



## Chief Justice Push For Full Access Judicial System

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The chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court says she wants everyone, including the poor and mentally ill, to have full access to justice. It was the first state of the judiciary address in ten years. Michigan's court system faces two key issues. The Michigan court system faces a problem- a down economy and more foreclosures means an increased need for lawyers, but that also means less people can afford to pay for one. Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly might have a solution.

Marilyn Kelly, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court: "One solution may involve using the internet. We find that although there are many websites, not all of them are helpful."

Most lawmakers say this revamping of online services is good, but Representative Joan Bauer points out that some who need legal help will be left behind.

Joan Bauer, (D) State Representative: "But I still have concerns with people in Michigan who don't have computer access, although many do, there are still about 25 percent who don't."

Next, Kelly tackled the issue of who's behind bars.

Marilyn Kelly: "Jails are becoming the primary institution of people with mental illness."

And she's getting some agreement from across the aisle. Republican Representative Rick Jones was out of town, but said in a phone interview with 6 News, "as a former sheriff, I've seen a lot of mental illness in jail and that's not where they belong."

So Kelly prescribed more therapeutic and specialized courts that can address these issues before people commit crimes. One of the main goals of the new solutions on self-help taskforce is to create a statewide website with instructional videos and help for Spanish speaking families.



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