

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the Michigan Bankers Association building in Lansing, Michigan. Remote access via Zoom was available for Commissioners and, upon request, for members of the public. The MIDC website and meeting notice included information for members of the public on how to contact the MIDC to obtain the Zoom link for participation. Commissioners were able to participate remotely if they qualified for an exemption under the Open Meetings Act or if they requested an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12131 *et. seq.*, and Rehabilitation Act, MCL 395.81 *et. seq.*, pursuant to Attorney General Opinion No. 7318.

December 16, 2025

Time: 9:30 am

Michigan Bankers Association
507 S. Grand Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

Commission Members Participating

The following members participated in person:

- Chair Tracey Brame
- Andrew DeLeeuw
- Judge James Fisher
- Christine Green
- David Jones
- Loren Khogali
- Judge Paula Mathes
- Tom McMillin
- Glen Simmington
- Alan Vanderberg
- Rob VerHeulen

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Thomas Adams
- Michael Carter
- Charissa Huang
- James Krizan
- Margaret McAvoy

The following members requested accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act to participate via Zoom:

- Gary Walker (Marquette City, Marquette County, Michigan)

Alicia Moon observed the meeting via Zoom but did not participate in the discussions or voting.

Chair Brame called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Public Comment

The following people provided public comment:

- Pete Menna
- Karen Moore

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Green moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. Judge Fisher seconded. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner VerHeulen moved that the consent agenda containing the October 21, 2025 meeting minutes be approved. Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Staley provided an overview on the MIDC's work project status and usage.

Executive Committee

Chair Brame discussed the submission of an amicus brief in the case of *People v Donell Willie-Terrell Ivey*. The Executive Committee supports the submission of an amicus brief. Marla McCowan gave an overview of the case and the questions presented. Commissioner Khogali moved that the Commission allow the MIDC staff to prepare and submit an amicus brief in the case of *People v Donell Willie-Terrell Ivey*, MSC Case No. 168000. Commissioner McMillin supported. The motion carried.

Indirect Cost Committee

Commissioner VerHeulen stated that the committee will present a recommendation to the Commission in February.

Nominations

Commissioner DeLeeuw presented the Nominations Committee Report and Recommendations. The Commission nominates the following: Tracey Brame, Chair; Rob VerHeulen, Vice Chair; Michael Carter, Secretary. Commissioner Green and Judge Fisher will serve as ex officio non-voting members. Commissioner DeLeeuw moved that the slate of candidates for the MIDC's 2026 Executive Committee be approved. Commissioner Vanderberg seconded. The motion carried.

Data Collection Ad Hoc Committee

Marla McCowan presented a report on the committee's activities. The committee met on October 16, 2025.

Special Assignment Team Update

Barbara Klimaszewski and Michael Naughton presented on the team's work throughout the state.

Frank Eaman Award for Excellence in Public Defense

The Frank Eaman award for Excellence in Public Defense was presented to Jonathan Sacks.

Regional Update

Tracey Martin, Regional Manager for Lapeer Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair Counties, gave an update of the successes in her region.

MIDC Standards Implementation – Changes to Approved Plans

Cass County requested a plan change to pay attorneys a flat rate to cover two, two-hour shifts per week for probation violation hearings in circuit court. No additional funding is needed to make this change. MIDC staff recommends approval.

Commissioner Vanderburg moved that the change to Cass County's plan be approved. Judge Mathes seconded. The motion carried.

MIDC Standards Implementation – 2025 Year-End Report

MIDC staff presented end-of-year data on grants, research, training and field assessments.

Commissioner Vanderberg moved that the Commission go into closed session under MCL 15.268(a) to consider the periodic personnel evaluation of Director Staley and under MCL 15.268(h) to consider material exempt from disclosure under section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act. Commissioner VerHeulen seconded. Chair Brame requested a roll call vote. The motion carried with 10 yeas (Brame, DeLeeuw, Fisher, Green, Khogali, Mathes, Simmington, Vanderberg, VerHeulen, and Walker), 0 nays, and 7 absent members (Adams, Carter, Huang, Jones, Krizan, McAvoy, and McMillin). The Commission began closed session at 1:10 pm.

The Commission returned to open session at 1:35 pm. Commissioner VerHeulen moved that Director Staley's contract be extended for two years at a rate of \$187,713 plus annual cost of living increases. Commissioner Vanderberg seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Brame adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm.