

**MINUTES OF THE  
COURTS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009**

At a meeting of the **Courts and Legal Affairs Committee**, held Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in the Board Room, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Crouchman-Chair, Carabelli, DiMaria, Doherty, Lampar, Rocca, Sauger, Sprys, Tocco and Gielegem (ex-officio).

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Crouchman called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Sauger, supported by Rocca, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Rocca, supported by Lampar, to approve the February 3, 2009 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

**RECEIVE AND FILE OVERVIEW PRESENTATION ON THE MACOMB COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**

Contained within committee packets was a 19-page outlined document entitled, Overview of the Macomb Circuit Court. Attached to this document were several exhibits.

Chair Crouchman informed commissioners that this committee will be hearing from the Circuit Court, the Probate Court, and the two District Courts. Today's presentation will consist of the Circuit Court. He mentioned that since District Court Judge Paul Cassidy was present, this committee will hear from him this morning.

Circuit Judges present consisted of: Chief Judge Richard Caretti, Judge Diane Druzinski,

Judge Antonio Viviano, Judge David Viviano, Judge Donald Miller, Judge Mary Chrzanowski, Judge James Biernat, and Judge Peter Maceroni.

Before his presentation, Chief Judge Caretti introduced several department heads of the Circuit Court who were in attendance.

Chief Judge Caretti gave a verbal presentation.

Judge Miller addressed the committee.

The following commissioners spoke: Crouchman, Sauger and Doherty.

Committee took a recess from 10:30 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Chair Crouchman informed committee members that District Court Judge Paul Cassidy was present. He asked if there was any objection to this committee hearing from Judge Cassidy today. He indicated that Judge Cassidy would give a similar presentation regarding the District Court. There were no objections.

Judge Cassidy gave a verbal presentation.

The following commissioners spoke: Sprys, Doherty, Crouchman and Gieleghem.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Sauger, supported by Tocco, to receive and file the overview presentations on the Macomb County Circuit Court and on the 42-II District Court. **The Motion Carried.**

### **RECEIVE AND FILE OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION ON THE CIRCUIT COURT ADULT FELONY DRUG COURT**

Contained within committee packets was a two-page outlined document entitled, Adult Felony Drug Court Presentation.

Ms. Gloria Kmiec, Drug Court Supervisor gave a verbal presentation.

Judge Biernat and Judge Druzinski addressed the committee. They both gave verbal presentations about the Drug Court.

Judge Druzinski introduced Ms. Vikki Carrow, a recent Drug Court graduate who addressed the committee.

The following commissioner spoke: Carabelli.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Rocca, supported by Carabelli, to receive and file the outline and presentation on the Circuit Court Adult Felony Drug Court. **The Motion Carried.**

### **GRANT CIRCUIT COURT PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR A RENEWAL OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ADULT FELONY DRUG COURT GRANT FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DOHERTY, SUPPORTED BY ROCCA, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS GRANT THE CIRCUIT COURT PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR A RENEWAL OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ADULT FELONY DRUG COURT GRANT FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR OF 2009-2010. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **MONTHLY REPORTS FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL**

Mr. Brumbaugh said that in addition to his submitted monthly report, he wanted to inform committee members about two new lawsuits. He then disclosed the names of these new lawsuits and what they entailed.

The following commissioner spoke: Doherty.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Rocca, to receive and file the monthly reports from Corporation Counsel. **The Motion Carried.**

### **RECEIVE AND FILE REPORT FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL REGARDING LAW FIRMS REPRESENTING THE COUNTY IN LITIGATION**

Mr. Brumbaugh distributed a handout which consisted of a memorandum and outlines of the topics to be discussed in the presentation regarding outside legal counsel.

Mr. Brumbaugh provided an extensive overview of the distributed material.

Chair Crouchman stepped down from the Chair at 12:05 p.m.

Vice Chair Sprys took the Chair.

The following commissioner spoke: Tocco.

Chair Crouchman took the Chair at 12:09 p.m.

The following commissioners spoke: Sprys and Doherty.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Sprys, to receive and file the report from Corporation Counsel regarding law firms representing the county in litigation. **The Motion Carried.**

(After the conclusion of this committee meeting, Chair Crouchman wanted it placed in the minutes that the distributed document was not scanned, because it contained confidential information.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Sprys, supported by Doherty, to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m. **The Motion Carried.**

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**Denise M. Jacks  
Committee Reporter**