



Thomas M. Cooley Law Libraries' Research Guide Series

MICHIGAN Major Legal Web Resources

I. Judicial

III. Administrative

V. Find an Attorney or Legal Help

II. Legislative

IV. The Law on...

Overview: This research guide contains internet resources for doing legal Michigan research. We are fortunate to have government pages which are both broad in coverage and very current.

I. JUDICIAL

Michigan Courts

<http://courts.michigan.gov/index.htm>

Michigan Model Civil Jury Instructions with commentary

<http://courts.michigan.gov/mcji-index.htm>

Michigan Case Type Codes

http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/standards/cf_casetypecodes.pdf

The Codes are necessary for actions filed in all the courts.

State Court Administrative Office Approved Court Forms

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/courtforms/index.htm>

Forms are provided in PDF format; you can fill in the form and print, but you cannot retain it filled in – additional software is required. Numerical and alphabetical indexes are not linked to the forms. Click on back-button to exit the indexes.

Michigan Court Rules

<http://coa.courts.mi.gov/rules/>

This heading leads to a number of litigation tools, including:

- Michigan Court Rules
- Michigan Rules of Evidence
- Administrative Orders of the Michigan Supreme Court
- Local Court Rules for state trial courts
- Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct
- Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan
- Rules for the Board of Law Examiners
- Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct
- Rules Concerning the Judicial Conference of Michigan
- Michigan Uniform System of Citation



Trial Courts

<http://courts.michigan.gov/trialcourts/trial.htm>

Directory of links to the local courts' and a directory of judges and addresses.

Supreme Court briefs

<http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/index.htm>

Click on the "Clerk's Office" tab for the Schedule of Oral Arguments with status, summary, link to available opinions. Briefs are available as each case is pending oral argument.

Court of Appeals & Supreme Court dockets

<http://coa.courts.mi.gov/resources/public.htm>

Title, date, and short description of all items filed with the court. Most documents are not available online. You can search by docket number, party, or attorney.

Opinions of the both the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

<http://coa.courts.mi.gov/>

Opinions from both courts can be searched by docket number, full-text, or fields.

Michigan Appellate Digest

<http://coa.courts.mi.gov/Digest/DigestLaunchPage.jsp>

Subject words and short descriptions of legal issues in opinions from both courts created by court staff. "Major Topics" allows you to browse a list of subjects to locate opinions. "Statute" allows you to search through the digest for sections of the Michigan Constitution, US Constitution, Michigan Compiled Laws, US Code, Michigan Court Rules, Michigan Rules of Evidence, Code of Federal Regulations, Criminal Jury Instructions, city ordinances, MDOC Policy Directives, Sentencing Guidelines, Michigan Administrative Code, and Restatements. Try "Search Tips" for formats.

Interest Rates on Money Judgments

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/other/interest.pdf>

Michigan Child Support Formula Manual and Custody Guideline

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/manuals/>

Michigan Sentencing Guideline Manual

<http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/sentencing-guidelines/sq.htm>

Michigan Department of Treasury annual determinations

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/noncolimit101_3658_7.pdf

- Non-Economic Damages Limitation
- Product Liability Limitation
- Estates and Protected Individuals Code Cost-of-Living Adjustments

II. LEGISLATIVE

Michigan Legislature

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/>



Legislature” list on the left includes “Bills” and “Resolutions” -- can be searched by sponsor, descriptive category, date, or full-text or you can browse all bills. The “Journals” of the two houses and “Public Acts” can be found by date or full-text search.

“Laws” list on the left includes Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL), by “Chapter Index” or “Search” by multiple fields -- MCL section, statute number, popular name, more, or full-text. “MCL Tables” is a very current cross-reference table of Public Acts and MCL sections indicating changes to MCL sections.

Michigan Senate

<http://senate.michigan.gov/>

Michigan House

<http://house.michigan.gov/>

Michigan House Fiscal Agency

<http://house.michigan.gov/hfa/>

Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/>

Nonpartisan assistance analyzing bills, particularly fiscal impact and preparing budget.

Michigan Constitution

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=ChapterIndex>

Michigan Constitutions of 1835, 1850, & 1908, Ordinance of NW Territory of US

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=historicaldocuments>

How to Find Current Michigan Statutes guide by State of Michigan Law Library

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-54504_50206_18639_18656-52423--,00.html

Guide to Sources of Legislative History by Michigan Legislative Service Bureau

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-54504_50206_18639_18656-52439--,00.html

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

Executive Orders of the Governor (EO)

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-21975--,00.html>

This site, maintained by the governor’s office, only goes back to 2003, but contains the newest EOs.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page=ExecutiveOrders>

The legislature’s web page goes back to 1993, but is not as fast with new ones.

Michigan Attorney General Opinions

<http://www.ag.state.mi.us/opinion/opinions.aspx>

Opinions are available from 1963, searchable by headnotes from 1963, full-text from 1977.



Michigan Administrative Code & Michigan Register

<http://www.michigan.gov/orr/0,1607,7-142-5698---,00.html>

Access is available by administrative department or rule number. The Register contains administrative news including proposed new rules, public hearings on these, and new rules.

State Office of Administrative Hearings, Appeals, & Mediation

<http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10576---,00.html>

Part of the Department of Energy, Labor, & Economic Growth.

Bureau of Employment Commission (MERC) Decisions from 1998

http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-10576_17485---,00.html

Tax Tribunal Decisions from 1995

http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/ham/tax/sr_recdec.asp

Worker's Compensation Appellate Commission (ACAC) Decisions from 1997

http://www.cis.state.mi.us/ham/wcac/sr_wcac.asp

State Office of Administrative Hearings & Rules

http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/ham/boh/pdf/sr_bhear.asp

Decisions referred by DLEG, Transportation, Management & Budget, Office of Children & Adult Licensing (DHS) from 1998 on searchable by agency, party, etc.

Michigan Tax Forms

<http://www.michigan.gov/treasury>

These forms are searchable by number, keyword, subject, and year.

Michigan Revenue Administrative Bulletins

http://www.michigan.gov/taxes/0,1607,7-238-44087_44090---,00.html

Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) at the Department of Corrections

<http://mdocweb.state.mi.us/OTIS2/otis2.html>

Michigan Public Sex Offender Registry (PSOR)

<http://www.mipsor.state.mi.us/>

Internet Criminal History Tool (ICHAT) at Michigan State Police

<http://apps.michigan.gov/ichat/home.aspx>

Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth forms

http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-35299_36737---,00.html

Business entity, consumer protection, and licensing information.

Michigan Executive Branch with agencies, boards & commissions links

http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29701_29702---,00.html

Michigan Vital Records (Birth, Death, Marriage, Divorce)

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-4645---,00.html>



IV. THE LAW ON...

Domestic Violence, Crime Victims, PPOs by Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney

<http://www.eatoncounty.org/index.php/domestic-violence.html>

Michigan Legal Glossary

<http://www.eatoncounty.org/index.php/legal-definitions.html>

Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney guide contains some MCL citations in the definitions.

Michigan Marriage Laws

http://www.usmarriagelaws.com/search/united_states/michigan/

Family Support, Custody, FOC by Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney

<http://www.eatoncounty.org/index.php/family-support.html>

Anatomy of a Michigan Criminal Prosecution by Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney

<http://www.eatoncounty.org/index.php/criminal-case-process.html>

Directory of Michigan Law Libraries

http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18639_18657-52451--,00.html

Short description of legal holdings of libraries statewide.

Personal Protection Orders (PPOs) in Michigan by Eaton County Prosecutor

<http://www.eatoncounty.org/index.php/personal-protection-order.html>

Crime Victims FAQ

<http://www.eatoncounty.org/index.php/victim-faqs.html>

Michigan Law Help Subject Guide

<http://mi.lawhelp.org/MI/index.cfm>

Consumer, Elder Law, Family Law, Farmworker/Migrant, Housing, Criminal Law, Domestic Violence, Family Law, Native American, Spanish Language, Education, Employment, Health Care, Immigration, and Public Benefits guides.

Community Dispute Resolution Program guide

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/dispute/>

Resources about this local alternative to litigation as way to settle legal disagreements.

Going to Court – Which Court Do You Need?

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/intro/court.htm>

Short procedural coverage of some common matters litigated in lower courts -- Domestic Relations, Personal Protection, Garnishment, and Landlord-Tenant Disputes.

General Court Process for Civil and Domestic Relations Cases

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/intro/questions.htm>

Scroll to find descriptions to the stages of a case with links to the relevant court rules.



V. FIND AN ATTORNEY OR LEGAL HELP

Attorney Find

<http://www.attorneyfind.com/>

Use this tool to locate attorneys by city and area of law.

Attorney Locate

<http://www.attorneylocate.com/>

Another tool to search for attorneys by city and area of law.

Attorney Info Attorney Directory

<http://www.lawinfo.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/Search.advancedSearch>

Martindale-Hubbell Lawyer Locator

<http://www.martindale.com/>

Findlaw West Legal Directory

<http://lawyers.findlaw.com/>

Michigan Law Help

<http://mi.lawhelp.org/MI/index.cfm>

This site is a guide to free and low-cost civil legal services.

Getting Legal Help in Self-Help Center

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/intro/attorney.htm>

Finding an attorney if you have no money, and court-appointed attorneys.

MSU College of Legal Clinics

<http://www.law.msu.edu/clinics/>

- **Chance at Childhood Clinic** - Joint program with Social Work with family focus
- **Immigration Law Clinic**
- **Legal Clinic**
- **Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic**
- **Plea and Sentencing Clinic**
- **Rental Housing Clinic**
- **Small Business & Non-Profit Clinic**

Guide to Free and Low-Cost Civil Legal Services by Michigan Law Help

<http://mi.lawhelp.org/MI/index.cfm>

American Bar Association Consumer's Guide to Legal Help -- Michigan

<http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/main.cfm?id=MI>

Michigan county bar associations, locating an attorney, and self-help.

Michigan Online Finding a Lawyer -- State Bar of Michigan

<http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/libraries/findlawyer.cfm>



Michigan Pro Bono Reference Manual -- State Bar of Michigan

<http://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJ/probonomanual.cfm>

Comprehensive guide.

State Bar of Michigan Lawyer Referral

<http://www.michbar.org/programs/lawyerreferral.cfm>

Help with locating an attorney is provided.

Legal Aid Programs and Services

http://www.michbar.org/public_resources/pdfs/programs2.pdf

Legal aid guide from State Bar with counties, type of law, and contact information.

Legal Services for Senior Citizens Guide

http://www.michbar.org/public_resources/pdfs/programs3.pdf

Non-Profit, Community, & Law School-Related Legal Services & Advocacy Programs

http://www.michbar.org/public_resources/pdfs/programs1.pdf

Excellent guide showing income, geographic and subject limits on the various services.

Dispute Resolution Centers/Mediation Guide

http://www.michbar.org/public_resources/pdfs/programs_4.pdf

University of Detroit Mercy School of Legal Clinics

<http://www.law.udmercy.edu/academics/clinics.php>

- **Appellate Advocacy Clinic**
- **Criminal Trial Clinic** - Misdemeanor cases
- **Environmental Law Clinic**
- **Immigration Law Clinic** - Protection from persecution in home countries
- **Mediation Clinic** - Works with Neighborhood Reconciliation Center in Detroit
- **Mobile Law Office**
- **Urban Law Clinic** - Representation of indigent seniors in a wide range of cases
- **Veterans Law Clinic** - Pro Bono attorney referral for low and moderate income veterans

Thomas M. Cooley Law School Legal Clinics

<http://www.cooley.edu/clinics/>

- **Sixty-Plus Elderlaw Clinic** - Wide-ranging services offered to persons over 60 years of age.
- **Estate Planning Clinic**
- **Innocence Project** - Assistance to wrongfully convicted innocents through DNA testing.
- **Family Law Assistance Project**
- **Washtenaw Public Defender Clinic**
- **Access to Justice Clinic**
- **Public Sector Law Project**
- **Service to Soldiers** - Military personnel returned from serving in Iraq or Afghanistan are given lawyer referral for free legal help on a wide-range of legal issues.
spielmah@cooley.edu



University of Michigan Law School Legal Clinics

<http://www.law.umich.edu/centersandprograms/Pages/default.aspx>

- **Child Advocacy Law Clinic** - State intervention in family life questions on behalf of child. Works with interdisciplinary faculty.
- **Environmental Law Clinic** - Works with National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Natural Resource Center.

Wayne State University Law School Legal Clinics

http://www.law.wayne.edu/current/live_client_clinics.html

- **Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic**
 - **Child Advocacy Clinic**
 - **Criminal Appellate Practice** - Prepares briefs for appeals by incarcerated clients.
 - **Disability Law Clinic** - Low income individuals.
 - **Environmental Law Clinic**
 - **Free Legal Aid Clinic** - Family law matters in state court.
 - **Small Business Enterprises and Nonprofit Corporations Clinic** - Transactional focus, not litigation.
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