



MICHIGAN INDIGENT
DEFENSE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2016

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Michigan Supreme Court Conditionally Approves Commission's Standards
Approval is Next Step in Michigan's Continuing Reforms

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Supreme Court conditionally approved the first set of standards proposed by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) in an Administrative Order issued June 1, 2016.

“The Supreme Court’s conditional approval marks a tremendous step towards critical reform for indigent defense statewide and will move Michigan towards having a fair criminal justice system for poor people,” said MIDC Executive Director Jonathan Sacks.

“We look forward to working quickly with the legislature to address the Court’s concerns and with trial court systems as they submit compliance plans to meet the minimum standards,” Sacks concluded.

The initial standards address some of the major problems Michigan faces in the delivery of adequate indigent defense systems: training and education of counsel, the initial client interview, use of investigation and experts, and counsel at first appearance and other critical stages.

Each local indigent criminal defense delivery system working with the State Court Administrative Office will now submit its compliance plan to the MIDC and the agency will work with the legislature to secure funding for those plans.

In April, the MIDC approved the subjects of the next set of standards: independence from the judiciary, caseloads, attorney qualifications and review, and reasonable fees.

Please see the MIDC’s website for additional information: www.michiganidc.gov.

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