



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award; honor recognizes outstanding work in support of Michigan children, families

LANSING, MI, October 12, 2015 – Nominations are being accepted for the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award honoring exceptional service to Michigan’s children.

The award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Human services, was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge. He was an attorney and longtime leader in child support and child welfare reform and was credited with the “Michigan Miracle” in 2002. As special assistant to then-Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan, he led the state’s efforts to upgrade Michigan’s child support enforcement system by federally mandated deadlines. Wright saved the state \$142 million in federal fines and earned the state a \$36 million refund for fines it had already paid. Later, as director of the Friend of the Court Bureau and Child Welfare Services divisions of the State Court Administrative Office, Wright helped create the state’s “Adoption Forums” to deal with adoption barriers that were stranding children in foster care. He worked on legislation to give foster children a greater voice in decisions about their lives. The law now requires courts to consult the child when holding a hearing about permanent home placement.

Nominations are open to attorneys, judges, caseworkers, court employees, employees of public and private agencies, employees and members of non-profits, and others who have a significant record of helping Michigan families and children. To be eligible, a nominee must have 10 years or more experience in his or her field and must have a record of achievements with demonstrable impact.

To nominate a candidate for the Wright Award, complete the attached form and return it according to the instructions on the form; the deadline is November 2, 2015. The Wright Award recipient will be honored at the 2015 Michigan Adoption Day event at the Michigan Hall of Justice on November 24.

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**DANIEL J. WRIGHT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2015 Nomination Ballot**

Nominee's name:

Nominee's position or job title:

Name of nominee's organization or employer:

Address:

City, State and ZIP:

Phone:

Email address:

Why is your nominee a worthy candidate for the Wright Award? Please be as complete as possible; use a separate sheet if necessary:

Nominator's name:

Phone:

Email address:

All nominations are due by November 2, 2015.

Submit this form by email to WrightAwardNomination@courts.mi.gov or fax to (517) 373-9831.

Direct questions to Barb Browne @ BrowneB@courts.mi.gov or at (517) 373-0714.