

HONORABLE RAE LEE CHABOT

Location: Courtroom 1A – First Floor—Oakland County Courthouse

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Background

Judge Chabot is a 1971 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1977 graduate of Detroit College of Law. She has served on the bench since 2001. Previously she was in private trial practice for 25 years, specializing in personal injury, medical malpractice and sexual harassment defense.

Scheduling—Civil

With few exceptions, initial Scheduling orders are automatically generated by the Case Management office for civil cases 75 days after the complaint has been filed. The Court will conduct a scheduling conference for change of venue cases. The court requires a motion in order to adjourn scheduling order dates.

Scheduling—Criminal

Criminal call is held on Tuesday. Defendants who are on bond are generally scheduled for the 8:30 AM docket. Defendants who are in jail will be scheduled on the 1:30 PM docket. Arraignments and Probation Violations are scheduled at 1:30 PM. Adjournments are granted for good cause, on a case-by-case basis. The court does allow arraignments by mail.

Motion Practice

Motions are heard on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM. Add-ons are permitted on a case-by-case basis. Hearing dates for non-dispositive motions are set by the moving party.

Dispositive motion briefing and hearing dates are set by the court. A scheduling order will be issued by the Court **after** a dispositive motion has been filed. Policies and procedures for dispositive motions, including filing deadlines and page length follow Michigan Court Rules.

Judge's copies of dispositive motions and motions for reconsideration must be forwarded to Judge's chambers.

Pretrial

Civil pretrial conferences are routinely held prior to case evaluation. Clients need not be present for **pretrial conferences**, however, clients should be available by phone, and attorneys should have settlement authority. Pretrial conferences are held on a monthly basis for cases that are over one year in age. If a **settlement conference** is scheduled, then trial attorneys, clients, adjusters—all parties with settlement authority-- are required to attend. The court routinely uses mediation, facilitation and arbitration.

Mandatory Initial Disclosures (MCR 2.302) will apply to cases filed after January 1, 2020.

Trials

Trial briefs should be filed with the court 7 days prior to trial. A complete set of agreed upon jury instructions, with copies for all jurors, attorneys and the Judge, should be provided to the Court on the first day of trial.

Trial days are all day Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, with a lunch break from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM.

Voir dire by counsel is permitted. Jurors may take written instructions into deliberations; jurors are usually not permitted to take notes or ask questions during trial.

Video depositions used in trial should be brief. Leave of the Court must be sought by motion for any trial deposition that exceeds one hour in length.