

Welcome to Press & Argus Livingston, MI

Customer Service: [Subscribe Now](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[livingstondaily.com](#) [Weather](#) [Jobs](#) [Cars](#) [Apartments](#) [Real Estate](#) [Shopping](#) [Classifieds](#)

**LIVINGSTON**  
DAILY.COM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
**PRESS ARGUS**

Search 14-day archive

- Home
- News
- Local News
- Sports
- Education
- Police Blotter
- Obituaries
- Nation/World
- Opinion
- Living
- Country Living
- Neighbor
- Business
- Travel
- Technology
- Weather

RSS Feeds 

Customer Service

**Email**  
Newsletter

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼



▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼

## 24kt Gold-Plated Statehood Quarters

Valuable coupon in Friday's paper!



## Rich and poor deserve justice

Livingston County shouldn't be facing the budget choices outlined in the article "Public defenders face budget ax" (Sept. 21). It's the responsibility of the state of Michigan to provide for a fair and balanced justice system, one that provides qualified defense attorneys for those who can't afford it. The state's failure to fulfill its responsibility has left the counties to face these budget issues.

Budget problems make it difficult for the criminal justice system to produce justice. The system is predicated on balance. Cutting funds means scaling back personnel or services, or both, which necessarily affects the quality.



Lawyers will have less time or resources to investigate cases, or they will have to take more cases and spend less time preparing. While today, the county officials may feel blessed that they've seen few lawsuits for inadequate representation to date, the proposed budget cuts are likely to change all that.

The state ought to take back its constitutional obligation to provide for a functioning justice system. Livingston County shows us why. But, until it does, we urge Livingston County officials to revisit the proposed budget cuts to ensure that the justice system is fair for all, and not just for those who can afford to pay for it.

**Elizabeth Arnovits**

Chairwoman, Task Force on Improving Public Defense, Lansing



**STORYCHAT**

Post a Comment

This article does not have any comments associated with it

Originally published October 5, 2006

Print this article   Email this to a friend   Subscribe Now



Subscribe | Place an ad  
Copyright ©2006 Livingston Daily Press & Argus  
All rights reserved.  
Users of this site agree to the  
Terms of Service and Privacy Policy  
(Terms updated 7/20/05)

