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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Center for Civil Justice Hires New Executive Director, Expands Advocacy Efforts

FLINT, Mich. - Center for Civil Justice (CCJ) has hired Edward J. Hoort as its Interim Director, and Mr. Hoort has indicated his desire to expand CCJ's range of legal advocacy. New areas of advocacy will include housing, prisoner rights, consumer issues and civil rights. Public benefits, for which CCJ remains best known, will remain a priority. Advocacy will include both efforts both the litigation and legislative arenas.

"I am very excited to take CCJ to the next level," said Mr. Hoort. "I have a new staff, and they have the energy, passion and talent to bring some of my dreams to fruition."

Center for Civil Justice was formed by Mr. Hoort in 1995 as a response to federal restrictions which prohibited legal services programs from undertaking many types of advocacy on behalf of the poor. At the time, Mr. Hoort was Executive Director of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (LSEM), a position he has held for the last 29 years. He brings 40 years of legal services experience to CCJ, and has been counsel in over 50 statewide class action lawsuits.

In its 19 year existence, CCJ has built a reputation as one of Michigan's premier advocates in the public benefits arena, and the organization boasts a variety of state and national awards recognizing its work. The success of CCJ is a direct result of the expertise of Founding Director Terri Stangl and Director of Advocacy Jackie Doig, who both specialized in public benefits issues at LSEM before joining the newly formed CCJ. Ms. Stangl recently retired not only from CCJ, but from legal work altogether. Ms. Doig has announced her intention to retire later this year.

"The efforts of Ms. Stangl and Ms. Doig will be impossible to replace," said Mr. Hoort. "But thanks to their diligent work, CCJ is set to build and expand upon their efforts."

Contact:
Justin Rumenapp
Center for Civil Justice
Communications Specialist
(810) 244-8044
jrumenapp@ccj-mi.org

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