



## MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Genesee County Judge Duncan M. Beagle Recipient of Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Who:** Genesee County Judge Duncan M. Beagle to receive the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award for Exemplary Service to Michigan's Children and Families during Adoption Day festivities at the Hall of Justice. Beagle's judicial colleagues and nominators Honorable Richard B. Yuille and Honorable Jennie E. Barkey will present the award.

Yuille and Barkey noted, "Since being appointed to the bench by Governor Engler and reelected four times, Judge Beagle has tirelessly attempted to keep families together when possible, and has removed children from harmful situations when unification was not possible. He also added to his docket Genesee County's drug-treatment court, which aids drug-dependent, neglectful parents in getting their lives back on track, which has a direct, positive impact on their children's lives." They also noted Beagle's involvement in community groups including the Police Athletic League, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Atwood Stadium Authority, the IMA Foundation, the Greater Flint Area Sports Hall of Fame, the disability Network, and the Flint Rotary Club.

**What:** The award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge. As director of the Friend of the Court Bureau and Child Welfare Services division of the State Court Administrative Office, Wright helped create the state's "adoption forums" to deal with adoption barriers that were keeping children in foster care. He worked on legislation to give foster children a greater voice in decision about their lives. The law now requires courts to consult the child when hold a hearing about permanent home placement.

**When:** Tuesday, November 22, 10 a.m., Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa, Lansing, Supreme Court Courtroom, sixth floor.

**Why:** With the theme of "Giving Thanks for Families," courts statewide will celebrate Adoption Day 2016. Held on or near the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year, Adoption Day has become holiday tradition, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care. Many courts will finalize adoptions while others will hold informational events to reach potential adoptive parents.

The Court broadcasts its oral arguments and other hearings [live](#) on the Internet via streaming video technology. [Streaming](#) will begin shortly before the ceremony begins.

A list of statewide events is available [here](#).

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