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Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System

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A division of the State Appellate Defender Office
Jonathan Sacks, Director

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Dear Bar Members:

I am the Deputy Administrator of the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS), which administers the system for appointing criminal appellate counsel in Michigan circuit courts. Approximately 75% of indigent felony appeals are assigned to private attorneys on the MAACS roster. MAACS is currently accepting applications for membership on its roster, with an application deadline of September 13, 2024.

I have provided roster application materials with this letter and would be grateful if you could distribute them to the members of your bar association. Additional copies of the application materials and more information about MAACS are available on the MAACS page at www.SADO.org.

This is a competitive process, and we encourage applications from conscientious lawyers with diverse experiences and backgrounds, and those who are committed to representing indigent clients and contributing to the reform of Michigan's indigent defense system. Promising applicants may be invited to join the roster after attending orientation and training sessions this fall.

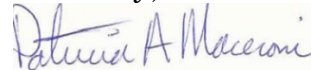
It is an exciting time to join the roster. Since its merger with SADO in 2014, MAACS has implemented many important reforms, including:

- In October 2023, MAACS felony assignments began paying at rates of \$130-\$142 per hour. Rates will increase annually to keep pace with inflation and remain consistent with prevailing standards.
- Dedicated assistance from MAACS's Litigation Support Counsel, who helps roster attorneys with issue spotting, securing investigative and other expert services, and other services. Litigation support is available to all roster attorneys, and new roster attorneys receive specialized mentorship with their early assignments.

- A subsidized legal research package, including a comprehensive Westlaw subscription and complete web access to SADO/CDRC resources. Valued at over \$3,000, this package is available to roster attorneys for \$250 per year.
- Improved access to resources and training, including online case rounds, frequent targeted seminars, and the annual Appellate Writing Workshop, an intense three-day training focusing on client-centered writing and appellate advocacy.

I hope you will share this information with the members of your bar association and encourage interested attorneys to apply. I would be happy to answer questions about MAACS and the roster application process. I am also available to attend a meeting of your organization to address any questions from your members. I can be reached at the number listed above, or via email at pmaceroni@sado.org.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Maceroni

MAACS Deputy Administrator

PAM/sns