Michigan Supreme Court
State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30048
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone (517) 373-0128

Milton L. Mack, Jr.
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 12, 2015

TO: All Judges
cc: Court Administrators, Clerks, and Probate Registers

FROM: Milton L. Mack, Jr.

RE: Holiday Gifts

At this time of the year, it is difficult to deal with those who, with good intentions, try to give gifts or gratuities to judges and court staff. The Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 4(E)(4), prohibits judges and their family members from receiving gifts, except in certain limited circumstances. Prudence dictates that judges should require court staff under their direction to observe the same high standards to avoid any appearance that the official actions, decisions, or judgments of any court employee could be influenced by gifts. See Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3(B)(2). While the spirit motivating potential gifts to judges and court staff is appreciated, gifts are not appropriate.