



Jonathan B. Steffy  
The Law Offices of Daniel J. Harris  
410 Petoskey St.  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
*Delivered via e-mail*

Feb. 2, 2026

Dear Mr. Steffy,

My name is Gabe Roth, and I am executive director of Fix the Court, a nonpartisan judicial watchdog organization.

We are considering filing a complaint under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act, 28 U.S.C. §§351ff, against your client, Judge Thomas Ludington, due to his Oct. 2025 DUI arrest.

Before we do, please answer the following, which will help us get a better sense of how the events surrounding the arrest are unfolding and which we believe do not implicate attorney-client privilege. (I'd be happy to email the judge but believe this route to be more efficient.) In addition, it's possible that your answers will indicate that filing a formal complaint is not necessary.

1. The public only knows about Judge Ludington's arrest thanks to reports in the *Detroit News* and other outlets. Is there a reason Judge Ludington has not disclosed this information over the past four months? Is he planning on making a public statement about the incident before the start of the trial, scheduled to begin on Feb. 27, or are you on his behalf?
2. Is Judge Ludington considering retirement under 28 U.S.C. §371, either outright retirement or taking senior status, or under 28 U.S.C. §372(a), disability? If so, what is the effective date of retirement? If not, has Judge Ludington sought, or has he been directed to seek, medical or psychiatric evaluation related to alcohol use?
3. Irrespective of the answer to the previous question, does Judge Ludington believe that, per his judicial oath, he can faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon him as a judge (a) during the time leading up to the trial and (b) during the pendency of the trial? If yes, why?

Please let me know the answers at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,  
Gabe Roth  
Executive Director  
Fix the Court  
202-780-4990