



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
REP. SARAH L. LIGHTNER
CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

12:00 PM

Room 308, House Office Building

The House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Judiciary was called to order by the Chair, Representative Lightner.

The Chair requested attendance be called:

Present: Reps. Lightner, Yaroch, Green, Borton, C.A. Johnson, and T. Carter.

Absent: Rep. Brabec.

Excused: Rep. Brabec.

Representative Yaroch moved to excuse Representative Brabec from the meeting. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Representative Green moved to adopt the meeting minutes from February 22, 2022. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Jonathan Sacks, Director, State Appellate Defender Office, appeared before the subcommittee to give an overview of the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office and the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System. He described the role and responsibilities of the office, pursuant to the Michigan Appellate Defender Act. He provided information on the organization of the office and he briefly discussed the following: FY 2022-23 budget priorities, the Public Defender Division, overturning wrongful convictions, human and financial costs of sentencing errors, and the Juvenile Lifer Unit.

Marilena David, Deputy Director, State Appellate Defender Office, appeared before the subcommittee to discuss the Criminal Defense Resource Center, education and training of defense counsel under the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission's Standard 1, and Project Reentry. She briefly talked about the impact COVID-19 has had on SADO's client caseload, and she discussed SADO's continued advocacy during the pandemic.

Discussion ensued. Questions and answers followed.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, Representative Lightner adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Representative Sarah Lightner, Chair

Robin Risko
Committee Clerk
rrisko@house.mi.gov