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For Release: January 25, 2012

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## **Michigan Civil Rights Commission Welcomes New Members, Elects New Officers**

*New Leadership Renews Commitment to Fairness, Equality of Opportunity*

Lansing—At its first business meeting of 2012 this week, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) elected new officers for the year. The newly-elected leadership includes: J. Michael Zelle of Grand Blanc as Chair; Lisa Peebles-Hurst of Benton Harbor, Vice Chair; Jared Rodriguez of Portland, Secretary and Stephanie Comai of Ann Arbor, Treasurer. Zelle is President of The Disability Network in Flint and the first person with a permanent disability to chair the Commission.

The MCRC also welcomed two new members to its ranks after their recent appointments by Governor Rick Snyder. Deloris Hunt, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer of the Detroit Medical Center, and Rasha Demashkieh, a registered pharmacist and school board member from Port Huron, took the oath of office and began their terms on the Commission.

After accepting the gavel from out-going Chair Matthew Wesaw of Holt, Zelle reaffirmed the commitment of the Commission to working for fairness and equal treatment for all Michigan residents.

"I am honored to lead the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in 2012," said Zelle. "We remain committed to a number of important initiatives, including anti-bullying efforts, addressing health disparities and expanding opportunities for the disabled, immigrants and our youth."

The MCRC's next meeting is scheduled for Traverse City on March 15. In addition to attending to the commission's regular business, Commissioners will host a public forum on bullying. More details will be released on this meeting and forum in coming weeks.

For more information on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, please visit [www.michigan.gov/mdcr](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr) and click on the MCRC tab.