

**Resolution of the
Shiawassee County Bar Association**

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Gideon v Wainwright* imposed on the states the responsibility for providing counsel to indigent persons in any case that may result in a loss of liberty;

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has abdicated this responsibility by placing the burden of providing counsel on its counties, providing virtually no state funding, or fiscal or administrative oversight;

WHEREAS, leaving counties responsible for the funding and administration of their public defense delivery systems places an undue hardship on many counties and results in an uneven quality of justice statewide;

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan's failure to provide fair and equal justice results in inadequate representation, wrongful convictions, improper sentencing, jeopardized public safety, and mismanagement of taxpayer dollars;

WHEREAS, the *Eleven Principles of Public Defense Delivery System* were adopted by the Michigan Public Defense Taskforce in 2002, and by the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly in 2002, and serve as the fundamental standards for a public defense delivery system to provide effective, efficient, quality, and ethical representation to those in criminal proceedings who cannot afford to hire an attorney;

WHEREAS, Michigan's trial-level public defense delivery system currently fails to meet the Eleven Principles;

WHEREAS, Michigan's broken public defense delivery system must be reformed so that it provides fair and equal justice to everyone, maximizes public safety, and uses taxpayer dollars efficiently;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shiawassee County Bar Association supports the establishment of a state-funded public defense delivery system in Michigan that complies with the Eleven Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System.

Shiawassee County Bar Association

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November 13, 2008

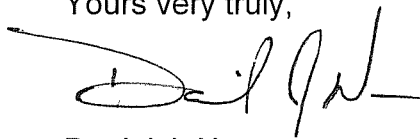
Ms. Dawn M. Childress, J.D.
Michigan Campaign for Justice
1115 South Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 201
Lansing, Michigan 48912

RE: Resolution of the Shiawassee County Bar Association

Dear Ms. Childress:

I am pleased to forward to you the enclosed Resolution of the Shiawassee County Bar Association adopted by our membership at our November meeting. I would like to thank you for your attendance at our meeting, and wish the Michigan Campaign for Justice all the best in its attempts at obtaining a fairer and more just public defense delivery system.

Yours very truly,



Daniel J. Nees
Secretary/Treasurer
Shiawassee County Bar Association