



INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER
2019

BRIEFS

A TRIBUTE TO OUR ★ VETERANS ★

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ICBA Logo And Letterhead Policy

The ICBA has adopted a policy regarding the use of the ICBA logo and letterhead. If you are currently using or are planning to use the ICBA logo, we ask that you become familiar with and abide by the revised policy. You can read the full policy [here](#).

ABOUT ICBA



Founded in 1895, the Ingham County Bar Association continues its longstanding tradition of service to the legal profession and the greater Lansing community, bringing lawyers together to join in a strong organization that works to achieve objectives that transcend the individual.

INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 66
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
www.inghambar.org

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Committee Appointments

Annual Dinner: Sandra Lake

Annual Meeting: Sandra Lake

Ask A Lawyer: Ray Harris,
Brandon Schumacher

Awards: Pamela Amato,
Steve Sinas

Barristers: Teddy Eisenhut

Bench Bar: Edwar Zeineh,
Lindsay Dangi, Chuck Barbieri

BRIEFS: Traci Gentilozzi, Editor;
Mary Bowen, Board Liaison

Judicial Review: Charles
Lawler, Alex Rusek

List Serve: Staff

Meet the Judges: Steve
Sinias, Emily Jefferson

Membership: Emily Jefferson,
Jim Dalton

Monthly Deliberations:
Alex Rusek

Nominating Committee:
Mary Chartier

Past Presidents: Mary Chartier

Section Chair Liaison:
Charles Lawler, Patricia Scott

Shrimp Dinner: Robert Refior,
Elias Kafantaris

Social Media: Staff

Sponsors: Chris Wickman,
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Madelyne Lawry
517-627-3938



President's Message

By *Chuck Barbieri*

In 1863, the same year of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Battle of Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving as an official holiday in the United States. While the ICBA cannot claim that its November annual banquet is derived from this tradition, the Association has a rich tradition when it comes to annual celebrations.

In fact, one of the first annual banquets that occurred on February 4, 1901, coincided with the Centennial Anniversary of John Marshall's appointment to the United States Supreme Court. Later annual banquets apparently varied, depending on the occasion of state events and annual bar meetings. For some time though, the Association's annual banquet has fallen in line with the November tradition.

Beyond providing an opportunity for camaraderie and conviviality, the Association for the past 30 years or more has used its annual banquet for recognizing lawyers for their outstanding service to the public. Currently, practitioners are recognized through the Leo A. Farhat Outstanding Attorney Award, the Camille S. Abood Distinguished Volunteer Award, the Theodore W. Swift Civility Award, the Thomas E. Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award and the Pro Bono Award. Our Association also recognizes a non-lawyer for his service in supporting the American judicial system through the Liberty Bell Award. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize outstanding members of this bar who have served the public and offer a fitting reminder of the virtues of our profession.

This year, we applaud Michael Stephenson for the Farhat Award, Nancy Wonch for the Abood Award, Stephen Milks for the Swift Award, Frank Reynolds for the Brennan Award and journalist Tim Skubick for the Liberty Bell Award. They deserve our gratitude for their efforts and accomplishments.

We would be remiss though if we did not also acknowledge the dedicated members of this year's volunteer select committee that helped choose this year's award recipients. Pam Amato and Steve Sinas served as chairs of this year's committee. The members of the awards committee will vary from year to year to reflect different segments of our bar and bench. They devote countless hours for review of nominations, discussions and debate. And while it may be argued that some persons have not received the accolades that they are due, we know from reports offered by past committee members that picking among the "cream" of our legal crop is no easy task.

The ICBA Board welcomes your input on how to improve the process and invites those interested in the future in serving on the annual awards committee to indicate their interest. In addition, we invite those interested in nominating worthy individuals for the Association awards to submit their nominations throughout the year. Interestingly, this year's committee indicated that some award categories did not receive as many nominations as they expected. To improve upon that process, the Association is committed to having nomination forms on its website and to having forms available at bar function events. We hope that these opportunities will further open up the process for recognizing our Association's best practitioners.

The Association believes that practitioners who literally and figuratively face tribulations and actual trials should also receive tributes. For that tradition, we all should be thankful!

On The Docket

For additional information on ICBA events, call 517-627-3938, email info@inghambar.org or visit [ICBA on Facebook](#) or the [ICBA website](#).

Date	Event	Location
11/21/19	Monthly Deliberations	American Fifth
12/11/19	ICBA Board Meeting	Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC
12/19/19	Monthly Deliberations	Tavern and Tap
1/16/20	Monthly Deliberations	Spartan Brew Pub
1/23/20	Meet The Judges	WMU Cooley Law School
2/1/20	Bench Bar Conference	Veterans Memorial Courthouse
2/12/20	ICBA Board Meeting	Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC
2/20/20	Monthly Deliberations	Kelly's Downtown
3/12/20	11th Annual Barristers Night	University Club of MSU
3/19/20	Monthly Deliberations	Zoobie's
4/8/20	ICBA Board Meeting	Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC
4/16/20	Monthly Deliberations	Front 43
5/13/20	Annual Shrimp Dinner	Lansing Liederkrantz
5/21/20	Monthly Deliberations	Envie
6/18/20	Monthly Deliberations	The Exchange

ICBA MEMBER DIRECTORY

Are you listed in the
online member directory?

If not, give us a call
at 517-627-3938.



A Note From The Editor

Dear Fellow ICBA Members,

This issue of BRIEFS is my last one as Editor. In early October, I tendered my resignation due to several unforeseen circumstances and challenges that have arisen.

It has been a pleasure working with the ICBA Board of Directors the past few years, as well as the BRIEFS Committee. Thank you for providing me this wonderful opportunity. I've enjoyed getting to know all of you.

I also want to give a special "shout out" to Madelyne Lawry, ICBA Executive Director, and her dedicated staff at Shared Resources. Thank you for helping to keep my head above water when I sometimes felt like I was drowning.

I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Traci Gentilozzi



Raising The Bar

Foster, Swift Attorney Named To SBM Ag Law Council



Collins

Allison Collins, of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith in Lansing, has been named to the Council of the Agricultural Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM). In addition, Allison has been selected to lead Foster Swift's Agri-Business Practice Group, where she assists agricultural clients with environmental issues, commercial disputes and insurance litigation matters. This year, Allison was also elected to the Council of the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Willingham & Coté Welcomes New Insurance Defense Attorney



Birn

Steve Birn has joined the Insurance Law Practice Group at Willingham & Coté. He focuses his practice on first-party no-fault and third-party auto liability cases. Steve is a litigator with more than 13 years' experience.



DID YOU KNOW?

By Traci R. Gentilozzi

Award-Winning MSU Program Focuses On Combat Veterans

An average of 20 veterans die by suicide every day, according to the [U.S. Veterans Affairs Office for Suicide Prevention](#). But a new program at Michigan State University (MSU) is aimed at reducing these numbers.

The [Combat Veterans Certificate Program](#) at MSU is the first program of its kind on a university campus. The program is designed to increase awareness and empathy for the experiences of war veterans and is taught by senior clinical instructors Glenn Stutzky and Tina Blaschke-Thompson, who is the wife of a combat veteran. MSU offers the program primarily as part of its master's in social work (MSW) and human service professional curriculum. The program, which has received the [SAGE/CSWE Award for Innovative Teaching in Social Work Education](#), graduated its first class in May 2019.

The program is a two-credit course that helps train mental health professionals to: 1) better engage with and understand veterans who are dealing with the trauma of combat and 2) better empathize with veterans' experiences. Unlike most college courses, the program is not taught using textbooks or lectures. Instead, students get as close as they possibly can to living the traumatic experiences of veterans. Students learn through interacting with combat veterans themselves. They listen to their war stories, watch images from their



deployments and view war footage that has been vetted. According to MSU, this type of teaching allows students to experience what it is like to be in the military, from recruitment and enlistment, to boot camp, to war and returning home.

The program offers three segments:

- Segment #1 – focuses on the military cycle from enlistment, basic training, the experience of war and post-war challenges.
- Segment #2 – focuses on the societal response to war and historical treatment of veterans returning from war, with an emphasis on improving policies and programs to better meet their needs.
- Segment #3 – focuses on intervention models that have shown to be effective in helping veterans overcome moral injury and the trauma of war.

All three courses are online. The first segment is available

to undergraduate and graduate students in any discipline. The second and third segments are more intense and are designed for graduate students in social work.

The program focuses on combat veterans because it is aimed at complex trauma – and military combat is an element of this. Students learn about pre-military trauma and how it relates to enlistment and adjustment after deployment. This trauma includes depression, post-traumatic stress, suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts. According to the program's website, exposure to combat does not, by itself, lead to suicide; however, it does increase the risk for post-traumatic stress, depression and substance abuse – and this, in turn, elevates a person's suicide risk.

Since the program began, veterans who have served in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea and the Gulf War have shared their experiences with students. Participants have served active duty in all branches of the military and National Guard, and represent men and women, commissioned and non-commissioned military personnel, and servicemembers who have been enlisted and drafted.

Click [here](#) to listen to a podcast about the program.

New Manual Assists Mentors In Michigan Veterans Treatment Courts

A new resource is available to the volunteer mentors who work with individuals in the 27 Veterans Treatment Courts throughout Michigan – “Veterans Treatment Courts in Michigan: A Manual for Mentors and Mentor Coordinators.”

The manual is a compilation of best practices aimed at helping mentors understand their role within the court, so they can better assist the veterans they are supporting. The manual is the work product of Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) and the Michigan Supreme Court.

To develop the manual, students at WMU-Cooley conducted interviews with mentors and mentor coordinators across Michigan. Other resources that aided in the manual's creation include best practices from Justice for Vets, the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court and the Tulsa Veterans Treatment Court. The MVAA and WMU-Cooley Associate Dean and retired Brigadier General Michael C. H. McDaniel edited the manual.

In 2013, the Michigan Legislature approved standards allowing local trial courts to establish Veterans Treatment Courts. These courts operate as an alternative for veterans who are accused of non-violent crimes and offer veterans access to various services, including mental health treatment, mentoring and substance abuse treatment.

More information on the manual can be found [here](#).

Michigan Military And Veterans Hall Of Honor Established



With the creation of the [Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor](#), Michigan is now one of a handful of states with an entity that recognizes its veterans, active-duty service members and reserve personnel.

The Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor, a non-profit organization, held its inaugural induction ceremony earlier this year, recognizing 12 of the Michigan's most

distinguished service members, including Congressman John Dingell Jr. and Mike Ilitch Sr.

According to the organization's website, the organization's mission is to:

- "recognize Michigan's most distinguished service members and veterans through a Hall of Honor induction while creating a means and location to educate future generations of Michigan's military legacy."
- "educate Michigan citizens, and particularly young people, about the military and civic service of state veterans in order to inspire a sense of pride, patriotism, and civic virtue."
- "promote through scholarships, grants, and other means, the research and teaching of Michigan's military heritage and the importance of military service to citizenship throughout the state."

The Hall of Honor inducts members in two categories: military inductees and veteran inductees. Information on the 2019 military inductees can be found [here](#). Information on the 2019 veteran inductees can be found [here](#).

(Logo credit: Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor Facebook page.)

East Lansing Law Firm Debuts Podcast



The law firm of Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC recently launched a podcast called "Constitutional Defenders," aimed at discussing high-profile cases, changes in the law and other hot topics.

The podcast also gives listeners a behind-the-scenes look at how attorneys defend challenging cases. Some of the topics have included the "Gardening While Black" case from Detroit, which has been profiled in the New York Times; updates on marijuana law; and discussing the exoneration of Dennis Tomasik.

The show is hosted by Mary Chartier and Takura Nyamfukudza and is produced by Lizzy Cary. The podcast can be found on platforms such as iTunes, Spotify and more, as well as on the [C&N website](#). New episodes are available every two weeks.

Let's Be Clear ...

A "Did You Know" article in the September 2019 issue of BRIEFS indicated that Judge Hugh Clarke earned his law degree from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. Judge Clarke contacted BRIEFS and asked us to clarify that he attended the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, before it became known as WMU-Cooley.

Recently Amended Michigan Court Rules & Proposed Changes

Amendments of MCR 1.109, 3.206, 3.931 and 3.961 – Requires the case inventory form filed in family division cases to be confidential. *Issued 9/11/19 (effective immediately with comment period following). Comment period expires 1/1/20.*

Amendment of E-Filing Rules – Continue the process for design and implementation of the statewide electronic-filing system. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 1/1/20.*

Amendment of MCR 6.508 – Enables a defendant to show actual prejudice in a motion for relief for judgment under certain circumstances. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 1/1/20.*

Amendments of comments of MRPC 1.1 and 1.6 – Address a lawyer's obligation to maintain reasonable competence in relevant technology and ensure reasonable efforts to maintain confidentiality of documents. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 1/1/20.*

Amendment of MCR 2.612 – Clarifies that relief may not be sought by use of writs of coram nobis, coram vobis, audita querela, and bills of review and bills in the nature of a bill of review. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 1/1/20.*

Amendment of MCR 3.201 and Addition of MCR 3.230 – Provides procedural rules to incorporate the Summary Support and Paternity Act to establish a parent's paternity or support obligation through a summary action. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 1/1/20.*

Amendment of MCR 3.106 – Requires trial courts to provide a copy of each court officer's bond to SCAO along with the list of court officers. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 1/1/20.*

Rescission of MCR 8.123 – Rescission is due to the current practice of appointment and payment of counsel now being governed by statute and regulated through the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 9/18/19.*

Rescission of Administrative Order 1997-5 – Rescission is due to the current practice of appointment and payment of counsel now being governed by statute and regulated through the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission. *Issued 9/18/19. Effective 9/18/19.*

Proposed Amendment of MCR 8.301 – Would make the rule consistent with the statute, MCL 600.834, by allowing only the probate registers and deputy probate

registers to perform certain administrative tasks that would otherwise be performed by the probate judge. *Issued 9/11/19. Comment period expires 1/1/20.*

Proposed Amendments of MCR 6.302 and 6.610 – Would require a court to establish support for a finding that defendant is guilty of an offense charged, separate from the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. *Issued 9/11/19. Comment period expires 1/1/20.*

Proposed Alternative Amendments of MCR 6.508 – Would allow a court to consider previously-decided claims in the context of a new claim for relief. *Issued 9/18/19. Comment period expires 1/1/20.*

Proposed Amendment of MCR 6.425 – Would clarify that criminal defendants whose request for counsel due to indigency are denied are entitled to appeal that denial. *Issued 10/23/19. Comment period expires 2/1/20.*

Proposed Amendment of MCR 8.108 – Would clarify the rule regarding preparation and filing of transcripts including that a court reporter or court recorder shall file their transcripts with a court when produced for a party or for the court. *Issued 10/23/19. Comment period expires 2/1/20.*

ICBA VETERANS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Hon. Rosemarie Aquilina
National Guard

George Elworth
U.S. Army Reserve

Daniel Matson
U.S. Navy Reserve

Kenneth Smith
U.S. Marines Reserve

William Archer
U.S. Army & National Guard

Lawrence Emery
U.S. Army

Paul McCord
U.S. Navy

Matthew Smith
U.S. Marines

Gary Bauer
U.S. Air Force

H. Derrick Etheridge
U.S. Army

Michael McDaniel
U.S. Army

Webb Smith
U.S. Army

Karl Bohnhoff
U.S. Army

Joseph Fink
U.S. Navy Reserve/
Navy JAG Corps

Hon David McKeague
U.S. Army Reserve

Douglas Stover
U.S. Air Force

Jay Brant
U.S. Army

Richard Foster
U.S. Army

Ronald Morgan
U.S. Army

Alan Stuart
U.S. Army

El Juez Thomas Brown
U.S. Navy

William Hankins, Jr.
U.S. Army Infantry

Tim Norris
U.S. Marines

Jerry Sutton
U.S. Army

Michael Cavanaugh
U.S. Army & National Guard

Donald Hines
U.S. Navy

John Noud
U.S. Army

John Thurber
U.S. Navy Reserve

Russel Church
U.S. Army & Army Reserve

Daniel Hude
U.S. Army

Takura Nyamfukudza
U.S. Army

Ronald Trosty
U.S. Army

Allan Claypool
U.S. Navy

Dr. Clark Johnson
U.S. Navy

Charles Palmer
National Guard

Hon. William Whitbeck
U.S. Army Reserve

Edward Cook
National Guard

Francis Kolasa
U.S. Army

Charles Parker
U.S. Army

James White
U.S. Army Reserve

Alphonse Dalimonte
U.S. Army

James Lozier
U.S. Army Reserve

William Ralls
U.S. Army

William Wilkinson
U.S. Air Force

Jack Davis
U.S. Army

Jonathan Maire
U.S. Navy

Larry Salstrom
U.S. Army

Col. John Wojcik
National Guard



Traci is the owner of 360 Legal Solutions, PLLC, a company that focuses on legal content development & social media promotion for sole practitioners & small law firms. She is an attorney and an award-winning legal writer.

Earlier this year, the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA) implemented one of the most significant statutory changes in decades: the [Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017](#).

According to the VA, the Act benefits veterans in two ways: 1) it offers more choices when it comes to reviewing denied claims and 2) it streamlines the claims appeal process.

The VA has said that, under RAMP, its mission is to complete Higher-Level Reviews and Supplemental Claims in an average of 125 days, while claims appealed to the Board will be completed in an average of 365 days.

Claims filed on or after February 19, 2019, are being handled under the RAMP system. For those who had appeals pending in the old legacy system and did not opt to have them transferred to RAMP, those appeals will continue to be handled under the legacy system.

According to the VA, the plan is to handle the legacy appeals until all claims are within the new system ... a process that could reportedly take years.

Veterans – and the attorneys who represent them – need to know and understand the new options that are available for VA claim appeals. Here is an overview of what the Act does.

Higher-Level Review

As of February 19, 2019, there is a new system in place called RAMP, which stands for Rapid Appeals Modernization Program. Under RAMP, a veteran still has one year from the date of a decision to appeal it and one of three methods of appeal must be selected:

During a Higher-Level Review, a more senior VA adjudicator (known as “Decision Review Officers” in the old legacy system) will conduct a new review of the file and issue a decision based on the evidence already on the record.

If this type of review is chosen, new evidence cannot be submitted. Basically, under this option a different person will review the same evidence.

It appears this method of review may be best when blatant and obvious errors have been made, which can easily be corrected without the need for additional evidence.

At the time this article was written, only two Regional Offices were conducting Higher- Level Reviews: Seattle and St. Petersburg.

- **Higher-Level Review** – A more experienced adjudicator will conduct a new review of the prior decision.
- **Supplemental Claim** – New and relevant evidence may be submitted and the VA will assist in developing new evidence under its duty to assist.
- **Direct Appeal to Board** – Veterans may file a Notice of Disagreement (NOD) and then choose one of three dockets: direct review, evidence or hearing.



Supplemental Claim

If the Supplemental Claim path is selected, new evidence is required to re-open the previously denied claim or to file for an increased rating of a service-connected condition.

According to the VA, any “new” evidence must be “relevant” to the claim. “New” means not previously submitted or received by the VA. “Relevant” means significant, related evidence to the issue at hand. In this type of appeal, the VA has a duty to assist in developing or finding evidence.

Supplemental Claims are being handled at various Regional Offices across the United States.

Direct Appeal To Board

In the old legacy system, veterans had to wait for a rating decision before a claim could be appealed with an NOD. Once a “Statement of the Case” was received, then the veteran could file a VA Form 9 and wait for Board review. This process often took at least three years or more.

Under RAMP, Statements of the Case and the VA Form 9 are no longer used. This allows veterans the ability to appeal directly to the Board after receiving a rating decision.

If a veteran files an NOD directly to the Board, there are three review options available:

- Direct Review – The Board makes a decision based solely on the evidence that is already on the record. Additional evidence cannot be filed and there is no hearing.
- Evidence Submission – Additional evidence may be submitted within 90 days of filing the NOD. The Board makes its decision based on the evidence on the record and any additional evidence that has been filed. There is no hearing.
- Hearing – Additional evidence can be submitted a hearing is held. Evidence can be submitted until the Board schedules and conducts the hearing.

For additional information on the appeal process, see the [Appeals Modernization Brochure](#) published by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Meet Zaneta Adams

Director, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

By *Cynthia Price*

“Coming out of Muskegon, I didn’t know much about the Veterans Affairs Agency, and I’ve talked to veterans who had never heard of it. So it will be my goal to make sure that we are very well-known,” says Zaneta Adams, the newly-appointed director of the [Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency](#) (MVAA).

Those who know Zaneta know that she is approximately 100 percent likely to achieve her goal, which is one among many that she shares with the current Michigan administration.

“Michigan’s veterans were willing to sacrifice everything for our country, and we owe it to each of these brave men and women to provide the benefits and support services that they’ve earned,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in a statement at the time of the appointment in mid-June. “Zaneta has worked tirelessly to improve veterans’ lives and the services they earned during their time in uniform.

I look forward to working alongside her to bring the best possible care to our veterans and build a stronger Michigan that honors their service.”

Zaneta sees herself mainly as a “connector,” a role she says is completely in keeping with the mission of the MVAA. “Statutorily, we are the central coordinating agency,” she says. “We’re supposed to be coordinating with everyone working in the state to help our veterans.”

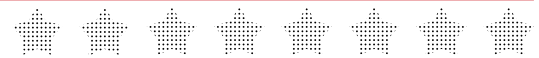
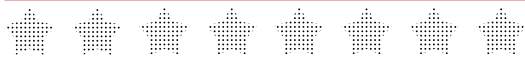
“I’m going to be continuing to create partnerships with other state departments and the federal agencies, sharing those resources, so veterans don’t have to go to 20 different places to get benefits and services. If they can just remember 800-MICH-VET, that’s so much easier,” she adds, referring to the number of the MVAA Call Center.



Most recently, Zaneta worked at Williams and Hughes in Muskegon, where she acted as both counselor and legislator, doing municipal work in the Muskegon area and assisting veterans to receive their benefits. Simultaneously, she contracted with the Michigan Attorney General as a presenter in the OK2Say anti-bullying program; was a consumer reviewer of proposals concerning research with wounded service members for the Department of Defense’s Congressionally Directed Medical Research program; and headed up WINC: For All Women Veterans, which she founded. (WINC formerly stood for Women in Combat, but that has since been dropped.)

Zaneta started WINC: For All Women Veterans when she realized that the needs of female returning veterans were different than those of males.

While lending her talents (which include a beautiful singing voice) to a wide variety of national pro-veterans groups – until accepting the MVAA position, she was still the community affairs director for Challenge America – she observed that most of the male-oriented sponsored activities involved competition and surmounting challenges, whereas most of the women sought to talk and process their service and return to civilian society. She was the driving force behind the 2018 designation, by the legislature, of June 15 as Women Veterans Day. Governor Whitmer herself named June 12 Women Veterans Recognition Day this year. This reflects the increasing population of women in the military branches, currently approximately two million in the U.S., even as the overall veterans population declines. In fact, the MVAA itself launched a campaign called “She is a Veteran” in May to raise awareness and build trust among females who have served.



For Zaneta, the road to success has been arduous. Her own service consisted of eight years in the U.S. Army National Guard/Army Reserve, during which time she received her B.A. in psychology from Columbia College in Chicago. Unexpectedly, she was called up for active duty and started to train for deployment in Iraq. She found herself in a wheelchair, partially paralyzed, after she fell from a truck during her training; some doctors said she would never walk again.

Depressed, Zaneta continued to attend veterans events and was inspired by the efforts of other wounded colleagues to keep up the struggle. Moreover, nine of her fellow trainees went on to Iraq as she was recovering from the accident, and they were all killed by a roadside bomb. “So I really do feel like my life has purpose. God kept me here for a reason,” she told the Grand Rapids Legal News in 2012, when she won the Great Deeds Award as a law student at WMU-Cooley Law School. She went on to be instrumental in forming the Veterans Legal Assistance Project. She received the Distinguished Law Student award as she graduated with a concentration in general litigation in 2014, as well as recognition by the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

One of things that Zaneta says has influenced her hard work on behalf of women veterans is that so often, they fail to have the kind of support from their spouses that she enjoys. She and her husband Joseph, whom she met in the service, have six children, including two sets of twins. She has always acknowledged that she would not have been able to do what she does without that support.

In September 2014, then-candidate Whitmer met Zaneta at an event in Muskegon Heights and told her for all to hear, “You and I are going to work together someday.” That was of course not a foregone conclusion, and Zaneta says she is deeply honored to lead the MVAA. “It’s just humbling to have been chosen. Very humbling,” she says. “I know that Governor Whitmer is very strong on making sure that the veterans in this state are taken care of, and that’s my goal too.”

The MVAA, which has only been around since 2013, “works to identify and break down barriers veterans face in employment, education, health care, and quality of life to make Michigan a great place for veterans and their families to call home. Services provided by the MVAA include the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, Discharge Document Retrieval Service,

and managing the Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans,” according to state sources. The Grand Rapids home broke ground for a new, updated building in May, but it seems already to have turned around some of the problems that plagued it in years past. For that, Zaneta credits her predecessor, Judge James Redford, who is now at the Court of Appeals. “We just had our audit results back, and there was only one financial issue they found, and it had already been remedied. And there have been no adverse health findings,” she says.

The MVAA is part of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, which is headed by Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, the Adjutant General of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard. The two groups and others serving veterans are working on a joint strategic plan. Zaneta reports both to the Governor and to Maj. Gen. Rogers. In the meantime, the MVAA has an excellent track record with its existing programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs gave the MVAA a 2019 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award for its initiative that advocates for incarcerated veterans, which was the first of its kind in the nation.

“One thing we’ll be focusing on is making sure we have transparency throughout this agency,” Zaneta says. “So that no matter what level of staff you are, you know what’s going on and can tell others.”

The [MVAA's website](#) has an almost overwhelming, though well-organized, amount of information about services veterans can access, including a county-by-county list of the veterans benefits officers who can help make sense of all that is offered. Still, Zaneta says, there is a lot of work to be done to make sure those who served their country are served in return. “About 18 percent of veterans in the state of Michigan get benefits. And we’re number 11 among the states for the number of veterans [635,000 in 2012]. So with our veterans service officers and with a focus on outreach, it’s my intention to increase that number of veterans with access to benefits greatly,” she pledges.

This article originally appeared in the Ingham County Legal News and the Grand Rapids Legal News. Reprinted with permission. Photo credit: Cynthia Price.

Personal Lessons From A Military Family

By *Lurline C. Holly, CPT, SC*
925th CBN and MICC - Fort Drum
Contracting Officer

The Army is a unique profession that allows a person to proudly serve their country and then retire after 20 years of service. There are a plethora of tangible and intangible benefits that come along with serving in the military which cannot be duplicated in other professions. I proudly own my decision to remain a mother on active duty status in the United States Army so my intent of this article is not to talk about the difficulties of being a soldier. This is simply a reflection on my initial introduction into parenthood as a new mother, marriage to another service member and the personal lessons learned along the way.

As a mother of one and having my first child in my late thirties, I blissfully went through my first 37 years of life not knowing the struggles that a working mother goes through ... until now. I thought I had it all figured out, that I would focus on my career first and wait till I was older to have a baby. Generally speaking, it was and still is a good plan. However, I underestimated the everyday struggle of being a mother and being a mother on active duty. I am speaking from my own experience and by no means downplay how difficult it is being a mother in any other career or stay-at-home mothers. I know each situation has its own unique challenges.

Personal Lesson #1: There is never a perfect time to have a baby. Commit to the idea and do it when you feel it is the best given all the circumstances. My husband and I are both on active duty in the United States Army and

have served 18 years each. Although we have been married for over 14 years, the time in which we are physically together – meaning to go home to the same house each night – is about 50 percent of the time or less. Between our four combat deployments, countless training deployments, Army schools, and field time we may have been together for seven of our 14 years of marriage. We started on our journey of parenthood trying to conceive in 2015 and had no luck so we decided to seek fertility assistance. After a few failed attempts of IUI we then succeeded though IVF and in December of 2018 our amazing daughter Sullivan was born.

Sullivan was born during my husband's third deployment, this time to Afghanistan. He watched her birth via FaceTime. I had the blessing of my aunt and uncle flying to be with me, so that I had someone with me through the birthing process. They stayed with me until my daughter was a week old.

The Army's standard for postpartum mothers is to be able to pass the height-weight and/or body fat standards and also be able to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test within six months. I found working out to be particularly challenging being that I didn't have anyone to watch my daughter nor was I getting any more than two hours of sleep at a time. Finding someone on the Internet no matter how much they've been vetted is always a risk that I found unacceptable and so I struggled finding time to get back into shape. Nevertheless, I found a trusted friend who was willing to assist with childcare a few days a week and



Personal Lesson #2: If you're someone's boss, give your subordinates who have kids the benefit of the doubt. Prior to having a child of my own, I was

Personal Lesson #3: Deployments are hard, but it's harder when you have children. My previous combat and operational deployments were tough, being away from my husband for a year, and months at a time. This time it's different, I have a little one that I'm leaving behind. People ask me, "How can you leave your daughter?" My response to that is, it feels like your heart is being ripped out of your



the room. I already miss her when I go to work all day and leave her at daycare. I'll miss many of her "firsts," but I also know that she is in good hands with my husband.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Okemos attorney Takura Nyamfukudza for obtaining this article for publication in BRIEFS. Takura is a U.S. Army Veteran and a BRIEFS Committee member.

Announcing The 2019 ICBA Award Winners

The following individuals have been selected as the 2019 ICBA Award recipients and were honored at the 125th Annual Dinner on Thursday, November 14, 2019.



LEO A. FARHAT
OUTSTANDING
ATTORNEY AWARD:
**MICHAEL
STEPHENSON**
Willingham & Coté PC

The Leo A. Farhat Outstanding Attorney Award is presented to an ICBA member who manifests exemplary character, integrity, judgment and legal scholarship while adhering to and advancing the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession. The award recognizes a private practitioner who has provided outstanding service to the public and who possesses an exemplary reputation in the legal community, the highest of ethical standards and who revels in maintaining a life that balances a passion for professional excellence with the joy of family and friends. In addition, the award recognizes a person who exhibits qualities of openness and humility, coupled with a sincere concern for the interests of others, including the professional development of newer practitioners.

Learn more about Michael [here](#).



CAMILLE S. ABOOD
DISTINGUISHED
VOLUNTEER AWARD:
NANCY WONCH
Wonch Mediation, PLLC

The Camille S. Abood Distinguished Volunteer Award is presented to an ICBA member who has distinguished himself or herself by making voluntary contributions of time and talent for the benefit of others. Consideration is given to any volunteer service, whether or not it involves the Lansing area community. The award is intended to honor attorneys for volunteer efforts and, therefore, is not awarded on the basis of any services performed for monetary compensation. The services recognized may or may not be law-related and indicate a significant commitment to voluntary service.

Learn more about Nancy [here](#).



THEODORE W. SWIFT
CIVILITY AWARD:
STEPHEN MILKS
Ingham County Public
Defender Office

The Theodore W. Swift Civility Award is presented to an ICBA member who has distinguished himself or herself by manifesting civility in his or her relations with the bench, bar, clients and the public, while adhering to and advancing the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession. The award recognizes skill and success in practicing one's profession, while at the same time exhibiting that civility and collegiality may co-exist and contribute to overall and long-term success.

Learn more about Stephen [here](#).



LIBERTY BELL AWARD:
TIM SKUBICK
WKAR-TV

The Liberty Bell Award recognizes outstanding service by a non-lawyer citizen who has given time and energy to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice. This service may include:

1. promoting a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.
2. encouraging a greater respect for the law and the courts.
3. stimulating a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights.
4. contributing to the effective functioning of our institutions of government.
5. fostering a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.

Learn more about Tim [here](#).



THOMAS E. BRENNAN
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD:
FRANK REYNOLDS
Attorney at Law

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an ICBA lawyer who has made a significant and longstanding contribution to the advancement or improvement of the justice system and the betterment of the legal profession in the State of Michigan, and attained professional excellence as demonstrated by accomplishments in the law or service to the profession during his or her career. The award is given only in those years when it is determined that an exceptionally worthy recipient has been nominated.

Learn more about Frank [here](#).

9th Annual "Meet The Judges" Reception Set For January 23

The Ingham County Bar Association invites you to attend the 9th Annual "Meet The Judges" Reception on Thursday, January 23, 2020.

The event will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the lobby of Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, 300 South Capitol Ave. in downtown Lansing.

"Meet the Judges" is one of ICBA's most popular events. It provides the legal community an opportunity to network with judges from the Michigan Supreme Court

and Michigan Court of Appeals, as well as the federal courts and local trial courts. In addition, local referees, administrative law judges and tribal judges are always invited to attend.

Persons who are interested in attending can [register online](#).

If you would like to sponsor the event, more information can be found [here](#).

Past Presidents Gather At Annual Reception

The Fourth Annual ICBA Past Presidents Reception was held Thursday, October 3, 2019. The reception honors and celebrates those individuals who have previously served as leaders of the ICBA.

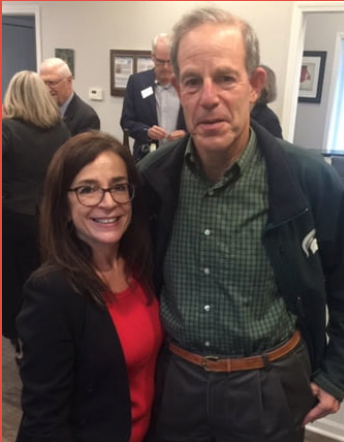
Immediate Past President Mary Chartier graciously hosted the event at Chartier & Nyamfukudza in Okemos.

The President's Special Recognition Award was presented during the evening's festivities. The award is given annually to a person who made the Immediate Past President's term exceptional. The 2019 President's Special Recognition Award was presented to Madelyne Lawry, ICBA Executive Director.

"Madelyne was selected because of the endless time she has given to the Ingham County Bar Association and continues to give through her duties as our Executive Director," said ICBA Past President Mary Chartier. "I am personally grateful to have had her as part of the leadership team during my term as President!"



Madelyne Lawry





Young Lawyers Section

The Ingham County Bar Association-Young Lawyers Section (ICBA-YLS) is aimed at helping young lawyers and those who are new to the practice of law. The ICBA-YLS seeks to further the educational and professional advancement of young lawyers by providing educational, networking and social events that assist young lawyers in Ingham County.

The purpose of the ICBA-YLS is to:

- sponsor and support activities of interest and value to the community and young lawyers in Ingham County.
- cooperate, support, promote and coordinate activities with the ICBA, as well as other local, state and national young lawyer groups.
- establish good fellowship among the ICBA-YLS, the ICBA and members of the legal community.
- contribute to the educational and professional advancement of young lawyers.
- take such other action and perform such other functions as may be deemed appropriate.

The ICBA-YLS President is Teddy Eisenhut. She can be reached at teisenhut@ingham.org.

Young Lawyers Section Board Meetings

YLS Board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at Kelly's Downtown, 200 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you an experienced practitioner looking for a way to share some of your insight with newer practitioners? If yes, then YLS is looking for you! YLS is seeking the assistance of practitioners who will present at upcoming educational events. The best part? Not only are you helping our local bar, but YLS will take care of the event logistics. Email Alex Rusek for details at alexrusek@whitelawpllc.com.



Featured Young Lawyer:



Alan Aboona

Alan Aboona is an attorney at Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis and Gotting, PC. He focuses his practice on business and corporate law, intellectual property law and real estate law, including affordable housing. Alan graduated summa cum laude from Michigan State University College of Law, where he was an Associate Editor on the Michigan State Law Review and a member of the Patent Moot Court team. During law school, Alan served as an extern for the Michigan Judicial Institute, Michigan Court of Appeals, Research Division and the Department of Attorney General, Health Care Fraud Division.

1. Where do you work and what do you do there?

I work at Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis and Gotting, PC. I'm a second year associate and I mainly work in our affordable housing group, where we work with syndicators and lenders in the procurement of Low Income Housing Tax Credits and Historic Tax Credits. I also do a fair amount of intellectual property work, drafting patent and trademark applications.

2. Where did you go to school?

I went to undergrad at Washington University in St. Louis where I was a Biology major. I then went to Michigan State University College of Law.

3. When were you admitted to practice in Michigan?

November 2018.

4. Why did you go into the legal field?

Honestly, I don't have a great reason for going to law school and becoming a lawyer. I always thought I would be a doctor, hence the Biology degree, but realized that wasn't what I wanted to do in my junior year of undergrad. I then worked in pharmaceuticals after undergrad and ultimately decided to take the LSAT and give law school a try. I quickly realized it was something I was good at and something I enjoyed doing, so here I am.

5. What advice do you have for those considering law school?

Don't choose your major based on planning for law school. Choose what interests you because it ultimately does not matter.

6. If you weren't a lawyer, what would you do?

I would probably be working in pharmaceuticals. I took a year off between undergrad and law school and worked for a large pharmaceutical company in Chicago.

7. Where did you grow up?

The suburbs of Chicago.

8. Who is your biggest role model and why?

My father. He is an immigrant who managed to go on and start his own business and provide for our family growing up. I can ask him for advice on any situation and he will be there for me.

9. What do you do in your free time?

I play golf. A few years ago I would have said basketball because I played in college, but I'm getting old now.

10. Do you have any pets? If so, tell us about them.

Two guinea pigs, named Chicken and Nugget. My fiancée (wife when this article is published) wanted to get a dog, but our old apartment did not allow for dogs, so we got two guinea pigs.



YLS Hosts Social Event For Crosstown Showdown



The ICBA Young Lawyers Section attended the 13th annual Crosstown Showdown on September 3, 2019, to watch the Lansing Lugnuts take on the Michigan State Spartans.

Despite the somewhat threatening weather, the event provided members with an opportunity to mix and mingle with other local young lawyers, while also enjoying some friendly competition between two area greats!

Interested in learning about future social events or interested in hosting one? Email our listserv at icba-yls@googlegroups.com.

Horn Of Plenty 2019

The ICBA Young Lawyers Section is hosting their annual Horn of Plenty Drive during the month of November.

YLS seeks individuals, organizations and firms to collect and donate the following items to needy members of the community: non-perishable food items, clothing (especially winter wear) and personal needs items, such as diapers, shampoo, toothpaste and soap.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks payable to Cristo Rey Community Center. Donations will be distributed to the Cristo Rey Community Center in Lansing.

Volunteers from ICBA-YLS will pick-up donations on Friday, November 22. Pickup times may vary, so please ensure all donations are ready by 8 a.m.

If you are interested in collecting donations at your firm or business, email Mary Bowen at marybowenesq@att.net or Stephen Foucher at SFoucher@HackneyGroverLaw.com for more information.

YLS Calendar Of Events

November 2019: Swearing-in Ceremony (TBA)

November 22, 2019: Horn of Plenty – Donation Pick-Up and Delivery to Cristo Rey

December 2019: Haven House: Volunteer Opportunity (TBA)

January 9, 2020 @ 6 p.m. – ICBA-YLS Board Meeting (Kelly's Downtown)

January 2020: Post-Holiday Mixer (TBA)

February 13, 2020 @ 6 p.m. – ICBA-YLS Board Meeting (Kelly's Downtown)

March 2020: Educational Event (TBA)

March 19, 2020 @ 6 p.m. – ICBA-YLS Board Meeting (Kelly's Downtown)

April 9, 2020 @ 6 p.m. – ICBA-YLS Board Meeting (Kelly's Downtown)

April 2020: Collaborative Fitness Event (TBA)

April 2020: Haven House – Volunteer Opportunity (TBA)

May 14, 2020 @ 6 p.m. – ICBA-YLS Board Meeting (Kelly's Downtown)

May 2020: Swearing-in Ceremony (TBA)

June 2020: Annual Paper Chase 5K (TBA)

June 11, 2020 @ 6 p.m. – Last Annual Meeting ICBA-YLS Board Meeting (Kelly's Downtown)

July 2020: Past President's BBQ (TBA)



SECTION CHAIR SPOTLIGHT



Takura Nyamfukudza

ICBA Criminal Defense Law Section

Where are you originally from?

I was born and raised in Harare, Zimbabwe. I came to America when I was 16.

What motivated you to become a lawyer?

I wanted to help people. Also, it was important to me to do something that would challenge me intellectually.

What is your educational background?

I finished high school in Zimbabwe. I completed my undergraduate studies in Indiana. Then I moved to Michigan and earned my law degree from Cooley. I got licensed the same year that I graduated from Cooley.

How long have you been with your current firm and what is the nature of your law practice?

At Chartier & Nyamfukudza, we opened our doors in July of 2017. Before that, I worked with my current business partner for four years. The two of us have only ever been criminal defense attorneys. We practice at the trial and appellate level in state and federal courts throughout Michigan.

What are some of the greatest challenges/rewards in your area of practice?

The job of a criminal defense attorney is the only one listed in the Bill of Rights. There is nothing I would rather do, despite the fact that few love a spokesman for the despised and the damned.

Describe some of the most significant accomplishments of your career.

On February 7, 2017, a jury, after deliberating for less than half an hour, acquitted Dennis Tomasik. Mr. Tomasik had spent nine years in prison for a crime that he did not commit. He was represented by a different attorney at the first trial. My business partner and I retried the case and, to this day, we could not be happier for Mr. Tomasik and his entire family.

How did you become involved in the Ingham County Bar Association?

I joined the YLS Board shortly after I got licensed at the behest of Chris Wickman. I've been an active member of the Ingham County Bar since.

What do you feel ICBA provides to Michigan lawyers?

ICBA educates attorneys, gives them opportunities to participate in community service and provides more networking opportunities than any other local bar association I've heard of.

What do you feel the greatest benefit has been in becoming involved with ICBA?

The networking opportunities have been invaluable.

Why would you encourage others to become involved with ICBA?

I would encourage people to become involved because active participation increases competency. Further, it is impossible to overstate the importance of networking.

What are some of your hobbies and interests outside work?

I love to travel. I am a triathlete. I enjoy trying new foods.



Criminal Defense Law Section

The Criminal Defense Law Section is comprised of criminal defense attorneys who defend people accused of committing crimes. The Section is dedicated to sharing knowledge related to emerging and important topics specific to criminal defense. The Section is also committed to offering opportunities for attorneys to hone critical skills needed to defend those accused by the government.

If you are looking for a way to learn about the latest in forensics or practice your evidentiary knowledge, they you'll want to join this section. The Section meets at the State Bar of Michigan,

306 Townsend St., Rooms 1 and 2, in Lansing.

If you have suggestions for future topics, please contact Section Co-Chairs Mary Chartier, Takura Nyamfukudza or Christopher Wickman.

Upcoming Meetings: TBA

There is no cost to attend meetings. Speakers and topics will be announced. To RSVP for the Criminal Defense Law Section meetings, email Chris Wickman at cwickman@nicholslaw.net.

Employment and Labor Law Section

The Employment and Labor Law Section holds its meetings from noon to 1 p.m. each month at WMU-Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Room 911, in downtown Lansing.

Section Co-Chair is John Maise. Contact John if you have ideas for topics and speakers. Stay tuned for an updated schedule of events.

Upcoming Meetings: TBA

If you have questions about Section meetings, please email John at jmaise@whiteschneider.com.

Family Law Section

The Family Law Section meets on the second Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. in Rooms 1 and 2 of the State Bar of Michigan Building, 306 Townsend St., in Lansing. Lunch is provided.

Section Co-Chairs are Brooke VanBuren-Hay, Jennifer Martinez and Erica Terranova.

Upcoming Meetings:

- December 11, 2019 – noon to 1 p.m.
- January 8, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
- February 12, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
- March 11, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
- April 8, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
- May 13, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.

If you have suggestions for meeting topics, want to sponsor a lunch or just have general questions, please email erica@baileyterranova.com.



Probate and Trust Section

The Probate and Trust Section holds its meetings the third Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at WMU-Cooley Law School, Room 911, 300 S. Capitol Ave. in Lansing.

Section Co-Chairs are Sally Babbitt and April Alleman. If you plan to attend a meeting, please RSVP to April Alleman at april@crenshawpeterson.com.

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 19, 2019 – noon to 1 p.m.
Topic: Register's Office Update
Speaker: Morgan Cole, Ingham County Probate Register
- December 17, 2019 – Annual Holiday Luncheon (location TBD)
- January 21, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
Topic: Tax Update
Speaker: Craig Godfrey
- February 18, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
Topic: View from the Bench
Speaker: Ingham County Probate Judge Shauna Dunnings
- March 17, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
Topic: Branding & Marketing Your Firm
Speaker: M3 Group
- April 21, 2019 – noon to 1 p.m.
Topic: Digital Asset Planning
Speaker: TBD
- May 19, 2020 – noon to 1 p.m.
Topic: Retirement Options for Lawyers
Speaker: Mark Quimby
- June 16, 2020 – Annual Summer Social Luncheon (location TBD)

Join The Section's Facebook Page

The Probate and Trust Section has a group Facebook page: [ICBA Probate & Trust Law Section](#). The Section encourages members to join the group. As a way to streamline RSVPs and minimize emails, you can RSVP for the Section meetings via this Facebook page. (Please let us know if you are not on Facebook.)

Lunch Sponsors

The sponsored lunches have been a very popular replacement for the brown bag lunches of old. The Section would like to continue the sponsored lunches. If you are interested in sponsoring a ¼ (\$100), a ½ (\$200) or full (\$400) lunch, please call Sally Babbitt at 517-507-3306 or email sally@sallybabbittlaw.com.

Real Estate Section

The Real Estate Section holds its meetings at WMU-Cooley Law School, Room 911, 300 S. Capitol Ave. in downtown Lansing.

Section Co-Chairs are Bill Tomblin and Christopher Patterson.

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 22, 2019 – noon to 1 p.m.

Lunch is served at meetings.

Upcoming speakers and topics will be

announced. Member input is always appreciated.

If you plan to attend a meeting, please RSVP to Bill Tomblin at Wdtomblaw@aol.com.



Bankruptcy Law Section

The Bankruptcy Law Section meets at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month at WMU-Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Room 911, in downtown Lansing.

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

Please feel free to join the Bankruptcy Section for its monthly meetings. Contact Section Co-Chairs Patricia Scott or Norm Witte for details.

To RSVP for meetings, contact Patricia Scott at pscott@fosterswift.com.

Guest Speaker Discusses New Addition To Bankruptcy Code

Attorney Andrew J. Gerdes from Capital Bankruptcy presented at the ICBA Bankruptcy Law Section meeting on September 26, 2019. He talked about a new addition to the Bankruptcy Code.

Andy's presentation detailed the addition of the "Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019" to the Bankruptcy Code ("Small Business Chapter 11"). He summarized the changes to the Code implemented by the new Act that simplify a Chapter 11 for small businesses, with features similar to Chapters 12 and 13.

Andy went into depth about the definition of a "small business case" and "small business debtor," as well as the requirements and how they differ from a typical Chapter 11. One of the biggest changes noted is that



there will be a trustee in a Small Business Chapter 11 contrary to just a "DIP" (debtor in possession) like in a typical Chapter 11. Several other differences were discussed, including the abolishment of the absolute priority rule and the aggregate debt limit

being just over \$2.7 million.

The Small Business Chapter 11 Act takes effect in February 2020.

— Patricia J. Scott

Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

The Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section offers free networking and educational events for legal staff in Ingham County. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the State Bar of Michigan Building, 306 Townsend St., in Lansing.

Section Co-Chairs are Elizabeth Cary, a Paralegal at Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC, and Heidi Pierce, a Paralegal at Buhl, Little, Lynwood & Harris, PLC.

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 20, 2019 – noon

- December 18, 2019 – noon
- January 15, 2020 – noon
- February 19, 2020 – noon
- March 18, 2020 – noon
- April 15, 2020 – noon
- May 20, 2020 – noon
- June 17, 2020 – noon

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the Section, contact Elizabeth at lizzy@cndefenders.com.

WLAM Mid-Michigan Takes Top Honors At "It's A Breast Thing"



Members of [WLAM Mid-Michigan](#) gathered at the home of Ingham County Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk several months ago to create their entry in this year's "It's A Breast Thing" bra-decorating contest – and the hard work paid off, as WLAM Mid-Michigan ultimately took first place!

"It's A Breast Thing" is a non-profit organization that provides grants to residents of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Shiawassee counties who have monetary needs related to their breast cancer treatment.

The theme of this year's contest was "Your Favorite Book." WLAM Mid-Michigan members decorated their bra to honor Harper Lee's classic, *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

To raise awareness and donations, the bra went "on tour" as part of a law firm fundraising challenge to four firms in the greater Lansing area: Sinas Dramis Law Firm; Foster Swift Collins & Smith; Fraser Trebilcock; and Grewal Law. Each firm

was encouraged to raise as much money as possible during the week that the bra was on display at its office. Contributions were placed in a box next to the bra and tallied at the end of each week. In the end, Foster Swift collected the most donations during its respective week and won the fundraising challenge.

"It's A Breast Thing" held its annual bra decorating/fundraising contest at Eagle Eye Golf Club on October 1, 2019 – and WLAM Mid-Michigan's bra collected the most donations (more than \$6,000) and earned the most votes. It is estimated that as many as 25 to 30 bras were submitted in the contest. In recognition of the win, WLAM Mid-Michigan received a generous gift basket, which was given to Foster Swift in recognition of its success in the law firm fundraising challenge.

As the contest winner, a local breast cancer survivor will be photographed wearing WLAM Mid-Michigan's winning bra. The photo will be featured in a calendar that will be sold to raise additional funds.

WLAM Mid-Michigan owes a debt of gratitude to Foster Swift, Sinas Dramis, Grewal Law and Fraser Trebilcock for supporting our fundraising efforts this year!

— Katie Tucker
President, WLAM Mid-Michigan



ICBA Sponsorship Opportunities

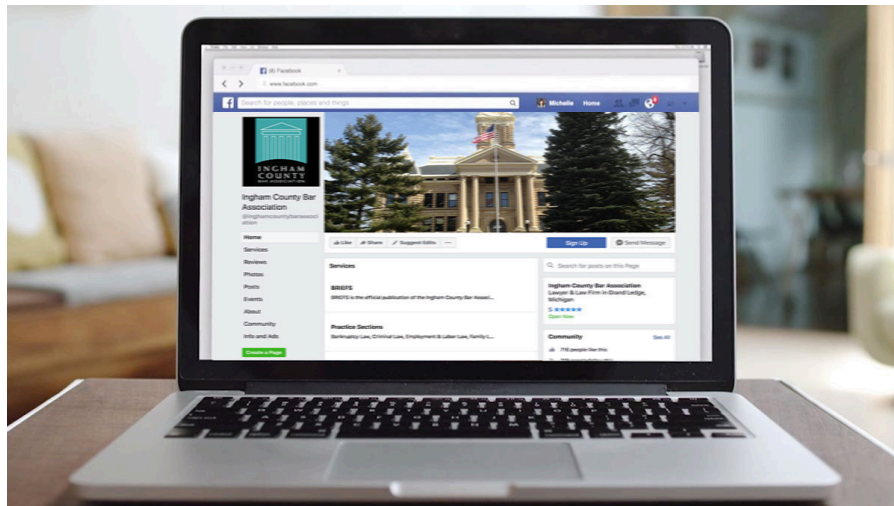
For more than 120 years, the Ingham County Bar Association has continued its tradition of service to the legal profession and the greater Lansing community.

As part of its longstanding commitment to the profession, the ICBA hosts events throughout the year that are educational and entertaining, in addition to networking opportunities for members. These events are made possible by the generous support of ICBA members.

One way for members to support the ICBA is through its annual sponsorship packages. The ICBA now offers a program that focuses on the increasing importance of social media marketing.

Law firms have the opportunity for their Facebook posts to be “shared” on the ICBA’s Facebook page. This means a law firm’s Facebook content will be seen by a larger audience, including ICBA members and those with whom ICBA has a relationship, thereby giving the law firm a greater presence throughout the legal community.

For more information on ICBA sponsorship opportunities, click the links below.



[2019-2020 Firm/Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities](#) | [2019-2020 Vendor Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

ICBA Membership Scholarship Application

The Ingham County Bar Association may offer scholarships to prospective members who are experiencing a hardship and cannot pay the standard rates to be an active member of the bar.

Scholarship recipients remain anonymous. It is the discretion of the ICBA President to grant any scholarships. Scholarships can only be approved on an annual basis (i.e., the scholarship does not automatically renew year-to-year).

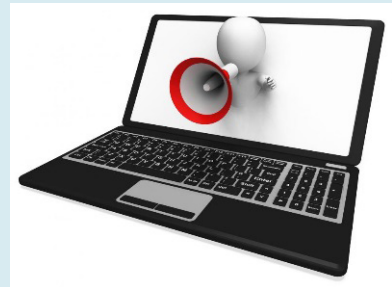
The scholarship application can be accessed [here](#).

Let BRIEFS Help Spread The Word About Your Event!

If your organization has an upcoming law-related event, send it to BRIEFS so we can share it with the legal community.

Please provide the 1) event name, 2) location, 3) date, 4) time and 5) pertinent information describing the event, and we'll publish it in BRIEFS.

Send items to briefs@inghambar.org. The deadline is the 15th of each month for the following month's issue (i.e., May 15th for the June issue).



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Lawyer Referral Application

Please take note that the Ingham County Bar Association does not do Lawyer Referrals. If you need to use this service provided by the State Bar of Michigan, please call them at **(800) 968-0738** between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to speak with a lawyer referral representative or you can use the links below.

- **Lawyer Referral and Information Service Registration Form**
- **LRIS Quick Reference Guide**
- **Become a Lawyer Referral Service Panel Member**

BRIEFS AUTHOR GUIDELINES & POLICIES

IN GENERAL

Publication Schedule

BRIEFS is published by the Ingham County Bar Association six times a year (September, November, January, February, April and June).

Copy Deadline

Content submissions are due the 15th of the month for the following month's issue (e.g., deadline is May 15 for the June issue). Late submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

BRIEFS Committee Meetings

A minimum of four committee meetings are held each fiscal year. Additional meetings are held, as necessary. To be added to the mailing list for meeting notices, email the editor at briefs@inghambar.org.

Author and Article Pictures

The preferred picture format is full-color .jpg (JPEG) files, 72 dpi or better. For head shots, the resolution should be high enough to be viewed clearly when approximating a 2" x 3" photo online. Please do not send thumbnail photos, as they will not be published.

Article Length

Article length varies, so the following is only a guideline. Articles may be edited to fit a specific amount of space.

Raising the Bar

Announcements: 100-200 words

Local Legal Events Notices: 100-150 words

Columns: 300-500 words

Articles: 700-1,000 words

Article Ideas

Writing an article for BRIEFS is an excellent way to publicize your expertise, and we encourage your submissions. Please send ideas for articles or completed articles to Traci Gentilozzi, editor, at briefs@inghambar.org. Within 24 hours, you will receive an email confirmation that your article was received.

Author Information

Along with your article, please include your full name, e-mail address and a short biography (2-3 sentences). Please also send a photo of yourself, preferably in .jpg (JPEG) format and in color, if possible.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

News of career moves, presentations, honors, recognitions, etc. is published in the "Raising The Bar" section. We accept and publish announcements only for ICBA members.

BRIEFS does not accept or publish announcements based on peer recognition and review sites, such as Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers, Best Law Firms, etc.

BRIEFS does publish honors and awards given by legal publications such as Michigan Lawyers Weekly (i.e., Leaders in the Law) under the following conditions:

1. BRIEFS will only publish such announcements for ICBA members.
2. Announcements will appear only in Raising The Bar and are limited to 50-75 words.
3. Announcements must comply with any applicable copyright/trademark requirements of the publication.
4. ICBA takes no responsibility for the published announcement.

ADVERTISING

Details on display and classified advertising can be found [here](#).

ARCHIVED ISSUES

Past issues of BRIEFS can be found [here](#).

BRIEFS Advertising Contract

Please publish the advertising checked below in ICBA BRIEFS.

Size

- ☐ ¼ page (4" x 4.5") ☐ Full Page (8.5 x 9.33)
☐ ½ page (8.5" x 4.5") ☐ Law Firm/Business Links
☐ ½ page (4" x 9.33")

Placement:

- ☐ One issue (please select month) ☐ Sept ☐ Nov ☐ Jan ☐ Feb ☐ April ☐ June
☐ Four Issues (please select months) ☐ Sept ☐ Nov ☐ Jan ☐ Feb ☐ April ☐ June
☐ Six Issues (please select months) ☐ Sept ☐ Nov ☐ Jan ☐ Feb ☐ April ☐ June

Advertiser

Company		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Fax	
E-mail address	Web Site	
Authorized by (Name)	(Title)	

Please return to ICBA:

P.O. Box 66, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Phone 517-627-3938 Fax 517-627-3950
Email: info@inghambar.org

Cancellations: Cancellations of any part of a contract voids all rate and position agreements. No changes or cancellations 1 (one) week after published deadline.

Terms and Agreements: Advertiser and agencies are liable for all content and are responsible, without limitation, for any and all claims made thereof against the ICBA, its board members or contracted service providers. Publisher reserves the right to publish materials from a previous advertisement if new materials are not received by the published deadline. The word advertisement will appear on any ad that resembles editorial content. All advertisements remain property of the ICBA. BRIEFS committee chairs and editor reserves the right to revise, reject or omit any advertisement at any time without notice.

Entire Agreement: This contract constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties relating to the subject matter of the contract. The terms of this contract and publication schedule set forth above may be changed.

Advertising payments must be submitted with contract for the selected term.

Full payment is required in advance.

- ☐ Use copy enclosed ☐ Copy mailed separately ☐ Check enclosed

BRIEFS Advertising Rates & Policies

Advertising Rates

Rate Per Issue	Ad Size
\$100.00	Quarter Page
\$200.00	Half Page Horizontal
\$200.00	Half Page Vertical
\$375.00	Full Page
\$25.00	Link

Issue	Publication Schedule*	Submit Copy
Sep	Sept. 1 - 30	Aug 15
Nov	Nov 1 - 30	Oct 15
Jan	Jan 1 - 31	Dec 15
Feb	Feb 1- 28 or 29	Jan 15
April	April 1 – 30	Mar 15
June	June 1- 30	May 15

Note: Previous issues of BRIEFS are always [accessible online](#).

Classified ads will be published for **FREE** for ICBA members in good standing. Non-ICBA members will be charged the “Law Firm/Business Link” advertising rate. A classified ad includes an advertisement of office space for rent/lease/sale, an employment opportunity, and/or a request for employment.

Multiple-Issue Rates – Full payment is required in advance

¼ page ad	.....\$100/1 issue	\$300/4 issues	\$480/6 issues
½ page ad	.....\$200/1 issue	\$680/4 issues	\$900/6 issues
Full page ad	.....\$375/1 issue	\$1100/4 issues	\$1600/6 issues
Law firm/Business links	.....\$25/1 issue	\$75/4 issues	\$110/6 issues

Distribution

BRIEFS is distributed electronically (not in print format) to ICBA members, Michigan Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges and local judges. The September issue of BRIEFS is sent to prospective ICBA members. ICBA members can always access archived issues of BRIEFS, and also receive bi-weekly member updates from the ICBA president.

Mechanical Requirements

Graphics should be in .jpg (JPEG) or .gif (GIF) format. Graphics must be provided as a separate file, and not just included in the document. Special fonts needed for advertising should be provided. Please use a minimum 12-point text size. Color does not cost extra because BRIEFS is only produced and distributed electronically.

Contact Traci Gentilozzi, editor, at briefs@inghambar.org with ad placement questions.

Advertising payments must be submitted with contract for the selected term.

Full payment is required in advance.

Cancellations: Cancellations of any part of a contract voids all rate and position agreements. No changes or cancellations 1 (one) week after published deadline.

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THANKS FOR READING BRIEFS



FEEDBACK?

briefs@inghambar.org

