



Press Release: September 22, 2026

**Statement on Judicial Conduct Matter of
Judge Thomas L. Ludington**

DETROIT — Chief Judge Stephen J. Murphy, III of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan announced today that the Court has been advised of the resolution of a judicial conduct complaint involving United States District Judge Thomas L. Ludington.

The complaint arose following Judge Ludington's conviction, in the Emmett County, Michigan state court, for driving under the influence of alcohol last May. Under the resolution approved by the Judicial Council of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Judge Ludington, in addition to continuing treatment, counseling, and testing, will take an official one-year leave of absence from judicial duties, effective September 1, 2026. The official leave follows Judge Ludington's voluntary leave of absence that began in February of this year, when he ceased hearing cases. Judge Ludington will receive his judicial salary through the entirety of the leave period.

U.S. District Judge Michael C. Martin has been designated to the Court's Bay City station of duty for civil matters during Judge Ludington's leave. Other Eastern District judges will continue to preside over criminal cases.

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan remains firmly committed to accountability and to the highest standards of judicial conduct and public confidence in the federal judiciary. The Court also fully supports Judge Ludington's commitment to recovery.
