

A Different View

To the Editor:

I found David Fink's article recommending increased compensation for Michigan judges amusing ("It's Time to Increase Compensation for Michigan's Judges," June 2013 *Michigan Bar Journal*). I believe most of my peers would queue up for the opportunity to become a jurist and receive more than \$120,000 per year plus health insurance and a pension. Lastly, the only "reaching out to legislatures" should be the imposition of term limits and abolishing the judicial incumbency designation on the ballot.

Stevens J. Jacobs
Bay City

Virtual Sustainability for Cities

To the Editor:

I recently read "Can a Virtual City Fix a Real Problem?" by Donald L. Knapp Jr. in the July 2013 issue of the *Michigan Bar*

Journal. Having worked and consulted on sustainability issues, I have counseled on the use of intergovernmental agreements where local jurisdictions may have a desire to pursue sustainable initiatives in their areas but have neither the financial resources nor internal expertise in the area to do so.

To defray costs, similarly situated communities—as was the case between Livonia and Grand Rapids—can combine resources to pursue common sustainability goals. In fact, the Municipal Services Authority design may be the vehicle by which these sustainability services can be implemented.

The Green Bay Smart Growth 2022 Plan references the use of intergovernmental agreements for achieving the aims of smart growth, which especially depends on regional cooperation because it involves efficient public investments, constraints on outward growth, environmental protection and conservation, farmland protection, and central area reinvestment. Even the U.S. Department of State in its media note dated

June 3, 2013, supports cooperation between the Americas on climate change and energy issues.

Perhaps a subsequent article in the *Bar Journal* will be titled "Virtual Sustainability for Sustainable Cities."

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