, 2018, general election ballot. In accordance with Const 1963, art 2, § 9, the initiative petitions first were submitted to the Legislature for adoption or rejection. On September 5, 2018, both houses of the Legislature adopted the initiatives and enacted them into law. Therefore, the initiatives

were not on the ballot. Thereafter, the Legislature made substantive revisions to the laws, which then-Governor Snyder signed on December 13, 2018, as 2018 PA 368 and 2018 PA 369. The acts took effect on March 29, 2019. The House of Representatives and the Senate have separately requested an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court on whether Const 1963, art 2, § 9 allows the Legislature to enact an initiative petition into law and then amend the law during the same legislative session. The Supreme Court has ordered oral argument to be heard on July 17, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., and it has invited the House and Senate, and any member of either chamber, to file briefs addressing: (1) whether the Court should exercise its discretion to grant the requests to issue an advisory opinion in this matter; (2) whether Const 1963, art 2, § 9 permits the Legislature to enact an initiative petition into law and then amend that law during the same legislative session; and (3) whether 2018 PA 368 and 2018 PA 369 were enacted in accordance with Const 1963, art 2, § 9.

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