**FACT:** Did you know that in three out of four civil cases, at least one party represents themselves in court because they can’t afford an attorney?

**FACT:** Did you know that a right to a lawyer only applies in criminal cases, not civil cases? However, people who have done nothing wrong often lose their cases in court because they don’t have the legal information or help they need. For example, of more than 30,000 eviction cases in Detroit annually, about 4 percent of tenants had legal representation. This is just one example of the **CIVIL JUSTICE GAP**.

**SOLUTION:** To tackle the civil justice gap, the Michigan Supreme Court formed the Justice for All Task Force. The Task Force is inventorying available resources, identifying gaps, and developing a plan to achieve **100 PERCENT ACCESS**.

***Public input is needed to help assess the extent of the problem and the impact of the civil***

***justice gap on Michigan families and businesses. Two public town hall meetings have been***

***scheduled to give the public an opportunity to be heard.***

***Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack and Justice Brian Zahra (the court’s representative on the Task Force) will open the meetings with short statements and moderate public testimony. Local officials and representatives of community service organizations will also be invited to share their views. Those who want to speak will be invited to fill out a speaker’s card and a time limit will be set based on the number of speakers.***

Meeting # 1 **GRAND RAPIDS**

 Friday, February 14, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation

1530 Madison Avenue SE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

Meeting #2 **DETROIT**

Monday, February 24, 2020

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Hall

1358 Abbott Street

Detroit, Michigan 48226

*Future meetings will be scheduled as needed to complete the Task Force’s work.*

MORE INFORMATION: Visit the Task Force webpage, [www.courts.mi.gov/jfa](http://www.courts.mi.gov/jfa)