

July 15, 2009

## **A message from Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly**

As you can see, I'm in the courtroom at the Michigan Hall of Justice. But I am also here to welcome you to a new and virtual courtroom that you can visit on this State Bar of Michigan web page.

It's been said that not only must justice be done; it must also be seen to be done. Our justice system is premised on openness and transparency. But with technology our traditional measures of accessibility are changing. From paying traffic tickets to looking up docket sheets, tasks that once required a courthouse visit are increasingly done online. Although courts are nothing if not creatures of tradition, our concept of openness is evolving to meet the expectations of a digital age.

So I'm happy to announce that with the help of the State Bar of Michigan, the Michigan Supreme Court has expanded its virtual presence with online video of our oral arguments, administrative hearings, and administrative conferences. All these events are, of course, open to the public at the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing, but now they will be "open" in the virtual world as well.

Video will be recorded at the Hall of Justice, then posted on the State Bar's web site within 24 to 48 hours after the hearing or conference. You can watch selected video and view related agendas or press releases in the same screen. I'm very pleased that the State Bar of Michigan is helping the Supreme Court to provide this valuable service. Like our valued partner Michigan Government Television, which has broadcast Michigan Supreme Court oral arguments since 1996, the State Bar is making the court and its proceedings accessible to a wide audience; as a result not only the legal community but also the general public will better understand the Supreme Court and its role in our justice system.

I hope you find this service useful and that you'll visit often.