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WITH VIDEO New study tackles comprehensive court reforms for Michigan

Published: Saturday, February 26, 2011



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By ANN ZANIEWSKI
Of The Oakland Press

As state lawmakers grapple with ways to cut costs, a recently released report is suggesting measures to streamline operations and reduce expenses in an area that touches the lives of all Michigan residents — the court system.

The suggestions in the report include reducing the number of judges, creating a single integrated online records system and the formation of a pilot project that would focus on business-related matters.



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This is perhaps the most encompassing road map for judicial reform and reinvention in 20-some years," said Barry Howard, a former Oakland County Circuit Court judge who, along with attorney Edward Pappas, co-chaired the Judicial Crossroads Task Force.

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The task force originated about two years ago, when Pappas was president-elect of the Michigan Bar Association.

"We met with a small group of lawyers and judges and we started to seriously consider how we were going to deal with Michigan's economic and budget crisis, and how it applied to our court system," Pappas said.

"The crisis gave us an opportunity to look at our court system and look and determine how we could provide better services to citizens of the state of Michigan at a lower cost."

With approval from the Michigan Supreme Court, the state bar established a task force of 14 lawyers and 14 judges from various types of courts. From there, committees that included members of the community studied the areas of judicial structure and resources, technology, access to justice and business impact.

The results of those studies were compiled into the Judicial Crossroads Task Force report.

Streamlined operations Continued...

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Skoop's Blog

A political blog by Tim Skubick.



The Law Blogger

Informs on and discusses current matters of legal interest to readers of The Oakland Press and to consumers of legal services in the community.



Simply Fit

Cindy Haskin-Popp will help you make physical activity a part of everyday life. The health benefits of regular exercise and overall daily physical activity will be discussed.



The Dog Blog

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Caren Gittleman likes talking cats. She'll discuss everything about them. Share your stories and ask her questions about your favorite feline.



Outdoor Notes

Roger Beukema shares news from Lansing that impacts sportsmen (this means ladies as well) and talks about things he finds when he goes overseas to visit his children, and adding your comments into the mix.



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Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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