Detroit Legal News.

Nov. 17, 2006

www.legalnews.com

Vol. CXI No. 230 | News you cannot get anywhere else | 75 Cents

Circuit court to celebrate National Adoption Day

Wayne Third Judicial Circuit Court will be celebrating National Adoption Day on Tuesday, November 21.

Established in 2000, hundreds of foster care adoptions were completed in nine jurisdictions nationwide. Each year this event has considerable grown. The largest number of coast-to-coast celebrations for National Adoption Day occurred in 2005, where more than 3,300 children were adopted from foster care in 227 events in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

In the United States, there are 118,000 children in foster care waiting to be adopted by permanent, loving families. Many of these children have been waiting years to be adopted. National Adoption Day raises the public's awareness of the ever-growing need for adoptive homes for these waiting children.

> **"These children have been longing to be a permanent part of a family; it is an honor to assist in making their dreams come true."**
> ***—Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly***

Wayne County joins the nation where an unprecedented number of courts and communities will come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care and to celebrate all families that adopt.

"This is the fourth year that we have participated in this special event and we are truly looking forward to again placing adoption in the spotlight," Wayne Third Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly said. "These children have been longing to be a permanent part of a family; it is an honor to assist in making their dreams come true."

The court is privileged to again have, for the second year in a row, best selling author Marianne Williamson deliver the keynote address at 9:30 a.m. Following the address and comments from other guest speakers, Kelly will finalize 16 adoptions.

While adoption proceedings are typically closed to the public, as part of the court's participation in National Adoption Day, the public has the opportunity to observe the proceedings.

Anyone interested in adopting a child may contact the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (800) 589-6273 or visit its Web site at http://www.mare.org.