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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH  
LANSING

DAVID C. HOLLISTER  
DIRECTOR

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Dear Tax Tribunal Practitioner,

If you have not yet attended a hearing in the Tribunal's new courtrooms in the Ottawa Building, you are in for a pleasant surprise. The Ottawa Building's security procedures are addressed in the Attachment to this message, and will appear under the "Spotlight" section of the Tribunal's website in the near future. At the same time as our move, the Tribunal acquired new computers and switched to Windows XP. These changes produced some IT failures that severely hindered our ability to send out orders and process motions and pleadings. We have worked through many of these challenges but will not be able to send out 2004 Small Claims answer forms until sometime in December.

The Tribunal is still receiving discovery materials. As we indicated in *Occidental Development LLC v Van Buren Township*, MTT Docket No. 292745, and *Tribunal Notice 2004-5* (June 11, 2004), "with the exception of requests for admission, discovery materials may not be filed with the Tribunal." Except for responses to Requests for Admission, the Tribunal will not accept discovery materials unless they are attached to a motion to compel a response or further response to a specific discovery request.

Although we announced in the October ListServe that the small claims decision, *Liberty Hill Housing v City of Allen Park, et al*, MTT Docket No. 298530 (10/6/04), was being designated as precedential, we have determined that the case is not precedential. No order was issued designating it as precedential.

Continuing the Tribunal's effort to increase full (all tribunal members) tribunal hearings and decisions, the Tribunal recently conducted hearings to address three important issues. The full Tribunal heard oral argument regarding whether the State Tax Commission must file its appeal by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. *State Tax Comm v Township of Blackman, et al*, MTT Docket No. 280180. A full tribunal decision will address this issue and others pertaining to small claims procedure. The Tribunal will hear oral argument regarding the interpretation of MCL 205.28(1)(f) and the Tribunal's authority to address noncompliance with its discovery orders. *Compuware Corp v Mich Dept of Treas*, MTT Docket No. 304047. Finally, the Tribunal held status conferences regarding all multiplier cases that are now active as a result of the decision in *Wayne County v State Tax Comm*, 261 Mich App 174; 682 NW2d 100 (2004). Unless outstanding issues are being litigated, all such cases were adjourned until May, 2005 to provide the parties with time to reach settlements or stipulations to dismiss. A final status conference will be held on February 3, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

If you would like to receive these messages, simply send an e-mail message to Marijo Wakley at [mewakle@michigan.gov](mailto:mewakle@michigan.gov) with “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line. To unsubscribe, simply reply to this e-mail with the word “UNSUBSCRIBE” in the subject line.