

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

The subcommittee meeting was called to order by Representative Brann at 3:20 p.m.

Roll was taken: Present - Representatives Brann, Lightner, Yaroch, Maddock, Brixie, Pagan, and Hammoud
Absent - None

I. Approval of Minutes from Previous Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was moved by Representative Lightner to approve minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on March 19, 2019. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

II. Michigan State Appellate Defender Office and Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System

Jonathan Sacks, Director, State Appellate Defender Office (SADO), appeared before the subcommittee to present overview and status information on SADO and MAACS, as well as information on SADO's FY 2019-20 budget request. Mr. Sacks discussed SADO's budget of \$7.6 million and staff of 49, which includes attorneys, support staff, investigation and mitigation professionals, and MAACS roster administration. Locally-funded private attorneys are overseen by MAACS, the assigned counsel unit of SADO, and SADO provides support services and training to assigned criminal defense attorneys throughout the state, through their Criminal Defense Resource Center. The Public Defender Division is the defense counterpart to the Appellate Division of the Attorney General's office, and is charged with handling at least 25% of Michigan's pending criminal appellate caseload.

The primary budget priorities for FY 2019-20 are: 1) an increase in funding for the Juvenile Lifer Unit, which is needed for SADO/MAACS to provide post-conviction representation of juvenile lifers in resentencings, pursuant to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the *Montgomery v Louisiana* case; and 2) an increase in funding for hiring four attorneys for the Public Defender Division. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

III. Judicial Tenure Commission

Judge Monte Burmeister, Probate Judge for Crawford County and Commission Chair, and Lynn Helland, Executive Director of the Commission, appeared before the subcommittee. Mr. Helland gave an overview of the Judicial Tenure Commission. Primarily, he focused on the increase in the number of formal complaints, the increase in the number of cases requiring full investigations, and the increased complexity of cases. FY 2019-20 budget priorities are obtaining additional funding for one permanent staff attorney, one contract staff attorney, and for pay increases for current attorney positions. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

IV. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, Representative Brann adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 4:25 p.m.