

# Order

Michigan Supreme Court  
Lansing, Michigan

June 16, 2022

Bridget M. McCormack,  
Chief Justice

ADM File No. 2022-01

Appointments to the  
Commission on Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusion in the  
Michigan Judiciary

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Brian K. Zahra  
David F. Viviano  
Richard H. Bernstein  
Elizabeth T. Clement  
Megan K. Cavanagh  
Elizabeth M. Welch,  
Justices

On order of the Court, pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2022-1, the following individuals are appointed to the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Michigan Judiciary, effective immediately.

Executive Members:

Justice Elizabeth Welch (Supreme Court Justice/Co-Chair)  
Judge Cynthia Stephens (Ret.) (Co-Chair)  
Elizabeth Rios (SCA Designee)  
Peter Cunningham (SBM Director)  
Jennifer Bentley (MSBF Director)

For terms ending December 31, 2023:

Josh Hilgart (Michigan State Planning Body)  
J. Dee Brooks (Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan)  
Erika Bryant (State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners)  
Zenell Brown (Michigan Court Administrators Association)  
Jacqueline Freeman (Michigan ABA-Accredited Law School)  
Angie Martell (Affinity Bar Association)  
Belem Morales (Affinity Bar Association)

For terms ending December 31, 2024:

Nicole Huddleston (Justice for All Commission)  
Chief Judge Kenneth Akini (Michigan Tribal State-Federal Judicial Forum)  
Judge Kathleen Brickley (Michigan Judges Association)  
Judge Juanita Bocanegra (Michigan District Judges Association)  
Michelle Crockett (Affinity Bar Association)

Syeda Davidson (Affinity Bar Association)  
Alanna Lahey (Community Member)

For terms ending December 31, 2025:

Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett (Michigan Indigent Defense Commission)  
Robyn Afrik (Michigan Association of Counties)  
Judge Austin Garrett (Association of Black Judges of Michigan)  
Judge Sima Patel (Court of Appeals)  
Judge Shauna Dunnings (Michigan Probate Judges Association)  
Louisa Wills (Community Member)  
Siham Awada Jaafar (Community Member)

VIVIANO, J. (*dissenting*). I continue to object to the creation of the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the reasons I previously stated. See Administrative Order No. 2022-1, \_\_\_ Mich \_\_\_ (January 5, 2022) (VIVIANO, J., *dissenting*). While I have no objection to the individuals appointed to the Commission (indeed, they all appear to be well-intentioned and I appreciate their willingness to serve), it is difficult to assess the merits of their applications because, as I noted before, this Court has not defined the key terms “diversity,” “equity,” and “inclusion.” Without such definitions to establish the Commission’s purview, I do not know how to determine whether the applicants are qualified for the task before them. The applicants, in their written submissions, have put forward starkly different views of the Commission’s role and purposes. Some have emphasized the need to remove obstacles to full participation in our courts, to create equal opportunity for all, and to cultivate a broad-based diversity of views and experiences. Others, by contrast, have suggested that inveterate prejudice runs through society and that reeducation is necessary to extirpate hidden but omnipresent biases. The first vision represents the promise of our ideals and founding documents, while the second, I fear, will only foster division and perpetuate the very problems it purports to solve. Until we have more clarity regarding the aims of the Commission, I cannot support it. Accordingly, I dissent.



I, Larry S. Royster, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

June 16, 2022

Clerk