Courts in Michigan

State Courts

Interpret and Apply Laws



Judges Elected for Terms of Office by the People



Federal Courts

Interpret and Apply Laws



Judges Appointed for Life by the President



Tribal Courts

Interpret and Apply Laws



Selection Depends on the Laws of Each Tribe



Three types of governments – federal, state, and tribal – are linked in the U.S. Constitution. Court systems within all these governments resolve civil, criminal, and other legal matters in their jurisdictions (where they have authority). Although they share common interests and responsibilities to the community, each court system, including the courts of each of the 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan, is separate from the others.

Learn More about the Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum



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