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Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System

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A division of the State Appellate Defender Office
Marilena David, Acting Director

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAACS ROSTER

In approximately 75% of Michigan felony appeals, the trial courts appoint counsel from a “statewide roster” of “private counsel” maintained by the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS). MCL 780.712(4), (6). To join the roster, an attorney must submit a completed application and supporting materials. The admission process is competitive.

If invited to join the roster, an attorney will be required to complete an Orientation and Training program. Upon completion, new MAACS criminal roster attorneys are presumptively eligible to handle the following types of cases:

- (a) Direct appeals from plea conviction and sentencing.
- (b) Appeals from resentencing.
- (c) Appeals from probation violation proceedings.
- (d) Preconviction appeals.

MAACS roster attorneys with a record of providing consistently high quality criminal appellate representation may also be approved to handle the following types of cases:

- (a) Direct appeals from trial conviction and sentencing.
- (b) Motions for Relief from Judgment under MCR 6.500.
- (c) Appeals involving parole determinations.
- (d) Appeals involving sentences of life imprisonment for youth.

All attorneys admitted to the youth appellate roster are presumptively qualified and eligible for appointment as appellate counsel in any case arising from a juvenile court.

Appeals are assigned locally, but rotational assignment lists are organized by region. Roster attorneys may request placement on any regional assignment list, and an attorney’s caseload may depend on the number, size, and volume of lists.

Starting October 2023, hourly fees are \$142/hr for capital felony representation, \$130/hr for noncapital felony representation, and \$118/hr for misdemeanor and youth representation. Fees are adjusted annually to remain consistent with standards established by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission.

Additional information is available at www.sado.org/maacs.

MAACS ROSTER APPLICATION

Name: _____

Bar No.: _____ Year admitted: _____

Principal business address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Specify any languages, other than English, in which you are FLUENT:

Approximate percentage of current practice consists of:

Felony Trials: _____% Felony Appeals: _____%

Delinquency Trials: _____% Delinquency Appeals: _____%

Number of years practicing criminal defense or appellate law:

Criminal Defense: _____ years Appellate Practice: _____ years

Juvenile Defense: _____ years

Do you, or your law firm, represent any governmental entity, whether state, county or municipal in either civil or criminal matters? _____

If yes, please explain on a separate sheet.

Have you ever been disciplined by the bar in Michigan or any other jurisdiction? _____

If yes, please explain on a separate sheet.

Please provide two professional references who can attest to your standing in the legal community and/or potential as appointed appellate counsel:

Reference 1

Reference 2

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Which roster are you applying to join? Criminal Delinquency Both

To apply to join the MAACS roster, please send copies of the following, all in pdf format, to maacsroster@sado.org:

1. **This application.**
2. **A current résumé.**
3. **A statement of interest.** The statement of interest should be no more than two pages in length and should explain your interest in joining the MAACS roster and your qualifications to represent indigent individuals on appeal. If applicable, the statement of interest should contain a description of specific cases and experiences demonstrating a significant record of consistently high-quality criminal or delinquency appellate representation. Please indicate within the statement of interest whether you are interested in joining the criminal roster, delinquency roster, or both.
4. **Two writing samples.** Samples should be personally written by you. Recently filed briefs are preferred, but other samples including law school assignments will be accepted if nothing else is available. Your role in any co-authored pleadings should be explained in the statement of interest.

Redaction instructions: As part of its commitment to diversity and goal to prevent hiring bias, MAACS has adopted an objective process to evaluate applicant materials. We ask that applicants submit redacted writing samples, which will be reviewed without access to applicant information and scored based on objective criteria. Your name, address, work affiliation, and jurisdictional identifiers should be redacted from your writing sample. Files should be named generically, and your name should not be a part of the filename. For example, you can name the file WS1.pdf or WritingSample.pdf.

5. **Declarations page of malpractice insurance policy (if applicable).**

I certify that the information provided here is true and accurate, and I agree to comply with the MAACS Regulations and applicable minimum performance standards.

Signature: _____

Date: _____