



## MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

**ELIZABETH A. WEAVER**  
JUSTICE

November 26, 2008

Dear Mr. Berg:

I am writing in response to your November 25<sup>th</sup> request. I am glad you are interested in the location and costs of Justices' offices. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, which was the day after the vote, I said in my statement that this issue was raised and hurriedly forced to a vote without notice to and input from the public and the three branches of government (A copy is enclosed for you and your readers and can also be found on my personally-funded website: [www.justiceweaver.com](http://www.justiceweaver.com)).

The location and cost of Justices' offices, however, is not an emergency matter and deserves adequate time and serious consideration with input from the 3 branches of government and the public.

In December, I will be filing my dissenting statement to the hurried 4-3 passage by the Engler "majority of four" of Justice Young's November 13<sup>th</sup> motion. I will distribute my dissent by email to the Governor, Legislative offices, and press. I will also post it on my website.

As to your requests, I do not have readily accessible, if at all, the information you request. I do understand that the rental/lease costs of my Traverse City office is approximately \$62,000 for this year, and it has reached this amount through incremental increases over the past 14 years that I have been a Supreme Court Justice (Prior to becoming a Justice, my office was here as a Court of Appeals Judge for approximately 7-8 years). My recollection is that the leases over the years have been negotiated by court personnel and the Department of Management and Budget for the period of the judges' terms of office. My current 8-year term began in 2003.

In 2009, I plan to further address this public policy and administrative issue of the location and costs of Justices' offices, as well as the related issues of reforming how we select and elect Justices; the need for transparency in the Justices' performance of the public's judicial business; and the need for clear, fair, and written disqualification rules for the Michigan Supreme Court Justices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Weaver".

Elizabeth A. Weaver