



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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## **Tribal, State, and Federal Judges Convene in Lansing for Fall Meeting**

LANSING, MI, November 18, 2019 – Coinciding with national Native American Heritage Month, members of Michigan’s tribal, state, and federal court systems will assemble at the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing today and tomorrow for the fall meeting of the Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum (“Forum”). The meeting will be hosted by Justice Megan K. Cavanagh, who serves as the MSC liaison on tribal issues, and will include a variety of speakers, including Michigan Supreme Court Justices and state leaders, to present on shared topics of interest during the meeting.

“The Forum facilitates collaboration among tribal, state, and federal jurisdictions; fosters engagement between courts and communities; and promotes statewide efficiency in the courts,” said Justice Cavanagh. “Our collective focus remains, as always, on how we can best work to protect Michigan children and families, as well as others who are struggling.”

Meeting highlights:

- MSC Update on Governor’s Task Forces (Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, Justice for All Task Force) - Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack
- Road Trip Reports - Justice Megan Cavanagh and Ret. Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, who both recently spoke to law students and attorneys in Manitoba, Alberta, Canada; Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court Judge Timothy Connors; and Chief Judge Michael Petoskey, of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Tribal Court
- Report from Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals - Chief Judge Jocelyn K. Fabry, of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tribal Court and Healing-to-Wellness Court
- Michigan Elder Abuse Task Force Update - Justice Megan Cavanagh
- Report from the Governor’s Office on Executive Tribal Consultation – Emily Paski
- Child Welfare Update - Director JooYeun Chang, Children’s Services Division, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

The Forum consists of tribal judges from each of Michigan’s 12 federally-recognized tribes, 10 state court judges, and federal judges and officials. The current Forum co-chairs are Tribal Court Chief Judge Fabry and Chief Judge Susan L. Dobrich, of Cass County Circuit and Probate Courts and 4th District Court.

The Forum was formally established in 2014 by the Michigan Supreme Court. Read more about the history and work of the Forum [here](#).

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