



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Court Administrator Milton L. Mack, Jr., Honored for Mental Health Advocacy

LANSING, MI, September 7, 2017 – State Court Administrator and former Wayne County Probate Court Chief Judge Milton L. Mack, Jr., will be honored with the Snyder-Kok Award by the Mental Health Association in Michigan at their 2017 Tribute Dinner on September 14 in Livonia.

The award recognizes contributions to mental health by a public official and highlights Mack's strong advocacy for improved mental health services. Past recipients of the award include Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, former Governor William Milliken, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero.

“Judge Mack has worked tirelessly on behalf of improving the lives of those afflicted with mental illness, and we commend his longtime commitment to the cause,” said Chief Justice Stephen J. Markman.

Judge Mack's leadership on mental health issues will also be recognized in a white paper he is authoring at the request of the Conference of State Court Administrators. The paper, ‘A System in Crisis...Mental Illness and the Justice System,’ calls for reform of the way mental illness is handled in the civil and criminal justice system to make treatment more timely and reduce incarceration of persons with mental illness.

“As a judge, I know firsthand that dealing with mental illness is one of the toughest challenges a family can face. I believe the judiciary has a key role to play in enabling Michigan's families to get timely help for loved ones facing mental health issues,” said Mack.

Mack has served on the state's Mental Health Diversion Council since his 2015 appointment by Governor Rick Snyder. The council is housed within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and works to strengthen the state's mental health system. Mack was also appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Michigan Mental Health Commission.

The Mental Health Association in Michigan is the state's oldest nonprofit organization concerned with mental illnesses, having incorporated in 1936. For more information, visit www.mha-mi.com.

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