



Thank you again for your willingness to serve the citizens of Michigan.

Below you will find a series of short questions about Michigan's trial level public defense system. **Please take a moment to complete this page and return it at your earliest convenience in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.**

1) Before receiving this letter, were you aware of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association report that found that the Michigan system of providing public defense services for adults and children did not meet any of the nationally recognized standards for an effective system?

No

2) Do you agree that the rights outlined in the amendments to our Constitution for all individuals (freedom of the press, free assembly, to bear arms and the right to effective assistance of counsel, for example) cannot and should not be selectively enforced?

I agree

3) Are you familiar with Michigan's current system of public defense, which allows each of the 83 counties to separately administer defense services without any minimum national standards or monitoring? Please explain.

This is not an issue I have remained current on. I represented numerous indigent defendants assigned to me for pro bono representation in Washington State in 1978-80. I also volunteered during 3 months in 2009 at the Legal Aid and

4) Are you familiar with how the public defense system in your county is structured? Please explain.

(continuous)  
Detroit.

I don't know what Washington County does as I have not actively practiced law.

5) How important is the efficient use of taxpayer dollars and ensuring the safest possible neighborhoods? Are you aware of recent high profile wrongful convictions and resulting lawsuits?

Both efficient use of taxpayer dollars & public safety  
are highly important.

I am not aware of wrongful convictions beyond a few  
cases based on DNA tests.

6) A lawsuit, Duncan v. State of Michigan, is currently working its way through state courts. Plaintiffs in the suit argue that Michigan's county-based public defense system fails to uphold its constitutional responsibilities to provide adequate defense counsel. The State argues this is not the case and has made attempts to block the suit. The Michigan Supreme Court recently ruled that the lawsuit could move ahead. Are you familiar with the Duncan case and how its progression through the courts might influence lawmakers to proactively reform Michigan's public defense system?

I am not familiar with the case

Having worked with the Washington State Legislature  
for 3 legislative sessions in the '80's, I understand  
how the legislators might not proactively address  
a problem which becomes apparent in a high profile  
lawsuit involving the state

I would welcome a meet & greet in my district  
regarding this matter. Note! Ann Arbor is not  
in my district, nor is Saline or Monroe.