



Everything Michigan

Letters: Public defender system long overdue for reform

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 By

I don't know if Alphonso Sones is guilty of the 2002 gas station robberies in Muskegon, but looking at the case now, it is pretty clear he did not get a fair trial or adequate representation from his court appointed attorney (**"ACLU blasts Michigan's public defender system, cites Muskegon case – but facts are disputed," Muskegon Chronicle, May18**).

Michigan is one of only a handful of states nationwide without a uniform, statewide standard for providing and monitoring the legal defense system.

There seems to be a sad belief in Michigan that some parts of the Constitution are more valuable than others. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is time we undertake desperately needed and long overdue reforms so it doesn't take a miracle to bring justice to the guilty and keep innocent people out of prison.

Dr. David Schuringa

Crossroad Correctional Services

Grandville

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