



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Court's Ruling Requires Legislative Action**

*The following is a public statement from Laura Sager, executive director of the Michigan Campaign for Justice, regarding today's Michigan Supreme Court decision dismissing the Duncan vs. State of Michigan litigation.*

"Today's decision from the Supreme Court may end one court case, but in no way does it end the ongoing effort needed to fix public defense in Michigan. Let's be very frank: Michigan is recognized nationally as having one of the worst public defense systems in the country. This is a very real problem that not only affects the lives of people unable to afford counsel, it also affects public safety and wastes tax dollars that could be better spent.

"Nearly 70 nonpartisan organizations from every part of Michigan are working together for reform, and the Supreme Court's decision today makes it all the more important that lawmakers tackle this crisis head on and reform public defense in Michigan. Already, legislative leaders like State Reps. Mark Meadows (D-East Lansing), Bob Constan (D-Dearborn Heights) and Justin Amash (R-Kentwood) have championed this cause. They have started the tough legislative work needed to establish a state system guided by national standards. We commend them and we will work with them to enact a legislative solution that allows Michigan to finally meet the constitutional obligations it has to all its residents."

**NOTE: The Campaign for Justice is not involved with the Duncan lawsuit. For more information regarding the litigation, please contact Frank Eaman at 313-300-7279.**

**For additional information about legislative efforts to reform Michigan's public defense system, please contact Laura Sager at 517-775-3924**

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*The Campaign for Justice is a broad-based group of organizations and individuals from across the political spectrum fighting for a fair and effective public defense system in Michigan. The Campaign believes that legislative reform is needed to improve cost effectiveness, protect the public's safety and ensure one's Constitutional right to counsel.*