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A division of the State Appellate Defender Office

Jonathan Sacks, Director

## **Join the MAACS Roster!**

The Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS) is accepting applications through **September 3, 2021** from conscientious criminal defense attorneys with all levels of criminal appellate experience. We seek attorneys with diverse backgrounds and experiences who are committed to providing high quality, client-centered representation. Because Michigan has a unified appeals system which requires extra-record claims to be raised on direct appeal, attorneys can expect to work in both the trial and appellate courts.

MAACS roster attorneys receive:

**Reasonable and Reliable Attorney Fees:** MAACS has implemented a Regional Assignment Project which consolidates most of the state's local assignment lists into geographic regions. Participating courts have adopted a standardized attorney fee and expense policy and pay \$75/hour for work on trial-based and capital plea-based appeals and \$50/hour for work on non-capital plea-based appeals. Currently, the majority of the state's circuit courts participate in this Project and MAACS hopes to expand it to all circuit courts.

**Investigation and Litigation Support Services:** MAACS offers support to roster attorneys through its staff Litigation Support Counsel. Assistance includes help developing investigation and mitigation strategies, including requests for investigative funding; second-chairing at evidentiary hearings; briefing support; and assistance with most aspects of indigent appellate representation.

**Legal Research Assistance:** MAACS roster attorneys have access to a deeply discounted legal research package including complete web access to SADO/CDRC resources and currently, an annual subscription to Westlaw. Valued at over \$3,000, this package is available to roster attorneys for \$250/year.

**Expanded Resources and Training:** Regular programs include the *Appellate Writing Workshop*, an intense three-day seminar focusing on client-centered appellate advocacy; *MAACS Case Rounds*, a virtual roundtable for roster attorneys; frequent brown-bag seminars; and *National Association for Public Defense* membership, including access to an encyclopedia of webinars related to indigent criminal defense.

For more information, see the MAACS page at [www.SADO.org](http://www.SADO.org) or contact MAACS at [maacsroster@sado.org](mailto:maacsroster@sado.org).

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