

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

The subcommittee meeting was called to order by Representative VerHeulen at 12:00 p.m.
Roll was taken: Present - Representatives VerHeulen, Brann, Miller, and Pagan
Absent - None

I. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was moved by Representative Brann to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on February 22, 2017. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

II. Overview of the Supreme Court and the FY 2017-18 Judiciary Budget Request

Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, appeared before the subcommittee and gave an overview presentation on Michigan's judiciary system.

He discussed the complexities of the judiciary system - 560 local trial court judges in 242 trial courts, 165 local funding units, 20 different case management systems, 150 different computer systems, and 83 county clerks.

He discussed the budget - 2/3 of the budget is dedicated to local courts and the remaining 1/3 is dedicated to judicial salaries, problem-solving courts, and technology improvements.

He discussed the importance of measuring performance and adopting best practices to improve outcomes; the importance of reengineering courts to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and save money; and the importance of implementing new technology to increase and improve access.

He discussed the effectiveness of problem-solving courts and of the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program.

Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

III. Overview of the Court of Appeals

Chief Judge Michael J. Talbot, Chief Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals, appeared before the subcommittee. He gave an overview presentation on the Court of Appeals. Primarily, he focused on the importance of timeliness and efficiency in the handling of court cases. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

IV. Announce Next Subcommittee Meeting

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in room 426 of the Capitol Building. Agenda: Overview of the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office and the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System.

V. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, Representative VerHeulen adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 12:55 p.m.