

MICHIGAN

Michigan has a fairly straightforward jurisdictional history. When the Michigan Territory won statehood in 1837,¹ it was organized as a single district with full federal jurisdiction.² In 1863, it was divided into the Eastern and Western Districts, each with one judge.³

MI.ED.01 is the original judgeship (see Judge Wilkins' succession line), and served the entire state until the 1863 reorganization. MI.ED.02 was authorized as a temporary position in 1922, and converted to permanent in 1935.⁴ MI.WD.02 also was created as a temporary slot, with the proviso that the next vacancy on the court would not be filled. When Judge Sessions (MI.WD.01.06) died in office in 1931, his line ended and MI.WD.02 effectively became the permanent one. MI.WD.06 similarly was authorized as a temporary position in 1990, with the stipulation that the first vacancy to occur five years after the date of the statute would go unfilled.⁵ This happened in 1996 with the retirement of Judge Gibson, at which point his line (MI.WD.05.01) ended.

Michigan is in the Sixth Circuit and has nineteen judgeships: fifteen in the Eastern District and four in the Western.

Statutory History		
<i>Seat</i>	<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Authority</i>
MI.ED.01	Act of July 1, 1836	5 STAT. 62
MI.ED.02	Act of September 14, 1922	42 STAT. 437
MI.ED.03	Act of March 3, 1927	44 STAT. 1380
MI.ED.04	Act of February 20, 1931	46 STAT. 1197
MI.ED.05	Act of May 31, 1938	52 STAT. 585
MI.ED.06	Act of February 10, 1954	68 STAT. 8
MI.ED.07	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80
MI.ED.08	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80

¹Act of January 26, 1837, 5 STAT. 144.

²Constituting the judicial system fell under the Act of July 1, 1836, 5 STAT. 62. See *The Federal Districts of Michigan*, *Michigan Bar Journal*, 67 (1988): 354-360.

³Act of February 24, 1863, 12 STAT. 660.

⁴Act of August 14, 1935, 49 STAT. 659.

⁵Act of December 1, 1990, 104 STAT. 5089.

MI.ED.09	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
MI.ED.10	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
MI.ED.11	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
MI.ED.12	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
MI.ED.13	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
MI.ED.14	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
MI.ED.15	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
MI.WD.01	Act of February 24, 1863	12 STAT. 660
MI.WD.02	Act of February 17, 1925	43 STAT. 949
MI.WD.03	Act of February 10, 1954	68 STAT. 8
MI.WD.04	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
MI.WD.05	Act of October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
MI.WD.06	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
MI.ED.01.01	Wilkins, Ross	July 2, 1836	December 18, 1870	Resigned	Democrat
MI.ED.01.02	Longyear, John Wesley	February 18, 1870	March 10, 1875	Deceased	Republican
MI.ED.01.03	Brown, Henry Billings	March 19, 1875	December 29, 1890	Elevated to U.S. Supreme Court	Republican
MI.ED.01.04	Swan, Henry Harrison	January 19, 1891	July 1, 1911	Resigned	Republican
MI.ED.01.05	Angell, Alexis Caswell	March 2, 1911	June 1, 1912	Resigned	Republican

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<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
MI.ED.01.06	Tuttle, Arthur J.	August 6, 1912	December 2, 1944	Deceased	Republican
MI.ED.01.07	Koscinski, Arthur A.	July 17, 1945	April 30, 1957	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.01.08	O'Sullivan, Clifford	August 5, 1957	March 12, 1960	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.ED.01.09	Feikens, John	Unconfirmed recess appointment ⁶	September 27, 1961	Not confirmed	Republican
MI.ED.01.10	Roth, Stephen J.	May 1, 1962	July 11, 1974	Deceased	Democrat
MI.ED.01.11	Churchill, James P.	December 18, 1974	December 30, 1989	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.01.12	Cleland, Robert H.	June 18, 1990	Active	Active	Republican
MI.ED.02.01	Simons, Charles Caspar	February 6, 1923	January 29, 1932	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.ED.02.02	Lederle, Arthur F.	March 3, 1936	July 1, 1960	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.02.03	Kaess, Frederick W.	July 2, 1960	December 13, 1975	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.02.04	Guy, Ralph B., Jr.	May 11, 1976	October 17, 1985	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.ED.02.05	Zatkoff, Lawrence P.	March 3, 1986	June 16, 2004	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.02.06	Cox, Sean Francis	June 8, 2006	Active	Active	Republican

⁶Recess appointment, October 13, 1960.

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MI.ED.03.01	Moinet, Edward J.	December 19, 1927 ⁷	February 28, 1946	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.03.02	Levin, Theodore	July 25, 1946	December 31, 1970	Deceased	Democrat
MI.ED.03.03	DeMascio, Robert E.	July 22, 1971	January 16, 1988	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.03.04	Friedman, Bernard A.	April 19, 1988	Active	Active	Republican
MI.ED.04.01	O'Brien, Ernest Aloysius	March 2, 1931	October 9, 1948	Deceased	Republican
MI.ED.04.02	Thornton, Thomas Patrick	January 31, 1949	February 15, 1966	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.04.03	Keith, Damon J.	October 12, 1967	October 21, 1977	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Democrat
MI.ED.04.04	Boyle, Patricia J.E.	September 22, 1978	April 20, 1983	Resigned	Democrat
MI.ED.04.05	Woods, George E., Jr.	November 15, 1983	November 16, 1993	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.04.06	Hood, Denise Page	June 15, 1994	Active	Active	Democrat
MI.ED.05.01	Picard, Frank Albert	February 16, 1939	March 31, 1961	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.05.02	Machrowicz, Thaddeus M..	September 1, 1961	February 17, 1970	Deceased	Democrat

⁷Recess appointment, June 13, 1927.

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MI.ED.05.03	Kennedy, Cornelia Groefsema ⁸	October 6, 1970	September 26, 1979	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.ED.05.04	Gilmore, Horace W.	June 18, 1980	May 1, 1991	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.05.05	O'Meara, John Corbett	September 14, 1994	Active	Active	Democrat
MI.ED.06.01	Freeman, Ralph M.	June 8, 1954	July 1, 1973	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.06.02	Harvey, Russell James	December 13, 1973	March 31, 1984	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.06.03	Suhrheinrich, Richard F.	October 3, 1984	July 10, 1990	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.ED.06.04	Edmunds, Nancy G.	February 6, 1992	Active	Active	Republican
MI.ED.07.01	Smith, Talbot	February 5, 1962 ⁹	October 31, 1971	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.07.02	Joiner, Charles W.	June 8, 1972	August 15, 1984	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.07.03	Hackett, Barbara Kloka	March 27, 1986	April 8, 1997	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.07.04	Steeh, George Caram	May 13, 1998	Active	Active	Democrat

⁸First female district judge appointed from Michigan.

⁹Recess appointment, October 5, 1961.

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<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
MI.ED.08.01	McCree, Wade Hampton, Jr. ¹⁰	September 23, 1961	September 7, 1966	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Democrat
MI.ED.08.02	Gubow, Lawrence	September 13, 1968	March 27, 1978	Deceased	Democrat
MI.ED.08.03	Cook, Julian Abele, Jr.	September 22, 1978	December 30, 1996	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.08.04	Tarnow, Arthur J.	May 13, 1998	Active	Active	Democrat
MI.ED.09.01	Feikens, John	November 25, 1970	March 1, 1986	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.09.02	Gadola, Paul V.	October 14, 1988	January 31, 2001	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.09.03	Ludington, Thomas Lamson	June 8, 2006	Active	Active	Republican
MI.ED.10.01	Pratt, Philip	November 25, 1970	February 7, 1989	Deceased	Republican
MI.ED.10.02	Rosen, Gerald Ellis	March 9, 1990	Active	Active	Republican
MI.ED.11.01	Cohn, Avern L.	September 25, 1979	October 9, 1999	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.11.02	Lawson, David M.	May 24, 2000	Active	Active	Democrat
MI.ED.12.01	Taylor, Anna Katherine Johnston Diggs	October 31, 1979	December 31, 1998	Retired	Democrat

¹⁰First African American district judge appointed from Michigan.

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MI.ED.12.02	Battani, Marianne O.	May 24, 2000	Active	Active	Democrat
MI.ED.13.01	Newblatt, Stewart A.	September 25, 1979	December 23, 1993	Retired	Democrat
MI.ED.13.02	Borman, Paul David	August 9, 1994	Active	Active	Democrat
MI.ED.14.01	La Plata, George ¹¹	April 3, 1985	August 3, 1996	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.14.02	Roberts, Victoria A.	June 26, 1998	Active	Active	Democrat
MI.ED.15.01	Duggan, Patrick J.	October 8, 1986	September 29, 2000	Retired	Republican
MI.ED.15.02	Vacant				
MI.WD.01.01	Withey, Solomon Lewis	March 11, 1863	April 25, 1886	Deceased	Republican
MI.WD.01.02	Severens, Henry Franklin	May 25, 1886	March 16, 1900	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Democrat
MI.WD.01.03	Wanty, George T.	March 13, 1900	July 9, 1906	Deceased	Republican
MI.WD.01.04	Knappen, Loyal Edwin	December 10, 1906	January 31, 1910	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican

¹¹First Hispanic district judge appointed from Michigan.

Seat Histories					
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MI.WD.01.05	Denison, Arthur Carter	January 31, 1910	March 2, 1911	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.WD.01.06	Sessions, Clarence W.	March 2, 1911	April 1, 1931	Deceased	Republican
MI.WD.02.01	Raymond, Fred M.	December 18, 1925 ¹²	February 6, 1946	Deceased	Republican
MI.WD.02.02	Starr, Raymond W.	July 23, 1946	August 15, 1961	Retired	Democrat
MI.WD.02.03	Fox, Noel P.	July 25, 1962	December 31, 1979	Retired	Democrat
MI.WD.02.04	Enslen, Richard Alan	December 20, 1979	September 1, 2005	Retired	Democrat
MI.WD.02.05	Vacant				
MI.WD.03.01	Kent, William Wallace	June 8, 1954	December 18, 1970	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.WD.03.02	Engel, Albert J.	December 17, 1970	December 19, 1973	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.WD.03.03	Miles, Wendell A.	April 10, 1974	May 9, 1986	Retired	Republican
MI.WD.03.04	Bell, Robert Holmes	July 1, 1987	Active	Active	Republican
MI.WD.04.01	Hillman, Douglas W.	September 25, 1979	February 15, 1991	Retired	Democrat

¹²Recess appointment, May 8, 1925.

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MI.WD.04.02	McKeague, David William	February 6, 1992	June 10, 2005	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
MI.WD.04.03	Vacant				
MI.WD.05.01	Gibson, Benjamin F.	September 25, 1979	July 13, 1996	Retired	Democrat
MI.WD.06.01	Quist, Gordon Jay	June 26, 1992	January 1, 2006	Retired	Republican
MI.WD.06.02	Vacant				

