

Lesson 1: Courts and Civil Litigation Summary

Lesson Summary

Civil litigation under the Michigan Court Rules is the foundation of practice for many Michigan attorneys. It is critical to understand how the procedural rules apply as you bring or defend lawsuits. This lesson provides an overview of the Michigan court system and the way cases move through it. It also covers some of the most critical stages of the litigation process: initiating litigation, discovery, motion practice, alternative dispute resolution, and trial.

Michigan Court Basics

Essentials

The Michigan court system includes trial courts, the court of appeals, and the supreme court. Cases are initiated and adjudicated at the trial court level. Trial courts in Michigan include district court, municipal court, probate court, circuit court, and the court of claims. What follows is a brief discussion of the basic function and jurisdiction of the various Michigan courts. See also this Michigan Judicial Branch organizational chart as well as the case-type codes used for each court.

District Court

The district court handles most traffic tickets and other violations, civil cases up to \$25,000 in value, landlord-tenant matters, and certain misdemeanor criminal cases. MCL 600.8301, .8311. A few Michigan counties still have a municipal court instead of a district court. The small claims division of the district court handles cases where the claimed damages do not exceed the small statutorily mandated amount in controversy. MCL 600.8401. An attorney may not represent a party in a small claims action. District

courts can also include certain specialty courts or diversion programs, including sobriety, domestic violence, or veterans' courts. Appeals from district court and municipal court are filed in the circuit court. MCL 600.8304.

Probate Court

The probate court appoints guardians and conservators, handles the administration of wills, trusts, and estates, and orders treatment if necessary for those who are developmentally disabled or mentally ill. MCL 600.841. Probate courts can also include specialty courts or diversion programs, such as truancy or youth drug courts.

Circuit Court

The circuit court handles all civil cases where the claimant seeks damages in excess of \$25,000. Mich Const 1963 art 6, §1; MCL 600.605, .8301. The allegations in the complaint establish the amount in controversy. *Hodge v State Farm Mut Auto Ins Co*, 499 Mich 211, 213, 219; 884 NW2d 238 (2016). The circuit court also handles all felony criminal cases where a defendant could be sentenced to prison. Appeals from the circuit court are filed in the court of appeals. There are a number of divisions within the circuit court, including civil and criminal divisions, the family division, MCL 600.1021, and the business court, MCL 600.8033 et seq.

Court of Claims

The court of claims is a court of statewide, limited jurisdiction established to hear civil actions filed against the state of Michigan or any of its departments or officers. MCL 600.6419 et seq. Although it is housed within the Michigan Court of Appeals, it is a trial court. By statute, court of appeals judges are assigned to the court of claims for two-year terms. MCL 600.6404(6).

Court of Appeals

Michigan's intermediate appellate court hears appeals from the circuit court. MCL 600.308. Court of appeals judges are elected or appointed from one of four districts (Detroit, Troy, Grand Rapids, and Lansing), though they sit in all courtroom locations on randomly assigned three-judge panels. The court of appeals handles appeals of right, appeals by leave, extraordinary writs, certain original actions and enforcement actions, and other appeals or actions established by law. With a few limited exceptions, it has jurisdiction over an appeal by right on all final orders and judgments from the circuit court or court of claims. MCR 7.202(6). An appeal from such an order is limited to the portion of the order for which there is an appeal of right. All other issues arising from that order must be raised in an application for leave to appeal. If a party is not entitled to an appeal of right, the court may grant an application for leave.

Supreme Court

This is Michigan's highest court, located in the Hall of Justice in Lansing. The Michigan Supreme Court is the final arbiter of appeals from the Michigan Court of Appeals, but its authority to hear cases is discretionary. MCL 600.215; MCR 7.305. If the supreme court declines to accept leave, the ruling from the court of appeals stands. However, the supreme court may order other relief, including remanding the case to the court of appeals or trial court with directives on additional actions to be taken. Traditionally, cases are chosen by the supreme court based on their level of importance to the public interest and level of complexity.

For more on the Michigan court system, see *Michigan Civil Procedure* ch 2 (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed).

Progression of a Civil Case

Cases in Michigan courts are governed by the Michigan Court Rules, MCR 1.101 et seq., which are similar to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in some respects and very different in others. The Michigan Court Rules are arranged in nine chapters, with chapter 2 outlining the general rules of civil procedure. MCR 2.001 et seq. Individual courts and judges have their own local rules and protocols, generally available online. Finally, Michigan has its own Rules of Professional Conduct, which differ from the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct. The movement of cases through the Michigan court system is governed by this collection of rules and protocols.

Special Michigan Court Issues

In Michigan, the State Court Administrative Office has approved and published a number of forms for use in trial courts. There are also various Michigan-specific courts, divisions, and programs at the trial court level. These include the following:

- *Business court.* Every circuit court with three or more circuit judges must have a “business court” for business disputes to be resolved with efficiency and expertise. MCL 600.8033(1), (3). In the circuits where a business court has been established, every “business or commercial dispute” goes to the business docket.
- *Court of claims.* Bringing actions against governmental defendants in the court of claims should not be taken lightly as there are very specific notice provisions and other unique requirements. See MCL 600.6431(1). The Michigan Court Rules apply in the court of claims, but there are also local rules.

- *Specialty courts.* Every county either has or partners with a specialty or “problem-solving” court that provides treatment or services to avoid having to incarcerate litigants with drug, alcohol, or truancy issues. When applicable, research the available programs in your county.

Civility and Courtroom Procedures

Attorney conduct in Michigan is governed by the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, published ethics opinions by the State Bar of Michigan Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics, caselaw, court rules, administrative orders (see AO 2020-23, Professionalism Principles for Lawyers and Judges), and established norms of civility. A successful practice involves behaving with courtesy and professionalism.

Presuit Considerations

Essentials

Before a lawsuit officially begins, lawyers must grapple with a number of issues.

Presuit Investigation

Formal discovery is not available until after the plaintiff files suit and provides initial disclosures in cases where they are necessary. MCR 2.302(A). However, you can obtain relevant information before a lawsuit begins by using private investigation, public records requests, and other extrajudicial means. Because there is no clear set of rules for presuit investigation, lawyers tend to learn through experience. Professional conduct rules provide important ethical limits. Some essential elements of presuit investigation include

- identifying the client’s goals and interests and confirming the facts of the case by conducting a thorough client interview;

- identifying and preserving electronically stored information;
- requesting relevant records, such as medical, employment, or insurance records;
- requesting public records under the Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231 et seq.;
- searching public social media sites; and
- retaining and consulting experts.

Jurisdiction and Venue

Subject-matter jurisdiction is essentially the power of a certain type of court to hear a case. If a court does not have subject-matter jurisdiction, any action that it takes is void. Personal jurisdiction is the power of a court to enter a binding in personam judgment against a party. Jurisdiction is controlled by the Michigan Constitution and various statutes. When there is more than one proper jurisdiction, the plaintiff's attorney determines where to file a complaint. *Anderson v Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co*, 411 Mich 619, 628; 309 NW2d 539 (1981). Venue relates to the specific place where a suit may be heard. Generally, venue pertains to the county where the complaint should be filed.

Notice

One of the first steps to take before filing a lawsuit is to address whether a preliminary notice of a claim is required. This notice is only required before filing certain types of lawsuits, including the following:

- suits against a state, county, or municipal governmental entity
- medical malpractice suits
- lis pendens

- foreclosure by advertisement
- shareholder and member derivative actions
- some types of insurance litigation

Statutes of Limitations

The statute of limitations is the time period in which the law allows you to bring a cause of action. These time limits are set to provide a deadline for filing suits. Limitation periods for most causes of action are specified in chapter 58 of the Revised Judicature Act, MCL 600.5801 et seq. However, when a statute creates a cause of action and also specifies a limitation period, that limitation period controls. See MCL 600.5813; *DiPonio Constr Co, Inc v Rosati Masonry Co, Inc*, 246 Mich App 43; 631 NW2d 59 (2001). There is, for example, a limitation provision in the Michigan No-Fault Insurance Act, MCL 500.3145.

Standing

Civil litigation begins with the plaintiff who initiates it. A plaintiff must be an “interested party” to have standing to sue. An interested party is one who has the right to bring the claim against the defendant, whether or not they have a beneficial interest.

Capacity

A party’s capacity to sue or defend suit is an issue distinct from the interested party and standing rules. Capacity assumes that a party has an interest, but asks whether that party has the capability or integrity to be a party in a lawsuit. Court rules, statutes, and caselaw address capacity to sue. In addition, some statutes address the capacity of specific parties to maintain an action.

Joinder

Joinder rules control the scope of litigation by determining the claims and parties to include in a single action. These rules determine whether the court should decide certain claims together. See MCR 2.201 et seq.

For more on presuit considerations, see *Michigan Civil Procedure* chs 2–4 (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed).

Initial Pleadings, Filing, and Service

Essentials

A lawsuit officially begins with the filing and service of a complaint by the plaintiff, which the defendant then answers.

Complaint

MCR 2.111, .112, and .113 require certain pleading practices, including a specific caption and other particular formal requirements. See MCR 1.109(D)(1).

The complaint's first allegations supply the basis for jurisdiction and venue. All allegations must be made in numbered paragraphs. MCR 2.113(B)(1). A subtitle typically introduces facts common to multiple claims. Each paragraph must be limited as much as possible to a single set of circumstances. MCR 2.113(B)(2). The complaint must state each cause of action in a separately numbered count.

A complaint must end with a demand for judgment and request for relief. If you want a jury trial, include a demand along with the complaint. MCR 2.508(B).

Filing, Summons, and Service

Although the complaint gives the defendant notice of what is being alleged, the summons actually gives the defendant notice that a suit has been filed and compels them to answer or face default. Plaintiffs can fill out their summons using the state-

approved State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) form. See SCAO forms MC 01, Summons, and MC 01a, Complaint.

The summons and complaint are then filed with the court, along with the mandatory filing fee. Courts must implement e-filing and e-service capabilities in compliance with MCR 1.109(G) and SCAO standards. However, different courts are at different stages with the e-filing requirements.

The filed complaint and summons are then served on the defendant or defendants. MCR 2.105 sets forth the requirements of how to serve various types of defendants.

Answer and Affirmative Defenses

A responsive pleader may make just four types of responsive statements: (1) an “explicit” admission, (2) “no contest,” (3) an “explicit” denial, or (4) “the pleader lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of an allegation.” MCR 2.111(C). The first two serve to establish the allegation as conclusive and binding. The second two require the affirmative pleader to prove the allegations. If not denied in the responsive pleading, all allegations that require a responsive pleading are admitted, except for allegations regarding the amount of damages or the nature of relief demanded. MCR 2.111(E).

Parties must state affirmative defenses in their first responsive pleading. MCR 2.111(F)(3). “An affirmative defense is a defense that does not controvert the plaintiff’s establishing a prima facie case, but that otherwise denies relief to the plaintiff.” *Stanke v State Farm Mut Auto Ins Co*, 200 Mich App 307, 312; 503 NW2d 758 (1993). They must be set forth under a distinct heading, and they must state facts constituting the affirmative defense.

If the complaint and summons were served in person by hand delivery, the defendant has 21 days to respond. MCR 2.108. If they were served by mail, the defendant has 28 days to respond. *Id.*

For more on initiating litigation, see *Michigan Civil Procedure* ch 5 (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed).

Discovery

Essentials

Michigan has a historical commitment to a far-reaching, open, and effective discovery practice that is governed by the Michigan Court Rules. Although the scope of discovery in Michigan is broad, there are limits. Parties may only obtain discovery regarding nonprivileged matters that are relevant to a party's claims or defenses and are "proportional to the needs of the case," considering factors such as whether the burden or expense of discovery outweighs the likely benefit, the complexity of the case, the importance of the issues, and the amount of money involved. MCR 2.302(B)(1).

While you should consider potential discovery issues even before filing the complaint or answer, formal discovery generally begins after the complaint and initial disclosures are filed. MCR 2.301(A). Initial disclosures involve the exchange of certain basic information like the factual basis of the claims and defenses and the legal theories underlying them. MCR 2.302(A)(1). Special initial disclosures are required in no-fault and personal injury actions. MCR 2.302(A)(2), (3).

Formal methods of obtaining discovery that follow the exchange of initial disclosures include

- interrogatories, MCR 2.309;
- requests for admission, MCR 2.312;

- requests for production or inspection of documents and other tangible things, MCR 2.310;
- depositions, MCR 2.303–.308, .315; and
- physical and mental examinations, MCR 2.311.

Under MCR 2.302(E), a party has a duty to supplement prior discovery responses under certain circumstances, and failure to do so may result in sanctions.

The Michigan Court Rules put specific limits on the use of experts and discovery of expert material. Expert discovery is limited to the facts known and opinions held by experts who are expected to testify at trial. MCR 2.302(B)(4). There are important differences between the Michigan Court Rules and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. For example, expert reports are generally not mandatory in Michigan. However, there is an exception for medical and mental health experts examining a party under certain circumstances. MCR 2.311(A), (C). In addition, unlike under the federal rules, an opposing party can satisfy the requirement that a party’s condition is “in controversy” and that there is “good cause” for the exam by simply alleging emotional distress (rather than a specific mental health diagnosis). *LeGendre v Monroe Cty*, 234 Mich App 708; 600 NW2d 78 (1999).

For more on discovery, see *Michigan Civil Procedure* ch 10 (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed).

Written Discovery

Written discovery makes up a large part of discovery practice in Michigan. Although much information is exchanged via initial disclosures pursuant to MCR 2.302(A), other formal discovery tools such as interrogatories, MCR 2.309, requests to admit, MCR 2.312, and requests for production of documents, MCR 2.310, can be valuable ways to narrow the issues and follow up on information already provided. The court rules limit

each party to a maximum of 20 interrogatories, including discrete subparts, per respondent. MCR 2.309(A)(2).

Depositions

Depositions, governed by MCR 2.303–.308 and .315, are the most versatile discovery tool, as their effective use reveals both the good and the bad aspects of each party’s case and eliminates nonissues. You can find out what testimony is available, both for and against your case, and you can assess the personal appearance, demeanor, and effect of the parties and witnesses in a setting sufficiently similar to trial. Depositions for cases in Michigan courts are limited to one day of seven hours. MCR 2.306(A)(3).

Discovery

Electronically stored information (ESI) has its own discovery rules in civil litigation. MCR 2.302(B)(5)–(7). In most cases, ESI includes electronic documents and other forms of data like databases, image files, and recordings. The Michigan Court Rules on ESI frequently follow the federal rules, and Michigan courts often view federal opinions as persuasive authority.

Motion Practice

Essentials

Through a motion, a party asks the court either to take an action or to order someone to take (or not take) an action.

Common Types of Motions

Motions may serve a variety of purposes and may be brought at all stages of litigation. Common motions brought before trial include

- motions to amend or supplement pleadings, MCR 2.118(A)(1);

- motions for preliminary injunctions, MCR 3.310(A)(4);
- motions to compel discovery, MCR 2.313(A)(5);
- motions for summary disposition, MCR 2.116(C); and
- motions for rehearing or reconsideration, MCR 2.119(F).

Motions can also be made during trial. For example, motions in limine are made to prevent irrelevant, inadmissible, or prejudicial matters from being admitted into evidence at trial. In addition, a number of posttrial motion opportunities exist under the court rules, including motions for new trial, MCR 2.611, and motions for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, MCR 2.610.

Drafting

MCR 2.119 provides detailed requirements for motions and supporting briefs. Unless made during a hearing or trial, a motion must

- be in writing, according to the formal specifications and page limits in the court rules;
- state the facts and grounds on which the motion is based and the legal authority justifying the relief;
- set out the requested relief or order sought; and
- be signed by the party or attorney, certifying that the motion conforms to the court rules and is not brought for reasons of delay or any improper purpose.

MCR 2.119(A)(1); see MCR 1.109(D)(3), (E). If a motion is signed in violation of these rules, the court may impose sanctions.

Any motion that presents an issue of law must be accompanied by a brief citing the authority on which it is based. MCR 2.119(A)(2). Unpublished opinions are not

precedentially binding and “should not be cited for propositions of law for which there is published authority.” MCR 7.215(C). Further, a party citing an unpublished opinion must “explain the reason for citing it and how it is relevant to the issues presented” and attach a copy of the opinion. *Id.*

Notice of Hearing

The notice of hearing tells attorneys of record and unrepresented parties the date and time of the hearing. The details of scheduling and noticing a motion for hearing are often covered by informal or formal local rules. Judges may also have specific protocols about appearing for hearings via remote participation technology.

Filing and Service

To file a motion, you must e-file, mail, or deliver an original of the motion, brief, and other supporting material, along with the notice of hearing, filing fee, and proof of service, to the court clerk’s office. It is also good practice (and is sometimes required) to send copies of these documents directly to the judge. Some counties also require a praecipe, which is a standardized form, varying from county to county, notifying the clerk of the nature of the motion and the scheduled date and time of the hearing. Some counties require a specific written certification that concurrence in the relief sought has been requested and has been denied. See, e.g., LCR 2.119(B) of the 3rd and 6th Judicial Circuits. Note that different courts are at different stages with e-filing. MCR 1.109(G).

Generally, “every party who has filed a pleading, an appearance, or a motion must be served with a copy of every document later filed in the action.” MCR 2.107(A). This includes motions and their accompanying documents. See MCR 2.107 for service requirements, including provisions on electronic service.

For more on motion practice, see *Michigan Civil Procedure* ch 13 (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed).

Hearings

Knowing when to file a motion, how to frame the issues, and how to present the arguments are critical skills honed over years of practice. Research your judge's requirements and proclivities by talking to colleagues and reviewing judicial protocols online. Most courts schedule an oral hearing on all motions, but sometimes there is only a hearing if the judge wants one. MCR 2.119(E)(3). Appearance at a hearing is governed by MCR 2.119(E)(4)(a) and (b). Unless excused by the court, a moving party must appear at the hearing on the motion or be subject to the cost and expense sanctions of MCR 2.119(E)(4)(b).

Summary Disposition

Summary disposition motions under MCR 2.116(C) are an important part of most litigators' practice as they can resolve claims or entire matters before trial. Motions for summary disposition are the Michigan state court counterpart to both Fed R Civ P 12(b)(6), motions to dismiss, and Fed R Civ P 56, motions for summary judgment. Summary disposition motions can be brought on a variety of grounds, including lack of jurisdiction, MCR 2.116(C)(1), (4); failure to file under the statute of limitations, MCR 2.116(C)(7); failure of the opposing party to state a claim on which relief may be granted, MCR 2.116(C)(8); and lack of a genuine issue of material fact, MCR 2.116(C)(10).

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Essentials

Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is any process designed to resolve a dispute outside of court adjudication. ADR includes more than 30 processes classified into three separate categories based on the nature of the process and the result the participants seek: dictatorial, evaluative, and facilitative.

Dictatorial Processes

Dictatorial ADR processes most closely resemble the courtroom or traditional adjudication and include arbitration, mediation-arbitration, and consensual special magistrate. In dictatorial processes, the participants obtain a final, binding result that is imposed by a third party.

Arbitration is typically a private voluntary process in which a neutral third party (or panel of three neutrals), sometimes with specialized subject expertise, is selected by the parties to render a binding decision. Each party has the opportunity to present proofs and arguments at the arbitration hearing, and the arbitrator's decision is put into a writing known as an "award." The award may be perfunctory, indicating only the "winner" and economic relief, or it may be a "reasoned" award, containing findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Arbitration provisions are everywhere. Many companies are turning to arbitration as their exclusive dispute resolution method. For example, patients admitted to hospitals in Michigan are often handed blanket arbitration agreements. By signing these agreements, they agree to submit any potential medical malpractice case to resolution in arbitration without a jury.

Even if there was not an arbitration provision originally governing potential disputes, the parties can agree to enter into arbitration and craft their own agreement for how it will work.

If you arbitrate, you almost always lose your right to appeal.

Evaluative Processes

Evaluative processes include things like case evaluation or a summary jury trial. The goal is to obtain an impression or advisory opinion regarding the likely outcome of the dispute if it is allowed to progress through trial. When a subject-matter expert is used in the evaluative process, the weight of the expert's opinion can be influential in reassessing one's position and expectations of the outcome. If the opinions are negative, these processes can result in a swift settlement.

Case evaluation is a process, governed by MCR 2.403, in which a panel of neutral lawyers issues an evaluative opinion known as a "case evaluation award" after a brief presentation of each participant's legal and factual perspectives.

Facilitative Processes

In facilitative processes, such as mediations and minitrials, the client actively participates in the process and the solution. Clients can maintain control of the result and actively fashion resolutions.

Of all of the ADR methods, mediation is the process where clients and attorneys keep the most control. It can begin (and end) before formal litigation is commenced and continue throughout litigation and through appeal. Mediation is particularly helpful where the disputants have a continuing relationship, such as in employment or probate matters. It is also useful where a client wants to tell their story or have the experience of getting their day in court.

In mediation, a neutral third party assists the parties and their counsel in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement. A hallmark of the mediation process is the right to confidentiality, subject to the Michigan Court Rules. MCR 2.412. In part because of the confidential nature of the process, negotiations can involve discussing pertinent facts, exploring the parties' interests, examining the strengths and weaknesses of their positions, and generating creative solutions.

For more on ADR, see *Michigan Civil Procedure* ch 16 (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed) and *Michigan Basic Practice Handbook* ch 12 (ICLE 6th ed).

Trial

Although most cases in Michigan settle before trial, trials and evidentiary hearings do still happen. Some trials are bench trials, meaning that the judge is the fact-finder, and some are jury trials. In a civil jury trial, there are six jurors, and a verdict is reached when five jurors agree. MCL 600.1352.

Trial Preparation

To prepare, thoroughly analyze your case and review the pleadings and discovery, the relevant law and procedural rules, and what you need to prove. Organization is key. Whether you use a physical notebook or an electronic system, make sure the documents you need are readily available.

Jury Instructions

Drafting jury instructions is helpful when determining your proofs. Many Michigan courts require that before jury selection, the parties meet and confer and provide the court with a set of jury instructions indicating what is and is not agreed on. This includes both Model Civil Jury Instructions, which are standard instructions drafted by a

committee appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court, and special instructions, which are crafted to meet the needs of a specific case.

Witnesses and Exhibits

Your witnesses need to effectively tell the story and be believed by the fact-finder. Most nonparty fact witnesses need to be subpoenaed. MCR 2.506.

In most trials, exhibits will be used in presenting your case. Think about how each exhibit will prove or refute each element of the claims at issue. Consider what documents and other physical evidence will be useful to the fact-finder. Determine how you will obtain each exhibit, how you will present it at trial, and whether the exhibit is admissible.

Jury Selection

Jury selection is your chance to shape the panel and communicate with the jury about the case. It is largely an unscientific and intuitive process, though there are some general rules and key terminology. Voir dire is the process by which the judge and lawyers question potential jurors about their opinions, beliefs, and background to determine whether those factors might influence their ability to be fair and impartial.

After questioning the jurors, you have the opportunity to excuse a potential juror through two types of challenges: challenge for cause, MCR 2.511(E), and peremptory challenges, MCR 2.511(F)(2).

The overall goal is to obtain enough information to ensure the selection of a fair and impartial jury to hear a case. You also want to select a jury that will be sympathetic to your case, or at least not be averse to your client's interest before hearing all of the evidence.

Evidence

The Michigan Rules of Evidence, the Michigan Court Rules, and caselaw control what can be admitted and how evidence is used at trial. The various methods of presenting proofs at trial include the following:

- presumptions
- stipulations
- fact witnesses
- expert witnesses
- views of the scene
- exhibits
- use of courtroom technology
- demonstrative aids

For more on trial practice, see *Michigan Civil Procedure* chs 18–21 (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed).

Recommended Resources

1. One Court of Justice website
2. Michigan Court Rules
3. Michigan Rules of Evidence
4. Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct
5. *Michigan Model Civil Jury Instructions* (subscription required)
6. *Michigan Civil Procedure* (Hon. Sima G. Patel et al eds, ICLE 3d ed) (subscription required)

7. *Michigan Basic Practice Handbook* (ICLE 6th ed) (subscription required)
8. Michigan Judicial Branch organizational chart