

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Supreme Court Names Kevin Elsenheimer Chief Judge of Circuit and Probate Courts**

13<sup>th</sup> CIRCUIT COURT, December 11, 2019 – The Michigan Supreme Court has announced that the Hon. Kevin A. Elsenheimer has been named Chief Judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court (Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau counties) and the Probate Courts for Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties' Probate Courts.

“I was honored to succeed Judge Rodgers on the circuit bench, and he set the standard when it came to excellence and innovation, so my goal is to build on his outstanding record of service,” said Chief Judge Elsenheimer. “The public deserves courts that are independent, accessible, engaged, and efficient, and we have outstanding staff throughout area courts who work very hard to make sure the public receives the highest level of customer service.”

Every other year, the Michigan Supreme Court undertakes an extensive application and review process to select chief judges for all 242 courts statewide. Each chief judge brings strengths to the job that are appropriate to address the challenges the court is facing at the time.

Kevin Elsenheimer was appointed Circuit Court Judge in 2017 to replace retired Judge Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.

Chief Judge Elsenheimer is a native of Traverse City, and now owns the same East Bay Township farm where four generations of his family have lived. He attended Traverse City Senior High School (now Central) and received undergraduate degrees from Northwestern Michigan College and Michigan State University. He attended law school at Wayne State University. He served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Antrim County before forming the firm of Young, Graham, Elsenheimer & Wendling, P.C., based in Bellaire.

After five years as a trustee on the Bellaire School Board, Elsenheimer served in the Michigan House of Representatives for six years, where he was elected Assistant Speaker Pro Tem, Assistant Minority leader, and Minority Leader. He chaired a Standing Committee on Tort Reform and served on the Judiciary Committee. He served in Gov. Rick Snyder's cabinet as Executive Director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). He was named NMC's outstanding alumni in 2017.

Chief Judge Elsenheimer is married and has three children.