Michigan Legal Help Websites

egal help websites, when properly implemented, bridge the gap between uninformed members of the public who need help for a specific problem, and the legal professionals and resources that are available to provide a solution. Following is a non-exhaustive compilation of legal help websites, sponsored by the courts, the State Bar of Michigan, and other agencies and organizations. The information provided in the sites is not a substitute for the services of a licensed attorney.

Court-Sponsored Websites

The State Court Administrative Office has a self-help website at http://www.courts. michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/selfhelphome. htm. This site provides links to information about finding an attorney; libraries and other resources; definitions; services, rights, and responsibilities; alternative dispute resolution; going to court; and the types of matters the courts handle.

The Michigan Court of Appeals offers pro per manuals for both appellants and appellees on its website at http://courtofappeals. mijud.net/clerkoffice/ppmanual.htm.

Calhoun County maintains a website at http://courts.co.calhoun.mi.us/index.html, which includes links and information about district court, circuit court, family court, probate court, and informational pamphlets on a variety of subjects.

The Kalamazoo County Circuit Court's self-help website at http://www.kalcounty. com/Courts/proper.htm includes information on conduct and courtroom etiquette, libraries, clinics, and available legal aid for indigents.

Washtenaw County provides information on small claims, mediation, domestic violence, and other topics at http://courts.ewashtenaw. org/selfhelp.htm.

The Wayne County Probate Court has links to information and pamphlets at its website at http://www.wcpc.us/services/ services.HTM.

Bar-Sponsored Websites

The State Bar of Michigan has several online sites providing access to legal resources. A compilation of legal forms, research, resources, and publications is at http://www. michbar.org/resources/legalforms.cfm. Information on legal aid programs is available at http://www.michbar.org/public_resources/

legalaid.cfm. The State Bar Committee on Libraries, Legal Research, and Legal Publications has a self-help web page at http:// www.michbar.org/generalinfo/libraries/selfhelp.cfm. Links include information on finding a lawyer, finding a law library, researching Michigan law, Michigan law websites, family law, elder law, criminal law, wills and trusts, and landlord tenant law.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The Michigan Legislature has a variety of informational pamphlets available online at http://www.legislature.mi.gov/mileg.asp?page =publications.

The Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries lists Michigan legal research sites at http://web.mel.org/viewtopic. jsp?id=2638&pathid=3015.

The State Appellate Defender Office has a link on its web page to self-help information, located at http://www.sado.org/selfhelp.htm.

The Michigan Poverty Law Program maintains a legal help website at http://www. mi.lawhelp.org/MI/index.cfm. This site includes information on consumer law, family law, elder law, housing law, help for farmworkers, and public benefits.

Prison Legal Services of Michigan has selfhelp resources, including information packets, on its website at http://www.plsminc. org/selfhelp_main.htm. ◆

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