



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
TRIAL COURT FUNDING COMMISSION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

NICK A. KHOURI  
STATE TREASURER

COMMISSIONERS  
Judge Thomas Boyd, Chair  
Judge James M. Alexander  
Judge Michelle Appel  
Michael Bosanac  
Eric R. DeLong  
Todd A. Drysdale  
Shauna Dunnings

COMMISSIONERS  
Judge Beth Ann Gibson  
Milton L. Mack  
Richard B. Poling  
Thomas C. Rombach  
Shannon Schlegel  
Valerie Ann Thornburg  
Patrick J. Williams

**TRIAL COURT FUNDING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**December 18, 2017, 2:00 PM**

State Treasurer's Conference Room  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Richard H. Austin Building  
430 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48922

**Commission Members Present:**

Judge Thomas Boyd, Judge James M. Alexander, , Michael Bosanac, Eric R. DeLong, Todd A. Drysdale, Shauna Dunnings, Judge Beth Ann Gibson, Milton L. Mack, Richard B. Poling, Thomas C. Rombach, Shannon Schlegel, and Valerie Ann Thornburg.

**Commission Members Participating by Telephone:**

Patrick J. Williams.

**Commission Members Absent:**

Judge Michelle Appel.

**I. Call to Order**

Judge Boyd called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

**II. Public Comment**

Public comment did not occur at this meeting.

**III. Introductions**

All attendees at the meeting table introduced themselves at this inaugural meeting.

**IV. Representative Rob VerHeulen**

The Honorable Rob VerHeulen addressed the Commission and summarized the law that established the Commission, PA 65 of 2017, cited as the "Trial Court Funding Act." The Act has an effective date of September 28, 2017. It was created to review and recommend changes to the trial court funding system in Michigan as well as to the methods by which courts impose and allocate costs and fees, and to repeal acts and parts of acts. Representative VerHeulen described the need for the Commission to address these issues.

*"If I had 20 days to solve a problem, I would take 19 days to define it." Albert Einstein*

**V. Chair's Report – Judge Thomas Boyd**

Judge Thomas Boyd described how he views the Commission's functions going forward. He expects open-minded discussions and hopes to conclude the Commission's findings within twelve months. A final report is due to the Governor, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives two years after the effective date of the Act. He also distributed a copy of the budget.

Judge Boyd requested that the Commissioners determine dates for regularly-occurring meetings. Future meetings will occur every-other month beginning in February then reoccurring in April, June, August, October, and December. All meetings will begin at 1:30 PM and fall on every-other fourth Thursday. All meetings will be held in Lansing.

Judge Boyd distributed a Resource Request Card for Commissioners to complete and return. The card allows Commissioners to provide suggestions of individuals and organizations capable of providing pertinent information to the Commission at future meetings.

**VI. Presentations**

Thomas Quasarano, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Michigan, presented written information to provide summaries of the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Commission is subject to both Acts. Carla Robert is the FOIA Coordinator with the Michigan Department of Treasury. She will assist the Commission with any FOIA issues that may arise going forward.

Janet Welch, Executive Director of the State Bar of Michigan, presented a PowerPoint presentation that provided a historical perspective of Michigan courts beginning with the year 1835 through 2017, including structure, funding, and other issues affecting courts in Michigan.

Judge Milt Mack, State Court Administrator of the State Court Administrative Office, accessed the Internet to present information to the Commission. Judge Mack displayed and discussed Fee and Assessments Tables for the Circuit Court, District Court, and Probate Court. All three tables are posted on the Website of the State Court Administrative Office.

**VII. Short-term Workgroups**

Judge Thomas Boyd requested volunteers among the Commissioners to serve on two small and separate workgroups. The first workgroup is named "Procedures and Requirements (Rules)" and is responsible for developing and recommending general operating rules for the Commission. This workgroup includes Jim Alexander, chair, Shannon Schlegel, Rich Poling, Shauna Dunnings, and Tom Rombach. The second workgroup is named, "Research Vendor" and is responsible for developing a Requests for Proposal for recommending hiring an outside firm to conduct research and assistance. This workgroup includes Mike Bosanac, chair, Milt Mack, Todd Drysdale, Eric DeLong, and Tom Boyd.

**VIII. Assistant's Report**

Wendy Lamphier, Michigan Department of Treasury and Assistant to the Commission, distributed a paper copy of the Travel Expense Voucher that will be emailed to all

Commissioners. The voucher will allow reimbursements for mileage expenses, parking fees, and other miscellaneous expenses that Commissioners may incur. Upon completion, the voucher is sent to Wendy Lamphier for processing, within 60 days of the travel date.

Michigan Department of Treasury can validate parking vouchers only issued from the public parking lot immediately south of the Austin Building. This lot is adjacent to the east side of the Constitution Hall Building and it has two entrances, one from Allegan Street and one from Washtenaw Street.

**IX. Adjournment**


The meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

  
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Wendy Lamphier  
Assistant to the Commission

Approval of Minutes:

  
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Judge Thomas Boyd  
Commission Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date