



NEWS RELEASE

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Oakland Circuit Judge Michael Warren Joins With Education Delegates To Visit Dominican Republic

Oakland County, MI (April 6, 2009) – In an effort to help the Dominican Republic develop civic education, Oakland County Circuit Judge Michael Warren joined with members of the Michigan Center for Civic Education and other education leaders from Colorado, Oklahoma, and the Dominican Republic to take part in an “International Civic Education Exchange” program held the week of March 22 – 27, 2009 in the Dominican Republic.

The program seeks to assist international educators in creating, adapting, implementing, and institutionalizing effective civic education programs in their countries as well as producing civic education programs for students here in the United States. The program, administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the United States Department of Education, facilitates the exchange of ideas to promote a better understanding of the history and experiences of emerging and established democracies around the world.

During their visit, Judge Warren and the delegation visited several public and private schools as well as several nonprofit organizations. Judge Warren also met with the President of the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic, Ministry of Education officials, and the US embassy. The delegation gathered facts about the democracy in the Dominican Republic – how it works, its challenges, and the role the general public and non-governmental agencies play in promoting civic education. The delegation worked to understand and compare their local, regional, and national public policy making with that of the United States, and also to learn about the curriculum used to educate students about democracy and what types of models work well.

“I was proud to represent Michigan’s efforts to help emerging democracies like the Dominican Republic develop a stronger system of education for civics education,” remarked Judge Warren. “I was also inspired by the depth of the commitment and passion of educators and the Supreme Court to maintaining their young republic. We came at an ideal time because a constitutional convention – which is looking at major overhauls – literally began meeting just after we arrived. I was fortunate enough to give the President of the Supreme Court a copy of my book, *America’s Survival Guide* – hopefully it will be helpful as they work through these delicate times. I look forward to forging a strong partnership in the future, with an eye to helping their general public have a greater appreciation for the blessings of liberty.”

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An electronic photograph of *Judge Warren on the trip* is available. For a copy, please contact Marcia Travis at travism@oakgov.com