Bar panel seeks less court delay

Are Michigan courts doing everything they can to prevent delay of cases
being tried? Are prosecutors and defense lawyers too often successful in
creating extended delays to suit their
clients?

A State Bar of Michigan committee
says the Michigan Supreme Court
says the Michigan Supreme Court
should establish new caseflow management standards for judges.

Chaired by Oakland Circuit Judge
Fred M. Mester, the committee pro-

polley of minimizing delays would be set.

AMONG TIME standards are:

9 0 percent of all civil cases should be tried, settled or concluded within 12 months; and the tending and the set of the set of

90 percent of all paternity cases should be concluded within seven months of Illing.
 All child custody issues should be

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IN CRIMINAL cases, the committee

IN CRIMINAL cases, the committee recommends:

• 90 percent of all felony cases should be concluded within 120 days from the date of arrest.

• 90 percent of all misdemeanors, infractions and other non-felony cases should be concluded within 30 days from date of arrest or citation and 100 percent within 90 days of arrest or citation.

• Persons detained should have a determination of custodial status or bail set within 24 hours of arrest.

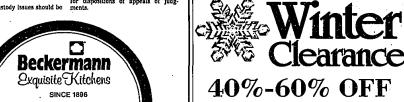
The proposal also sets time limits in juvenile definition 24 hours of arrest, and arrest of other cases.

In this series of the commended of dispositions of appeals of judgments.

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Speaking at a meeting of the State Bar of Michigan in Lansing, Chief Jus-tice G. Mennen Williams said the Su-preme Court took an average of 74 months to reach a decision on all of its 1985 cases after hearing oral argu-ments presented by attorneys in each

case. "During the last 10 years (1975-

1984), the time between arguments and decisions has averaged about 12 months," Williams said. "In 1985, that average was reduced by more than four months."

"After all, we plan to adopt time standards for trial courts later this year in an effort to reduce delay in courts throughout the state so we should make every effort to set a good example for all of the state's courts by processing our cases in a timely man-ner."







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