



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veteran Legal Aid Attorney Liza Rios Named Deputy State Court Administrator

LANSING, MI, May 3, 2021 – The Michigan Supreme Court today announced that veteran legal aid attorney Elizabeth “Liza” Rios has been named Deputy State Court Administrator. In the post, Rios will take charge of day-to-day operations at the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) and build collaborative efforts with stakeholders to support the Court’s strategic direction for trial courts statewide. Rios comes to SCAO from the Michigan Advocacy Program where she supervised a 40-person staff at Legal Services of South Central Michigan.

“Liza Rios’s career of public service embodies the passion and purpose needed to accelerate Michigan’s progress toward a justice system that is more accessible, more engaged, and more efficient,” said Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack. “She knows firsthand the difference quality legal representation can make in helping families navigate the most difficult moments of their lives. Just as important, she knows the law, understands how our justice system works, and has a vision for making it work better.”

“By working together we can accomplish so much more than working alone,” said Rios. “Finding consensus takes both creativity and a commitment to problem-solving that embraces diverse ideas and life experiences. That’s the attitude I am excited to bring to the Hall of Justice as I join a talented team of passionate public servants. Together, we will build on an already impressive record of improving the administration of justice in Michigan.”

“For more than a decade, Liza Rios has successfully developed systems of collaboration with community partners and local courts to ensure the highest level of advocacy for low-income clients throughout mid-Michigan,” said State Court Administrator Tom Boyd. “Her leadership coordinating an eviction diversion program made it clear to me she has the right skill set.”

Since 2016, Rios has served as Managing Attorney at Legal Services of South Central Michigan, a program that provides free civil legal advice and representation to low-income and senior citizens of 14 counties in south central Michigan. She previously served there as Supervising Attorney and Staff Attorney since 2008.

Rios served as a law clerk in the Family Division of the 30th Circuit Court in Ingham County, where she handled questions of law in family, PPO, probate, and juvenile cases. Rios earned her undergraduate and juris doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and is a member of the Ingham County Bar Association and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

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