

Michigan Public Defense Task Force Annual Conference



Reforming Public Defense, Serving Our Communities

Thursday, June 19, 2008

9a.m. - 5p.m.

Reception to follow

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933



This conference was generously funded by the
Michigan State Bar Foundation.



**Criminal Defense
Attorneys of Michigan**



**Michigan
Catholic
Conference**



NAACP STATE CONFERENCE **DETROIT BRANCH NAACP**





June 19, 2008

Dear Friend,

Welcome! Thank you for joining the Michigan Public Defense Task Force for its first Annual Conference, “*Reforming Public Defense, Serving Our Communities.*”

Today is a historic opportunity to discuss Michigan’s current public defense system, explore the potential for reform based on success in other states, and learn about reform initiatives already underway in our state.

The timing couldn’t be better! Only two days ago, the State Bar of Michigan released a report by David Carroll, director of research and evaluation for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, which finally provides the empirical evidence proving that Michigan’s public defense system is failing.

We are thrilled that such a diverse group of organizations and individuals are responding to the call for reform. Your perspective will help us to better understand how the fault lines in our public defense system affect hard-working defense attorneys and service providers as well as the citizens they serve. Your input will inform our work from this day forward.

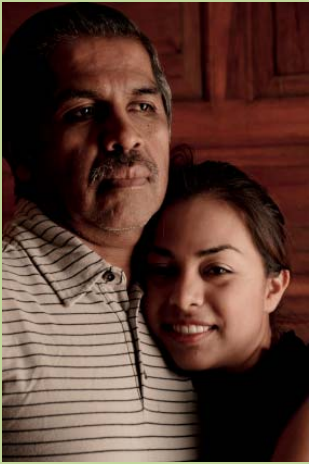
Today should be just the beginning of our journey together. We need your continued involvement if we are to make the systemic changes that are long overdue. Please visit the Campaign for Justice website, www.MichiganCampaignForJustice.org, where you will find all the conference materials and have an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer.

Finally, please take time to join us in thanking the Michigan State Bar Foundation for the generous grant that made this conference possible.

Enjoy the day!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Arnovits
Chair, Public Defense Task Force



“There can be no equal justice when the kind of trial a man gets depends on how much money he has.”

*Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black
Betts v. Brady (1942),
dissenting opinion,
United States Supreme Court*

Agenda

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am Welcome and opening remarks
- 9:15 am Keynote address: *Fulfilling Gideon’s Promise*
- David Carroll, Director of Research and Evaluation
National Legal Aid & Defender Association
 - Chief Justice Karla Gray, *The Montana Perspective*
- 10:15 am Workshop Session I: Reforming Public Defense
(See Session I Workshops, pg. 4)
- 12 pm Luncheon
- 12:30 pm Lunch Plenary:
Reforming Public Defense, Serving Our Communities
- Mark Stephens, Chief Public Defender, Community Law Office
Knox County, Tennessee
- 1:45 pm Workshop Session II: Serving Our Communities
(See Session II Workshops, pg. 5)
- 3:30 pm Interactive Discussion: *Moving Toward Action*
-Laura Sager, director, Campaign for Justice
- 5 pm Social Reception, Lansing Center River Street Pub

Browse all conference materials online at:

www.MichiganCampaignforJustice.org

This conference was made possible by the Michigan State Bar Foundation’s Access to Justice Grant. The generous funding does not constitute an endorsement of the project’s content by the Foundation.



Michigan Public Defense Task Force

The **Michigan Public Defense Task Force** was formed in 2001 to address Michigan's failing public defense system. With the help of the American Bar Association's Gideon Initiative, Beth Arnovits, the chair of the Task Force and executive director of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, convened a geographically diverse group of criminal justice and juvenile justice professionals, as well as representatives from a broad range of organizations and concerned citizens. Since 2001, the Task Force has actively worked with stakeholders at the local and state levels to identify standards and practices integral to the effective delivery of public defense services.

The Task Force members recognized that Michigan's system fails the taxpayers, fails the accused, and fails our communities. The Task Force immediately identified the need for consistent data collection on key aspects of the public defense delivery systems administered by Michigan's 83 counties and proceeded to develop information needed to inform reform efforts. In addition, the Task Force addressed the inefficiencies in the current patchwork system of funding public defense services. Since its inception, Task Force has convened forums to educate stakeholders and the public about the ongoing crisis in Michigan's public defense system and the impact on our most vulnerable children and adults, those who work within the system, and our communities.

In 2002, the Task Force published *The Eleven Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System* ("Eleven Principles"), a report patterned on the American Bar Association's (ABA's) *Ten Principles of Indigent Defense*. The report (funded by the ABA's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense, the Open Society Institute and local United Ways) called for comprehensive reform of public defense services in Michigan.

The Eleven Principles were subsequently adopted by the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly in 2002 and its Board of Commissioners in 2005. These Principles serve as the fundamental elements of a public defense delivery system that can provide effective, efficient, quality, and ethical representation to those charged in criminal or delinquency proceedings who cannot afford to hire an attorney. Unique to the state of Michigan, the Eleventh Principle strives to engage public defenders in the process of exploring and advocating for programs that improve the system and reduce recidivism.

In 2008, the Michigan Public Defense Task Force became a founding member of the Campaign for Justice, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to reforming Michigan's failing public defense system through legislation.

For more information, visit www.MichiganCampaignforJustice.org

Session I Workshops

10:15 – 11:45am

Fixing a Broken System: National Perspectives, Room 6

Duncan v. Michigan alleges that Michigan’s public defense system is unconstitutional and seeks a court order for state funding. Learn more about the litigation and its current status. This workshop will also provide an opportunity to discuss reform efforts across the country. Speakers include Chief Justice Karla Gray, Montana Supreme Court; David Carroll, director of research and evaluation, National Legal Aid and Defender Association; and Frank Eaman, attorney. Moderator: Lynn Jondahl, executive director, Michigan Prospect.

A Day in the Life of Michigan’s Public Defense Attorneys, Room 7

Not an attorney? Take an introductory look into the daily challenges facing public defense attorneys. Presenters will provide an overview of Michigan public defense services and discuss caseloads, access to resources, the struggle to serve their clients, and more. Speakers include Don Johnson, chief defender, Legal Aid and Defender Association in Detroit; Sharon Clark-Woodside, attorney in Wayne County; Jeff Getting, attorney in Kalamazoo County. Moderator: Margaret Sind Raben, president, Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan.

Children Lost in the System, Room 8

The juvenile public defense system is often referred to as the “forgotten stepchild” of the adult system. Explore the unique challenges defense attorneys face in this system and the effect the failures of the system have on children and their families. Speakers include Frank Vandervort, clinical assistant professor of law, University of Michigan Law School; Regina Daniels Thomas, chief counsel, Juvenile Law Group, Legal Aid and Defender Association; Mark Fancher, staff attorney, Racial Justice Project, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. Moderator: Elizabeth Arnovits, Chair, Public Defense Task Force.

“It is an obvious truth that lawyers in criminal courts are necessities, not luxuries.”

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963), United States Supreme Court



Session II Workshops

1:45 – 3:15pm

Partners in Community Defense, Room 8

Defense attorneys are often the first point of contact for individuals who have untreated mental health and substance abuse problems or face other daunting challenges. Explore how fixing the public defense system can help attorneys work with rehabilitation and other programs to better serve their clients and reduce recidivism. Speakers include Mark Stephens, chief defender, Knox County Public Defender Community Law Office; Judge William Schma, former Kalamazoo County circuit judge; Mike Reagan, president, Proaction Behavioral Health Alliance. Moderator: Hazelette Crosby-Robinson.

Effective Elements of Public Defense – Michigan Examples, Room 6

Learn best practices regarding caseloads, training and access to resources and discuss how your experience compares to national standards. Speakers include Jim Neuhard, director, State Appellate Defender Office; Malia Brink, counsel for special projects, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Sheila Blakney, assistant public defender, Washtenaw County Public Defender Office. Moderator: Dawn Van Hoek, deputy director, State Appellate Defenders Office.

Interfaith Roundtable on Public Defense, Room 7

Discuss how faith communities serve and advocate on behalf of individuals and families affected by the deficiencies in Michigan's public defense delivery system. How do our values inform efforts to reform this system? How can faith communities support efforts to improve public defense services? Speakers include Anthony Latarski, coordinator, Prison Ministries of the Archdiocese of Detroit; Susan Herman, executive director, Michigan Jewish Conference; Steve Mustafa Elturk, president, Islamic Organization of North America. Moderator: Steve Spreitzer, director, Interfaith Programs of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.



“The right of one charged with a crime may not be deemed a fundamental right in some countries, but it is in ours.”

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963), United States Supreme Court

Keynote Speaker: David Carroll



David Carroll is the director of research and evaluation for the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA). Mr. Carroll has conducted assessments of the right to counsel in Montana, Louisiana, Idaho, New York, the District of Columbia, Clark County (Las Vegas) Nevada, Santa Clara County (San Jose) California. He has consulted with numerous public defender organizations and state Supreme Courts, and he co-authored a report for the U.S. Department of Justice on the Implementation and Impact of Indigent Defense Standards.

In 2006, NLADA began a statewide study of public defender services in Michigan under the auspices of a joint resolution of the Michigan Legislature (SCR 39). The resolution states, “whereas the people of Michigan “expect the government to administer a system of justice that is just, swift, accountable and frugal,” and “whereas there is no accounting of total indigent defense cases nor complete accounting of expenditures dedicated to public defense services, the Michigan Legislature requests the NLADA, in cooperation with the State Bar of Michigan ...issue a report respecting the fairness, cost and accountability of the various indigent defense systems throughout the state.”

The report, released on June 17, 2008, concludes that the State of Michigan has abdicated its constitutional obligation to provide for adequate representation of poor people facing a potential loss of liberty in its criminal and juvenile courts by passing on that responsibility to its counties as an unfunded mandate. The State of Michigan’s willful denial of its federal obligations has produced myriad county public defense systems that vary greatly in defining who qualifies for services and the competency of the services rendered. Though the level of services varies from county to county, NLADA finds that none of the public defender services in the sample counties are constitutionally adequate.

Special Guest: **Chief Justice Karla Gray**



The Honorable Karla M. Gray was appointed to the Montana Supreme Court in March of 1991, elected to her seat in 1992 and again in 1998, and ran successfully for Chief Justice in 2000, becoming Montana’s first woman Chief Justice. She chairs the Conference of Chief Justices’ Public Trust and Confidence Committee and is a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense. She is passionate about access to justice, both civil and criminal. Chief Justice Gray also is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She is leaving the bench at the end of 2008.

Lunch Plenary Speaker: Mark Stephens



Mark Stephens was re-elected on August 3, 2006 to his third consecutive eight-year term as Knox County public defender. Elected in 1990 as the first public defender for the Sixth Judicial District in Knoxville, Tennessee, he has worked for the past sixteen years to provide public defender services unique to the citizens of Knox County, and to expand the role of public defense services beyond the limitations of an ordinary state office. Prior to his election, he practiced law for over ten years, during which time he served as a prosecutor for the District Attorney's Office, and later went into private practice as a criminal defense lawyer.

Stephens's goal is to transform the Public Defenders Community Law Office into a model of holistic representation. He established the Community Law Office in 2001 as a result of his participation in the Executive Session on Public Defense at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Stephens is a participant in the Bureau of Justice Assistance, NACDL, NLDA, American Bar Association, Bar Information Program, the Tennessee Bar Association, the Knoxville Bar Association, and the Knoxville Defense Lawyers Association.

Mr. Stephens has participated in the CLO's Partners in Law program with the Boys' and Girls' Clubs and Communication Through Art, as well as CTA and Education Through Experience graduation ceremonies. He is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Tennessee College of Law and College of Social Work. He is committed to numerous civic activities, including Leadership Knoxville.

Speaker Biographies

Elizabeth Arnovits, Moderator

Beth Arnovits has been involved in crime control and prevention efforts at the local, state and federal levels since 1975. She is a graduate of the Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice. Her experience as an organizer of various national, state and local coalitions and initiatives has given her a comprehensive understanding of political and practical aspects of community organizing and advocacy efforts. She has been recognized at the national and state levels for her public policy and planning efforts. Ms Arnovits started her career as a community liaison for a Model Cities Community Center Program where she was involved in direct services for juvenile and adult offenders.

As executive director of the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, she has organized coalitions of citizens and professionals to advocate for reforms in policies that affect children and adults involved in the justice systems. Currently she is leading MCCD's partnership with the Michigan Department of Corrections on implementing the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI). She established and chairs the Michigan Public Defense Task Force and is a founding member and co-chair of the National Juvenile Justice Network and the Michigan Collaborative on Juvenile Justice Reform (MCJJR). She has advanced training in balanced and restorative justice, communications, volunteer recruitment, coalition building, group facilitation, public relations and fundraising, and is a certified prevention trainer. Ms Arnovits is also the president of the Campaign for Justice board of directors.

Sheila Blakney

Sheila Blakney is a 1986 graduate of the University of Michigan. She worked for Legal Services of Southeastern Michigan until being hired as a Washtenaw County assistant public defender in 1990. She is a past president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association and works closely with the Washtenaw County Criminal Justice Collaborative on issues affecting the criminal justice system. She serves on the Community Corrections Board and is a criminal defense attorney on several committees in Washtenaw County.

Malia Brink

Malia Brink currently serves as counsel for special projects for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, where she currently works on reform efforts in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan and New Mexico, among others. Prior to joining NACDL, Brink served as a staff attorney at the ACLU in Philadelphia, where she also worked on right to counsel issues. She is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School (2000) and of Dartmouth College (1996). She also served as the Jerome J. Public Interest Fellow at Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen, LLP, and as a law clerk to the Honorable Norma L. Shapiro of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Sharon Clark-Woodside

Sharon Clark-Woodside is a defense attorney in Wayne County with an impressive career dedicated to serving the needs of her clients. She currently accepts appointments to represent indigent defendants in Wayne County.

Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, Moderator

Ms Crosby-Robinson recently graduated with her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan, with the aim of helping women ex-offenders overcome their past mistakes and resume productive lives for themselves and their children. During the 15 years that Ms Crosby-Robinson volunteered at the Robert Scott Regional Correctional Facility, she was disturbed by the number of women who returned to the facility, often more than once. She attributes this recidivism to "a lack of coordinated services available to women once they come back to the community." Her colleagues and professors describe her as, "a compassionate, dedicated, hard-working woman who understands that people need a helping hand." Upon graduation, Ms Crosby-Robinson accepted a temporary assignment with Washtenaw Community Health Access as a health services access professional. Her areas of interest include substance abuse, mental health and reentry.

Regina Daniels Thomas

Regina Daniels Thomas is chief counsel for the Juvenile Law Group of Legal Aid and Defender Association (LADA). Her practice involves representing children in child protection and delinquency proceedings in the Third Circuit Court Family Division, Juvenile Section. Prior to returning to LADA as chief counsel in 2004, Thomas represented the Department of Human Services in child protection proceedings as an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan, assigned to the Children and Youth Services Section. Thomas received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Tennessee State University and her law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School.

Frank Eaman

Frank D. Eaman has been a criminal defense attorney in state and federal courts in Michigan since he received his J.D. from the University of Michigan in 1971. He has represented clients in several high-publicity cases in state and federal court. He is an adjunct professor at Cooley Law School and an instructor for the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan Trial College. Eaman serves as chair of the State Bar's Criminal Issues Initiative and has also served as president of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan and vice president of the board of the Legal Aid and Defender Association of Detroit. He is currently a counsel of record for the plaintiffs in *Duncan v. Michigan*, which seeks a court order for state funding of public defense in Michigan, and he has been a frequent speaker on public defense and related issues. Mr. Eaman has received awards for his leadership from the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and the Friends of Legal Aid.

Steve Elturk

Steve Mustafa Elturk is the imam and president of the Islamic Organization of North America (IONA), a non-violent movement whose aim is promote and struggle for justice. Their slogan is Repentance, Revitalization of Faith, and Renewal of Covenant. Active in the Muslim community, he serves as a board member of the University Islamic Center (Wayne State) in Detroit, president of the American Society for Religious and Cultural Understanding (ASRCU); member of the expert panel of AMJA (Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America), vice chairman of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan (CIOM), executive board member of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion (MRDI), and member of the board of directors of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ).

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Mr. Elturk immigrated to the USA in 1976 amid the start of the Lebanese civil war. While holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics, he is an electronics

engineering consultant by profession. As a student of the Islamic thinker and scholar, Dr. Israr Ahmad, Mr. Elturk has been active in propagating the message of the Qur'an to Muslims and non-Muslims alike through Friday sermons and lectures in Mosques and other facilities all across America.

Mark Fancher

Mark P. Fancher, staff attorney, coordinates the Racial Justice Project for the ACLU of Michigan. The project addresses racial discrimination against public school students of color, racial profiling, public defense system reform, attacks on affirmative action and juvenile sentencing issues. Fancher was formerly the senior staff attorney for the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice where he specialized in workers' rights. He served as the executive director of the State Bar of Michigan from 1998 – 2000 where he coordinated projects to encourage greater *pro bono* participation by Michigan's lawyers. He was a visiting assistant clinical professor at the University of Michigan Law School from 1996 to 1998. Before moving to Michigan, Fancher was the director of litigation for Camden Regional Legal Services in New Jersey. He specialized in employment discrimination and community economic development in private practice. Fancher is a graduate of Rutgers University School of Law – Camden and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Tennessee.

Fancher has played a leadership role in the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) for numerous years. He is a past chair of the organization's International Affairs Section, and he served as NCBL's national co-chair from 1995-1998. He is a member of the Policy Board of the Legal Aid and Defender Association in Detroit and he is a member of the Peace Neighborhood Center board of directors in Ann Arbor. He is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan Pro Bono Initiative.

Jeff Getting

Jeff Getting is a defense attorney with Getting Law Offices, PLC, in Kalamazoo. He has provided court appointed indigent defense services in Kalamazoo County Family Court since 1998 as well as provided court appointed felony indigent defense services in Kalamazoo County Circuit Court from 1999 – 2006. As a court appointed attorney, he has represented everyone from seventeen year old first offenders to an admitted serial killer. He also represents juveniles charged with delinquency offenses, parents charged with abuse/ neglect and children as a guardian ad litem. He began his career as an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office. While there, he worked in the Juvenile Court, District Court, and Circuit Court trial divisions. Getting graduated from Western Michigan University and received his law degree from Indiana University.

Susan Herman

Susan Herman is the director of the Michigan Jewish Conference, an organization which represents the political and community relations needs of the statewide Jewish community. Ms. Herman has over 30 years experience in community coalition building and advocacy, particularly within the criminal justice system. She served as a project director of Michigan Families Against Mandatory Minimums, a statewide advocacy organization for criminal sentencing reform. Prior to this role, she worked as the Clinton County Jail administrator, assistant for prisoner affairs for the Michigan Department of Corrections, the training director for the National Juvenile Detention Association, and as a research associate for the Sentencing Guidelines Projects within the Michigan Supreme Court. Ms Herman currently serves on the Executive Committees of the Michigan League for Human Services and the Michigan Council

on Crime and Delinquency and is a co-founder of the Michigan Israel Business Bridge. She is also a board member of the Michigan Non-profit Association, the Consumers Health Care Coalition, the Holocaust Education Coalition and the Jewish Coalition for Public Education.

Butch Hollowell, *Day-long Moderator*

Melvin Butch Hollowell was appointed by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2008, as the state's first consumer advocate for home and auto insurance. He also serves as general counsel of the Detroit Branch NAACP, where he chairs the Legal Redress Committee, and works with a volunteer committee of approximately 60 lawyers, law professors and judges on a full range of civil rights matters. He has over 20 years of experience in the area of civil rights, election law, public contracting, administrative law, business law, and municipal finance. Mr. Hollowell has served on a number of civil and education boards and is a member of the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Michigan State Bar Association, and the Wolverine Bar Association.

Don Johnson

Chief Defender Donald Johnson leads the State Defender Office which is assigned 25 percent of all indigent criminal cases in Wayne County Circuit Court. Over the past 25 years, Mr. Johnson has served Legal Aid and Defender Association in numerous capacities, including as deputy defender (1983 – 1995), deputy chief defender (1995 – 2000) and chief defender (2000 – Present.) Prior to working in Michigan, Mr. Johnson served as the deputy public defender in Santa Clara Public Defender Office in San Jose, CA. Mr. Johnson graduated magna cum laude from the Honors College of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in English and from Santa Clara University Law School.

Lynn Jondahl, *Moderator*

Lynn Jondahl is the executive director of the Michigan Prospect for Renewed Citizenship. In December 1994, Mr. Jondahl ended 22 years of service as a state representative from the East Lansing, Meridian Township area. For 12 years, he chaired the House Taxation Committee and played a key role in many taxation issues, especially those focused on education finance reform. In 1994, he gave up his House seat to run for the Democratic nomination for governor. From 1995 through July of 2002, Mr. Jondahl served as co-director of the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University. From November of 2002 through January of 2003, he served as director of transition for the new administration of Governor Jennifer Granholm and Lt. Governor John Cherry. Mr. Jondahl's legislative experience followed work as a campus pastor (he was ordained a minister in the United Church of Christ upon graduation from Yale University Divinity School). He is a member of the Michigan Budget and Tax Policy Project Advisory Board and he chairs the State of Michigan Board of Ethics.

Anthony Latarski

Anthony Latarski is the coordinator for Prison Ministries of the Archdiocese of Detroit, working with the officials from the Michigan Department of Corrections to reach out to victims, offenders and families of both. Prior to his current position, Mr. Latarski served as a police officer, sergeant and private investigator. He is also actively involved as a Special Olympics coach and advocates for individuals with cognitive impairment. Latarski received his bachelor's degree in Sociology and Master's degree in Public Administration from Eastern Michigan University.

James Neuhard

James R. Neuhard has served as the director of the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office since 1972 and has argued before the United States Supreme Court, Michigan Supreme Court and other federal and state courts. Mr. Neuhard has participated in drafting most of the national and state standards for public defense delivery systems and is the principle author of the ABA's "Ten Principles of a Public Defense System" and the "Eleven Principles" adopted by the State Bar of Michigan. He has served as a member of the US Department of Justice's Advisory Committee for Indigent Defense and an advisor to the US Department of Justice's Compendium of National and State Criminal Defense Standards.

Mr. Neuhard has served as president of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; secretary and past president, Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan; member, Michigan Public Defense Task Force; chair of the Michigan Legal Services State Planning Body; treasurer of the NLADA Insurance Corporation; past president of the National Equal Justice Library; past member of ABA SCLAID and current member of the Indigent Defense Advisory group; and was a participant in the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Executive Session on Indigent Defense, 1998 – 2001. Mr. Neuhard also served as the former chair and special adviser to the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Funding the Justice System, charged with the highest priority of the ABA, to investigate and attack the system-wide crisis in funding for all aspects of the justice system and continues to serve as a member of the State Justice Initiatives Committee aimed at implementing solutions to the crisis.

Margaret Sind Raben, Moderator

Margaret Sind Raben is a partner in Gurewitz and Raben, PLC, in Detroit. Her practice concentrates on the defense of people accused and convicted of crimes. Ms. Raben is the current president of Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan (CDAM) and is actively involved in Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM). She is a proud graduate of Wayne State University Law School. While she greatly enjoys defending the accused and convicted, she considers her greatest accomplishment to be raising three sons who are all financially independent.

Michael Reagan

Michael F. Reagan has been the president of Proaction Behavioral Health Alliance since 1993 as well as serves as the president of ALSAO, a trade association for substance use disorders. He is an adjunct associate professor at Western Michigan University Graduate School of Health Science and Social Work as well as Grand Valley State University Graduate School of Public and Non-Profit Administration. From 1989 – 1993, Mr. Reagan was the vice president for Project Rehab. Mr. Reagan holds leadership positions within a number of organizations, including the Board of Trustees, SAAS, National Trade Association for Substance Use Disorders; board member, Mental Health Association of Michigan; board member, CAPPS; advisory board member, Partners in Crisis; and the Police Chief's Advisory Committee, Grand Rapids. He earned his bachelor's degree from Athenaeum of Ohio and his Master's degree from Western Michigan University.

Laura Sager

Laura Sager is the director of the Campaign for Justice (CFJ), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of concerned citizens and organizations working to reform Michigan's trial level public defense delivery system. Prior to joining CFJ as director in 2008, Sager served in a variety of state and national positions with Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), a national non-profit sentencing reform organization. Ms Sager was FAMM's executive director, headquartered in Washington, D. C., from 1999-2004, before returning to her beloved Michigan as FAMM's national campaign director. Her work over a dozen years in Michigan gained national media attention and, in 2003, led to the most sweeping reforms of state mandatory minimum drug sentencing in the nation. As leader of sentencing reform and related initiatives in states across the country, Sager has been interviewed by hundreds of state and national media outlets, including segments on *60 Minutes II* with Dan Rather and the O'Reilly Factor. She serves as a consultant to FAMM and is a board member of the Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending.

Judge William Schma

The Honorable William G. Schma served as Kalamazoo County circuit court judge from his initial appointment in 1987 until his retirement in 2007. He has lectured, published articles and law reviews, and made numerous presentations on substance abuse and criminal justice, drug treatment courts, therapeutic jurisprudence, and problem-solving courts. Judge Schma presided over the Kalamazoo County Drug Treatment Court Program; is a founding member of the National Association for Drug Court Professionals; and served as the first president of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals. He has received the Founders Award and the Stanley M. Goldstein Award from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, as well as the Champion of Justice Award from the State Bar of Michigan. He maintains a particular interest in understanding and promoting the law as a healing profession and practicing law, judging and criminal justice with an ethic of care.

Steve Spreitzer, Moderator

Steve Spreitzer is the director of Interfaith Programs, the Michigan United Initiative and Walk2gether Michigan for the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion. Prior to joining the Michigan Roundtable, Spreitzer was director of the Office of Social Ministry with the Archdiocese of Detroit. Spreitzer has also served as coordinator of the Criminal Justice Ministry with the Archdiocese and was founder and director of Criminal Justice Ministry with the Diocese of Lansing. Mr. Spreitzer has been recognized for his leadership in the area of interfaith relations by a variety of prestigious organizations. He is a board member of the Metropolitan Christian Council – Detroit and Vicinity and past board member of the Metropolitan Jail Ministry, Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and River of Life. Spreitzer has been a member of Catholic Charities USA, Parish Social Ministry Leadership Section, the Executive Committee of the National Convocation of Jail and Prison Ministers, and is co-founder of the Michigan Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE). Mr. Spreitzer received his Master's in Social Work at Michigan State University where he studied the role of the faith community in the criminal justice system.

Frank Vandervort

Frank E. Vandervort is a clinical assistant professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he co-teaches in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and teaches juvenile justice. He will co-teach the school's first Juvenile Justice Clinic in 2009. After receiving his law degree from Wayne State University in 1989, Professor Vandervort joined the Juvenile Defender Office, a division of the Legal Aid and Defender of Detroit, where he represented juveniles in delinquency and child protection cases. In 1995 he became the executive director of the Children's Law Center in Grand Rapids, where he represented children in a variety of legal matters. He was recruited to become the program manager of the Michigan Child Welfare Law Resource Center in 1995. In that position, he developed and delivered training programs for lawyers, judges, and social workers handling child protection and related cases in Michigan courts. Vandervort remained in that position until 2004, when he joined the Law School's faculty full time. From 2000 to 2004, he taught juvenile justice and family law at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law as an adjunct professor. He has authored or co-authored several articles regarding juvenile justice, and is the author of four on-line "How To" kits for the Institute for Continuing Legal Education regarding representing juveniles (e.g., "Representing a Juvenile Charged as an Adult in Circuit Court at the Pretrial Phase," "Represent a Juvenile Charged as an Adult in Family Court at Sentencing.") Vandervort has been a consultant or co-principle investigator on three federally funded child welfare training grants.

Dawn Van Hoek, Moderator

Dawn Van Hoek, chief deputy director of the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office (SADO), has practiced criminal appellate law since her graduation from Wayne State University Law School in 1976. Active in the Women Lawyers Association since 1976, Ms. Van Hoek served as the 1989-90 president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan and currently serves as chair of the WLAM Foundation. Ms. Van Hoek serves on the board of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan (CDAM) and is a member of the Michigan Public Defense Task Force. Her State Bar of Michigan activities include serving as reporter and chair of the Criminal Jury Instructions Committee, chair of the Domestic Violence Committee, co-chair of the Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Issues in the Courts and Legal Profession, member of the Appellate Task Force and Open Justice Commission, and co-chair of the Bar's Annual Bar Leadership Conference. Ms. Van Hoek was appointed as a hearing panelist for the Attorney Discipline Board in 1987, and presently chairs a tri-county panel. Elected to the Bar's Representative Assembly in 1989, she served as chair of the Assembly in 1992. Among her many prestigious awards, Ms. Van Hoek was selected by Michigan Lawyers Weekly as one of ten "Lawyers of the Year" in 2005, an honor given to Michigan lawyers who have made a positive impact on the legal system.

Conference Co-Sponsors

Campaign for Justice

The Campaign for Justice is a broad-based group of organizations and individuals from across the political spectrum fighting for a fair and effective public defense system in Michigan. They believe that legislative reform is needed to improve the system's cost effectiveness, protect the public's safety and ensure the state provides the Constitutional right to counsel to all those who cannot afford an attorney. The Lansing-based Campaign is working to build a broad-based network of organizations and individuals to educate the public and win legislation ensuring that Michigan's public defense system for adults and children has adequate state funding and complies with the Eleven Principles for a Public Defense System. The Campaign for Justice is a 501(c)(4) non-partisan, non-profit organization, funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation.

Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan

The Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan was formed by criminal defense attorneys from around the state in 1976 for the purpose of providing an educational and resource sharing forum for criminal defense practitioners in Michigan. The mission of CDAM is to promote expertise in the area of criminal law, constitutional law and procedure and to improve trial and appellate advocacy; to improve the quality of legal representation for persons brought into the criminal and quasi-criminal justice system; to educate the bench, bar and public of the need for quality and integrity in defense services and representation; to promote enlightened thought concerning alternatives to the present criminal justice system; and to guard against erosion of the rights and privileges guaranteed by the United States and Michigan Constitution and laws.

Michigan Catholic Conference

Founded in 1963, the Michigan Catholic Conference serves as the official voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan on matters of public policy. The advocacy priorities unanimously approved by MCC's Board of Directors for 2007-2008 include religious freedom, human life, children and families, health care, education, economic justice and regulatory policy, and federal issues. The principles used to develop these legislative priorities flow from the basic belief in the inherent dignity of each person and in society's responsibility to ensure that dignity, the Catholic Church's teachings and traditions as they apply to today's political environment, and the fundamental principle of justice for all people.

Michigan State Conference NAACP

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. The Michigan State Conference, the largest in the Association, is the supervising unit that is directly responsible for its 30 adult branches and 15 youth councils and college chapters located in Michigan. All NAACP units within the geographic boundaries of the State Conference are members of the State Conference and are subject to the State Conference's efforts to coordinate NAACP activities and policies within its jurisdiction.

The purpose and aims of the State Conference are to eliminate racial prejudice; to keep the public aware of the adverse effects of discrimination; to take lawful action to secure the elimination of racial discrimination; to seek legislation and policies at the state level, or at other levels if requested by the national office, which advance the programs and policies of the Association; and to oppose legislation and policies which are adverse to the programs and policies of the Association consistent with the efforts of the national organization and in conformity with the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, its Constitution and Bylaws, and as directed by the Board of Directors.

Detroit Branch NAACP

The Detroit Branch has remained the largest branch of the NAACP since its inception, carrying forth the mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. Its power in numbers has proved successful in many lawsuits and public demonstrations in Detroit and throughout Michigan. From courtroom lawsuits to boardroom negotiations, from picket lines to economic boycotts, from schoolrooms to factory floors, the Detroit Branch NAACP has demanded justice and civil rights. They seek not merely a superficial procedural justice, but a substantive, deeper form of justice that derives from the very spirit upon which this country was founded.

National Association of Social Workers – Michigan Chapter

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the oldest and largest organization of professional social workers with 153,000 members; more than 7,500 in Michigan. As a non-profit organization, it serves members and advocates for sound social policy. Professional social workers practice in many settings including family service agencies, community mental health centers, schools, hospitals, employee assistance programs, and public and private agencies. Professional social workers provide more than half of the nation's mental health services and offer vital services to individuals, families and communities. The NASW - Michigan Chapter is committed to serving its members and advocating for the social work profession.

State Bar of Michigan

The State Bar of Michigan is a “unified” bar association, meaning that all lawyers practicing within the state must be members. It was created by statute in 1935 and operates under the rules of the Michigan Supreme Court. Under those rules, the State Bar is required to aid in promoting improvements in the administration of justice and advancements in jurisprudence. The State Bar currently has over 39,000 members.

Throughout its history, the State Bar has been actively engaged in issues concerning the quality of public defense services in Michigan. In 2002, the State Bar’s Representative Assembly adopted the ABA’s Ten Principles of an Effective Public Defense Delivery System, and added the Eleventh Principle: when there is a defender office, one function of the office will be to explore and advocate for programs that improve the system and reduce recidivism. Most recently, the State Bar co-sponsored the National Legal Aid and Defender Association report on Michigan. The State Bar is actively participating in moving public defense system reform forward.

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Thank YOU for attending the Public Defense Task Force Annual Conference 2008.
Your commitment will make public defense reform a reality in Michigan.