

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Appointments to Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions announced by Michigan Supreme Court

LANSING, MI, December 18, 2013 – The Michigan Supreme Court announced its appointments to the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, which drafts standard instructions for juries in civil cases.

The 21-member Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, created under Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2001-6, is composed of judges and attorneys appointed by the Supreme Court. Members are appointed for three-year terms and may be reappointed for two additional terms.

The Court appointed Judge Kathleen A. Feeney, Kent County Circuit Court, and Birmingham attorney William B. Forrest III of Kienbaum Opperwall Hardy & Pelton, P.L.C. to the committee. They succeed retired Berrien County Trial Court Judge Alfred M. Butzbaugh and Birmingham attorney Elizabeth Phelps Hardy of Kienbaum Opperwall Hardy & Pelton, P.L.C., who have served three full terms.

The Court also reappointed the following committee members:
Judge Jane M. Beckering, Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids
Judge Donald A. Teeple, Sanilac County Circuit Court, Sandusky
Paul C. Smith, Director of Policy and Field Legal Services, Michigan Department of Human Services, Lansing
Mark R. Bendure, Bendure & Thomas, Detroit
W. Mack Faison, Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone P.L.C., Detroit

Each will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016.

The Court also appointed Judge James R. Redford, Kent County Circuit Court, to succeed retired Berrien County Trial Court Judge Alfred M. Butzbaugh as chair of the committee effective January 1, 2014.

The Committee is composed of attorneys and judges whose duty is to ensure that the Model Civil Jury Instructions are concise, understandable, conversational, unslanted, and not argumentative.

The Model Civil Jury Instructions are online at <http://www.courts.mi.gov/courts/michigansupremecourt/mcji/pages/home.aspx>. The website also includes information on how to contact the committee to comment on existing or proposed jury instructions or to suggest new instructions.

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