



## MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Cass County Chief Judge Susan L. Dobrich 2020 Recipient of the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Who:** Cass County Chief Judge/Probate Judge Susan Dobrich to receive the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award for Exemplary Service to Michigan's Children and Families during the Court's virtual Adoption Day festivities. Justice Stephen Markman will preside over the event with the assistance of Justice Elizabeth Clement and Justice Megan Cavanagh. Justice Clement will present the award.

**What:** The award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge. A former director of the Friend of the Court Bureau and Child Welfare Services division of the State Court Administrative Office, Wright helped create the state's "adoption forums" to deal with adoption barriers that were keeping children in foster care. He worked on legislation to give foster children a voice in decisions about their lives. The law now requires courts to consult the child when holding a hearing about permanent home placement.

**When:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held via Zoom and livestreamed on the Court's [YouTube](#) page.

**Why:** With the theme of "Giving Thanks for Families," courts statewide will celebrate Adoption Month, 2020. Held on or near the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year, Adoption Month has become a holiday tradition, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care. Many courts will finalize adoptions, while others will hold informational events to reach potential adoptive parents.

*Streaming will begin shortly before the ceremony begins.*

A list of statewide events is available [here](#). For information about this event, please contact Lynn Seaks, Court Relations Program Coordinator at 517-373-1067.

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