

Honorable Rae Lee Chabot

Location

Courtroom 1A - First Floor - Oakland County Courthouse

Telephone: 248-858-0335

Background

Judge Chabot is a 1971 graduate of University of Michigan. She received her J.D. in 1977 from Detroit College of Law. She has served on the bench since 2001, with her current term expiring at the end of 2016. Previously, she was in private trial practice for 25 years, specializing in personal injury, medical malpractice and sexual harassment defense.

Scheduling / Conference

Scheduling conference held at first pretrial. Status conferences held only upon request. Adjournment requests must be made by motion. Settlement conferences are held after discovery, before trial. Adjournments are allowed upon good cause. Parties may attend conferences by phone, but counsel is required to attend in person; call clerk for arrangements. Criminal sentences and arraignments held on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.; arraignments by mail are permitted. Court does not use criminal predisposition investigation. Court will consider *Cobbs* pleas within guidelines.

Motion Practice

Motions are held Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. Check in with clerk before 8:30 a.m. Add-ons are permitted on a case-by-case basis. Oral arguments on case-by-case basis. Hearing date set by the Court and the moving party, typically held one week after motion is filed. Court schedules motions for summary disposition by order. Policies and procedures regarding dispositive motions according to court rules. Deadline for responses and responsive briefs in accordance with Michigan Court Rules for timing and length limited to 20 pages. Deadlines for motions in limine per order. The Court will, at its discretion, hear motions on days other than regular motion days. Motions for reconsideration are not given hearing dates; see court rules. Evidentiary hearings usually held in afternoon with live witnesses. All motions for summary disposition and select others are routinely referred to research attorney. Court prepares its own orders on motions, parties are encouraged to present proposed order at hearing. Court permits oral bond motions.

TRO / Injunction

Court does grant *ex parte* relief under MCR 3.310 if irreparable harm can be shown. Court may accelerate its normal briefing schedule as to TRO/injunctions.

Discovery

Ninety (90) days allowed for discovery. Discovery cutoff may be extended before or after cutoff date by motion.

Pretrial

Court does not request a joint final pretrial order. Settlement discussions are conducted at final pretrial conference. Court routinely becomes involved in settlement discussions in jury cases. Non-jury matters may be referred to another judge for settlement conference.

Trials

Trial briefs delivered to judge 7 days prior to trial. Exhibits must be consecutively numbered; benchbook not required. Trials are held Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Opening/closing arguments limited to 10-30 minutes each, longer if circumstances merit. Court requires proposed findings after hearing in non-jury trials. Proposed jury instructions must be submitted day before trial. Voir dire by counsel (speeches not permitted) with Court participation. Jury charged after final argument. Jury may take written instructions into deliberations; usually not permitted to take notes or ask questions during trial.

General

Court uses mediation, facilitation and arbitration. Drivers license restoration by hearing. Appeals from District Court referred to staff attorney.