



Ingham County Bar Association

March
2020

BRIEFS

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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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Charles Lawler, Alex Rusek

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Steve Sinas, Emily Jefferson

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Emily Jefferson, Jim Dalton

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Madelyne Lawry
517-627-3938

Finding A Cure for Judicial Criticism

By Charles Barbieri

2020 has turned into a year of unexpected turmoil as I write this issue of the President's Message. The Coronavirus Pandemic, coupled with a significant downturn in the equity markets, has shaken public confidence, causing both uncertainty and fear. Hope springs eternal, however, that this virus will be met with measured doses of calm composure, containment and eventually a cure in the form of vaccine or other medical breakthrough. A recovery in public health is apt to restore the economy's zapped strength.

As challenging as the health and economic woes now are, I am concerned about the health of our political and legal institutions. In the past few weeks, we have seen the unsettling impeachment of the President and his later acquittal.

If that were not enough, public animosity has spilled over to the judicial system. In the past few days, the Senate Minority Leader has threatened certain Supreme Court Justices, which drew a rebuke from the Chief Justice; another Supreme Court Justice has accused several other Justices of showing unjustified fairness toward the President's legal position on rights to visas; the President in turn has asked two Justices to recuse themselves from deciding matters involving his office due to alleged prejudice, and a Federal District Court Judge has publicly rebuked several sitting Justices.

These unsettling and possibly unseemly exchanges have done little to bolster public confidence in the judiciary. Unlike "difficult to control" viruses, most of the judicial ill will and contentiousness would

be avoidable if civility and professionalism were observed. Most of the current political and judicial pain seems self-inflicted and unnecessary. Mutual respect by politicians, lawyers and jurists should be the rule and not the exception.

In clear contrast, members of Ingham County's legal community deserve credit and admiration for encouraging healthy dialogue between lawyers and jurists and also among jurists at the various levels. The recent ICBA Meet the Judges event held in January and the ICBA Bench Bar Conference held in February demonstrated the civility and professionalism that are a trademark of our Bar. These events have provided an opportunity for lawyers and jurists to exchange views, to offer needed education and to build positive relationships.

While these local Bar events do not necessarily insure that disputes will not arise as our system is clearly an adversarial one, they certainly reduce the palpable hostility and ill will that has spread like a virus in our federal courts and apparently our Supreme Court. Our adversarial system does not have to lose the vital core of civility and professionalism.

Perhaps the best medicine for a national epidemic of judicial distrust is the old fashion remedies of good will and mutual respect. Hats off to our local bar for avoiding the epidemic!



*Charles (Chuck)
Barbieri,
ICBA President*



On the Docket

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

Date	Event	Location
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.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Lawyer Directory" with a subtitle "Member Search". The form contains four input fields: "Name:", "Practice Area:", "City", and "Zip Code:". To the right of the "Zip Code:" field is a small "0" in a box followed by "mile(s)". At the bottom left of the form, it says "667 Attorney(s) displayed." and at the bottom right, it says "Page 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ... 30 31 32".



DAVIS-DUNNINGS BAR ASSOCIATION

The History of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association

The Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (DDBA) was founded in 1981 as the Lansing Black Lawyers Association. Led by the Honorable Clinton Canady III and the Honorable Hugh B. Clarke, Jr., along with several other African American attorneys in the Lansing area, the Association developed its first bylaws. The DDBA was formally incorporated in 1983.

Recognized as a Special Purpose Bar Association by the State Bar of Michigan,

the DDBA was formed to support African American attorneys in mid-Michigan by providing them networking and professional development opportunities. When the DDBA was formed, it was the only local bar association outside of Detroit addressing the needs of African American attorneys.

The DDBA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that strives to provide an array of programs and services that

meet the needs of its members and non-member minority law students and attorneys, as well as the underrepresented and underserved members of the greater Lansing community. It is also dedicated to representing and serving the local community while upholding the honor and integrity of the legal profession.

Getting to Know Ingham County Probate Judge Shauna Dunnings

By Chanelle Williams and L. Alisyn Crawford

"Knowledge was sought and gained when a driven, second-year student from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School and DDBA student member, Chanelle Williams spent a recent Saturday morning getting acquainted with Judge Shauna Dunnings. With nearly thirty years of legal experience, Judge Dunnings has always been willing to provide advice and guidance to those who seek it. As the first African American woman to serve as a Probate Judge in Ingham County, Judge Dunnings' journey to the bench certainly motivates those who are new and seasoned in the legal community to work hard towards their goals and not allow barriers to deter them from their personally designed journeys. The DDBA thanks Judge Dunnings for her continued support for this organization and Greater Lansing community."

-L. Alisyn Crawford, Esq., MPH

Chanelle Williams: When did you aspire to become a judge?

Judge Dunnings: This developed over time. I initially thought I was going to be a litigator. Early on, I had the opportunity to clerk for Judge Quist, a Federal District Court Judge. He would frequently encourage me to be a judge. During my years in private practice, lawyers also planted seeds for me to consider. In 2003, I became the Attorney Referee in Eaton County, and serving in that quasi-judicial capacity helped me make that decision as well.

Chanelle Williams: What types of cases do you preside over?

Judge Dunnings: I preside over the family division docket. So, everything relating to domestic matters, paternity, parenting rights, juvenile cases, child neglect and abuse matters. I'm also a probate court judge. So, I also handle estates, trusts,

mental health and other miscellaneous matters, overall, a pretty broad cross-section involving family and probate.

Chanelle Williams: What do you find to be the most fulfilling and rewarding aspect of being a judge?

Judge Dunnings: When I can help resolve conflicts with families and help the youth that appear before me find a purpose. Also, when I can protect vulnerable people that need the protection of the court, it's very purposeful to me. I would have to say the best cases are adoption cases.

Chanelle Williams: Besides presiding over a courtroom, what other jobs or responsibilities does a judge have?

Judge Dunnings: There are some operational distinctions between presiding in the courtroom and managing a docket. I'm always working with my judicial assistant to try to manage the docket so that

we prioritize them correctly. Judge Richard Garcia is the Chief Probate Judge and I'm the Chief Probate Judge Pro Tem (or Vice President) so when he is gone, I fill in for him. I also serve as a liaison with the Friend of the Court and consult and give advice to the court managers.

Chanelle Williams: What advice do you have for law students aiming to leave their mark in the legal industry? Any advice for those aiming to become a judge someday?

Judge Dunnings: Always be prepared for whatever you are doing and follow the law. You can argue your position, but it has to be supported by the law. The law is there to provide us with a guide on how to resolve whatever the matter is. Some lawyers get so passionate about what their position is and forget about the law. It's okay to be passionate but know your legal basis for what you are trying to argue. For those aiming to become a judge, the best

training is to be a litigator although it is not necessary, as evidenced by Judge Ward, she is a fabulous judge. But people who are litigators better position themselves to be able to be a judge. Whatever you want to do, just do it well and give it your absolute best. Judge Ward had a job in academia, she was respected for being a hard worker and she gave it her all. She is very intelligent. Even if you don't have litigation experience, but decide to be a judge, you just have to determine and work on the skills you need to do that. I was a court referee in Eaton County and helped with different issues. That was one of the ways I started developing the skills necessary to become a judge.

Chanelle Williams: *In terms of your transition, what do you think is the major difference between being an attorney versus being a judge?*

Judge Dunnings: When you're an attorney, you're retained to pick a side, one person and one person's interest, and you have to represent your client zealously. As a judge, you have to synthesize information for both sides and make a decision to solve the issue.

Chanelle Williams: *What is the greatest lesson you learned as an attorney that you took with you to the bench?*

Judge Dunnings: The importance of preparation. So, as a judge, I do that as well. People may look and see I have nothing on the docket. It's because I blocked time to review files to prepare for the next hearing. Knowing your client, your files, and your argument, good lawyers do that, they are analytical. Judges have to do the same.

Chanelle Williams: *The theme for the DDBA's annual banquet is "Level Up" with a focus on diversity and inclusion efforts in the legal field. Do you have any advice on how to increase diversity and inclusion in the legal field, specifically on the bench?*

Judge Dunnings: Yes, fortunately for Ingham County, and because voters have supported us, Cynthia and I have the opportunity to provide diversity. It

is important for those to have a voice to support and help others develop skill sets they need to be in the same position. A lot of the time, people are focused on getting themselves ahead. We need to do more work together, collectively, to support people and get their voices heard without diluting them because everyone is focused on their own efforts and goals.

Chanelle Williams: *Do you have any last remarks for those pursuing a legal career?*

Judge Dunnings: Yes, self-care! You need a nice balance because this is a demanding profession. It's tough to find a balance, but it is critical for longevity. It really depends on what position you want to take in your career, but I encourage everyone to continue to monitor self-care. If there is something you want to do, figure out how to do it, but do it in a way that is convenient for you!



Chanelle Williams (DDBA Student Member) (Top)
and L. Alisyn Crawford (DDBA Executive Board Member) (Bottom)



Meet the 2019-2020 Davis-Dunnings Bar Association Executive Board



Mary A. Bowen
President

Mary Bowen is from Flint, Michigan. She received her Juris Doctor and Health Law Concentration from Michigan State University College of Law in May 2008. She is a 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan-Flint; where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and double minors in Technical Writing and Women and Gender Studies.

Currently, Mary is an Assistant City Attorney with the City of Lansing. Prior to her position with the City of Lansing, she worked as a criminal defense attorney and civil mediator for the Law Office of M. Alexis Bowen, PLC. She is admitted to practice before the United States District Court - Western District Court of Michigan and the United States Supreme Court. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan Criminal Law Section and Alternative Dispute Resolution Section.

Mary is the President of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (DDBA), an Associate Editor for the Ingham County Bar Association's BRIEFS publication and serves on the Ingham County Bar Association (ICBA) Board of Directors and ICBA-YLS Board of Directors. She also volunteers with the Capital Area United Way and other local organizations. Her current hobbies are cooking, reading, blogging, freelance writing, and traveling.



Takura Nyamfukudza
Immediate Past President

Takura Nyamfukudza is a founding partner at the criminal defense litigation firm of Chartier & Nyamfukudza, P.L.C. He practices at the trial and appellate level in both state and federal courts throughout Michigan. Nyamfukudza proudly served in the United States Army for twelve years before he answered the call to defend the rights of the accused in Michigan's courts. He also serves as a Director of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michi-

gan and Immediate Past-President of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association.



Robert Easterly
Vice President

Robert A. Easterly is a litigation and business attorney at Foster Swift Collins & Smith, P.C. His litigation practice is primarily focused in criminal defense. He has represented clients in a wide variety of matters, from minor misdemeanors to significant felonies. Robert's business practice focuses on helping startups and small businesses with formation and contract matters.

Robert is originally from Toledo, Ohio but grew up in southern California and Seattle, Washington before moving to Michigan. He is a graduate of Washington State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and received his Juris Doctor from Michigan State University College of Law. A dedicated member of his community,



Robert is an active volunteer in several community organizations. He also currently serves as the vice president of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association.

Robert is happily married to Dr. Talitha Parish Easterly. Together they have two sons, Erza (12) and Immanuel (11).



Dan Doyle
Treasurer

Dan Doyle serves as the 2019-2020 Treasurer of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association. Dan is a civil and criminal defense trial lawyer. He has been practicing law for over 10 years. He is licensed in both the Eastern District and Western District of Michigan Federal Courts. He is originally from Detroit, Michigan. In college, he received a Bachelors in Business Administration from Ferris State University and received his Juris Doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He is also a Michigan qualified mediator.



Ernschie Augustin
Secretary

Ernschie Augustin is a graduate of Michigan State University College of Law and is originally from Florida. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science Pre-Law and her Master's Degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Michigan State University.

Ms. Augustin is an attorney at Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices, PLLC, an elder law firm with eight offices across the state of Michigan. Ms. Augustin specializes in probate litigation at the East Lansing office. Ms. Augustin serves as the secretary for the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section (ICBA-YLS) and serves on the Michigan Center for Civic Education Board of Directors. She is a member of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Ingham County Probate and Trust Section, Greater Lansing Estate Planning Council (GLEPC), Michigan State University Inn of Court. Ms. Augustin enjoys volunteering in the community, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.



L. Alisyn Crawford
Communications Officer

L. Alisyn Crawford is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law in Boston and is originally from Detroit. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Psychology from University of Massachusetts and her Master's in Public Health from Tufts University School of Medicine.

Mrs. Crawford is policy specialist at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Mrs. Crawford writes and enforces policies related to Medicaid long term care eligibility. She is a strong advocate for education, physical and mental health access and equity, and enjoys encouraging others through mentorship and volunteerism. Mrs. Crawford enjoys listening to music, going to museums, and spending time with her husband and two daughters, ages 12 and 4.

Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (DDBA)

23rd Annual Otis M. Smith Scholarship and Awards Banquet

By L. Alisyn Crawford

The Davis-Dunnings Bar Association's Otis M. Smith Awards & Scholarship Banquet is a celebration of diversity in the law and community service. The DDBA is a special interest bar association whose mission includes various forms of outreach to the underserved and underrepresented members of the greater Lansing community. Join the DDBA on Thursday, April 23, 2020, at Eagle Eye Country Club in Bath, Michigan, for a celebration of the award and scholarship recipients and hear from keynote speaker Diversity and Inclusion Attorney, Felicia M. Thomas.

This year's banquet theme is Level Up, with a goal to build a culture of diversity and inclusion across the legal profession. With this year's theme, the DDBA is delighted to have attorney Felicia M. Thomas as this year's keynote speaker. Thomas earned her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, where she interned and taught at the Maya Angelou Public Charter School in Washington, D.C., Think Detroit Inc., and the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Thomas was involved in the clinical law program at the University of Michigan Law School and participated in the Family Law Project, Civil Clinic and Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic. In



her final year of law school, Thomas was a graduate student instructor in the Sociology Department at the University of Michigan. Thomas served as assistant dean of student affairs and director of diversity initiatives at Wayne State University Law School. Prior to Wayne State University Law School, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Daphne Means Curtis '71, in the Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court, Civil Division.

The banquet provides an opportunity for the DDBA, its members and supporters to recognize our praiseworthy awardees and scholarship recipients. However, most

importantly, it supports a great cause because proceeds from the banquet help fund the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association's programs and scholarships. The DDBA strives to provide its members with resources, professional development opportunities and support needed to encourage personal and professional success. Membership is open to law students, law school graduates and individuals admitted to the State Bar of Michigan who embrace and are committed to promoting the special interests of minority law students and under-served members of the Greater Lansing Area.

For information on sponsorship and ad opportunities, contact executiveboard@davisdunningslaw.com



L. Alisyn Crawford (DDBA Executive Board Member)

The ICBA is dedicating the **May 2020** issue of BRIEFS to members that are 70 plus years of age or in retirement.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE OUR MEMBERS ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING!

This issue is our way of highlighting members who are experienced practitioners and have supported the ICBA.

Some ideas to consider:

- What advice if any do you have for others in the practice?
- What did you like about the practice of law?
- What are you doing now?
- What does retirement look like for you?
- Name
- Where they last practiced or are continuing to practice
- Area of Law practiced or are continuing to practice
- What are you doing now? Or answer one of the questions above.
- Current email



It doesn't matter if its law related, we just want to know what you're up to. Your participation would mean a lot to the members of the ICBA.

CONTENT DEADLINE - APRIL 15, 2020

Please send your submissions kthomison@nicholslaw.net and please CC Michael J. Nichols at mnichols@nicholslaw.net



**ICBF 16TH ANNUAL
MEMORIAL
GOLF
OUTING**

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020
HAWK HOLLOW, 15101 CHANDLER ROAD,
BATH TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN 48808
9:00 A.M – 4:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION CAN BE REACHED [HERE](#)

A Conversation with the Newest 54-A District Court Judge- the Honorable Kristen D. Simmons

By Mary A. Bowen

The Honorable Kristen D. Simmons was appointed to the 54-A District Court in September 2019. She is the newest judge on the bench. Judge Simmons is a past president of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (DDBA). The DDBA would like to thank Judge Simmons for the in-depth interview.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Boston, Massachusetts.

Where did you go to college?

I graduated from Hampton University in 2003.

What was your major in college?

I majored in Political Science.

Where did you attend law school?

I graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in January 2012 with an Environmental Law Concentration.

Is law a first career or a second career for you?

I worked in development and fundraising for Boston College for a few years following undergrad. Then I was a paralegal manager for a large law firm prior to attending law school.

Why did you become a lawyer?

I wanted to become a lawyer because I enjoyed helping people. As a lawyer, I had the ability to help people on a larger scale. I could be an advocate and mouthpiece for vulnerable people. I was passionate about helping people at a young age.

What was one of your greatest accomplishments as an attorney?

I pride myself as being a career long public servant. I've served as legal counsel to the police and to the Michigan Department of

Corrections. I've traveled across the entire state litigating cases and defending the State of Michigan. Public service requires great sacrifice. Serving the public is my greatest accomplishment.

Describe your legal career prior to becoming a judge.

After law school, I opened my own law firm, Gary Law Advisors, where I practiced criminal law, contract law, family law, and administrative law. Notably, I won my first trial as a sole practitioner. Simultaneously, I worked for Strategic Legal Solutions as a Discovery Attorney. Later, I served as an adjunct professor for Lansing Community College, where I taught legal writing, business law, and paralegal studies. From there, I began my tenure with the Lansing City Attorney's Office. As an Assistant City Attorney, I prosecuted ordinance violations, reviewed City contracts, served as the legal advisor to the Lansing Police Department and as the FOIA Coordinator. I gained trial experience because of this position.

Soon thereafter, I transitioned to the Michigan Department of Attorney General, to work as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Litigation, Elections, and Public Employment Division. My responsibilities included taking cases to trial, drafting pleadings and discovery responses, and appearing in state and federal courts.



Prior to becoming judge, I was a Litigation Manager for the Michigan Department of Corrections Office of Legal Affairs. The Department of Corrections has over 40,000 prisoners and 13,000 employees. The Office of Legal Affairs was responsible for handling employee related matters and prisoner grievances. As litigation manager, I would manage litigation and act as a liaison between the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Corrections. I would appear for settlement negotiations and authorize settlement agreements. I supervised a team of litigation specialists and reviewed discovery responses.

“ Each of these roles prepared me for where I am now. All of these roles taught me the importance of decorum, how to treat people fairly, how to show compassion to individuals, and how to access and utilize the court rules. ”

Which legal experience prepared you for the bench?

All of my experiences have prepared me for the bench. When I was a paralegal, I handled landlord tenant and real property matters, which gave me a better understanding of the issues that pertain to housing. I apply these principals when handling my landlord-tenant dockets. Because of my previous experiences, I saw advocacy from all angles, from the prosecution of cases, to administrative law proceedings, to civil cases in district court. As an Assistant Attorney General, I learned how the courts dealt with pro se litigants. Overall, these experiences helped me understand the demands on my time and conditioned me to be efficient, effective, and thorough. Each of these roles prepared me for where I am now. All of these roles taught me the importance of decorum, how to treat people fairly, how to show compassion to individuals, and how to access and utilize the court rules.

Did you have aspirations of becoming a judge?

My ultimate goal was to ascend to the bench. The closest memory I had of knowing a judge was when I first heard about Justice Thurgood Marshall when I was younger. I was in awe of how knowledgeable judges were and how judges were respected and held in high esteem. It is an honor to serve as a judge.

How did your judicial appointment make history?

For the first time in history, the 54-A District Court has an all women bench. Additionally, for the first time ever, Ingham County has four black women of color serving on the bench. I am currently the youngest judge in the county.



What is one of the most challenging aspects of being a judge?

I have been told that this role seems to flow naturally for me. I love every aspect of this role so far and I wouldn't characterize any of my experience so far as being challenging.

Do you preside over a specialty court? If not, do you have an interest in starting a specialty court?

Right now, I don't preside over a specialty court. However, I have an interest in a mental health court.

What advice would you give to new attorneys entering the practice of law?

Work hard, regardless of how big or small the assignment. Demonstrate integrity even when you think no one is watching.

What advice do you have for practitioners that appear before you?

Be on time and be prepared. And be courteous.

What bar associations are you apart of? Please include affinity bar memberships.

I am a member of the following organizations: Davis-Dunnings Bar Association, Ingham County Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Michigan, National Bar Association, Wolverine Bar Association, Association of Black Judges, and the Association of District Court Judges.

What community organizations are you apart of?

I am part of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and The Links Inc.

What awards have you received during your legal career?

I have received the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association Rising Star Award and the Ingham County Bar Association's Top 5 Under 35 Award.

Who do you look up to and why?

My mother. She dedicated her life to raising her children. She was my example of hard work, sacrifice, and good character.

What is the best advice you've ever received?

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.

Do you have a favorite motto or slogan?

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth" -Muhammad Ali

Do you have any hobbies?

Traveling and working out.

Name one interesting fact about you.

I am passionate about music and mentoring youth- I get to fulfill both through my current role as the director of the youth choir at the Tabernacle of David Worship Center.



Mary A. Bowen, President

Ingham County Circuit Court

Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Wanda Stokes

By Ernsie Augustin

Judge Wanda Stokes was appointed to the Ingham County Circuit Court in December 2018. Ernsie Augustin sat down with Judge Stokes for a brief interview.



What types of cases do you

preside over at the 30th Circuit Court?

All civil cases and appeals from district court and administrative agencies.

Do you preside over any specialty courts?

Not at this time; however, I am exploring opportunities to preside over a specialty court and my staff and I have been trained. We regularly attend conferences involving these treatment courts. Specialty courts are a part of our judicial process and important for the community.

What do you find to be the most fulfilling and rewarding aspect of being a judge?

There are so many rewarding aspects of being a judge, it's difficult to name just one. Not only do I have the opportunity to resolve disputes, I enjoy the interaction with the community. One of my recent memorable experiences is when I received a letter from a citizen who had appeared for jury duty. She wrote about how proud she was

to see someone that looks like me sitting on the bench. This struck me as a judge because it was unexpected. This experience crystalized the true impact I had on others in the community just by sitting on the bench. There are high expectations when you are a judge and I work every day to live up to those expectations as I serve the community.

What advice do you have for young attorneys that are aiming to leave their mark in the legal profession like you have done?

Try to value and trust the process. Invest your time in being the best you can be and know that your talents will make room for you. Always be true to who you are. It is important that you embrace the journey.

What advice do you have for attorneys appearing before your court?

Be prepared, oral argument matters, and bring a proposed order. With respect to advocacy, I would add that integrity matters. My father taught me from a child that "integrity and your word will take you further than your money." You never know who is watching. Be true to your convictions and always strive to do the right thing. As an advocate for others, it's important to remember to stay focused and committed to your assignments. Give everything 100% effort.

Being an attorney/judge is considered one of the most stressful professions. Do you have any advice for attorneys in terms of time and stress management?

My advice is to manage your docket and caseload so that it won't manage you. Work with your support staff to manage your time. Also, it is important that you make time for yourself and

what centers you. Spend time with your support group (faith, family and friends). Doing this will help you to stay grounded in this profession. While you manage your career priorities, you must try to find balance. Stay centered and stay connected with family and friends.

What is the greatest lesson you learned as an attorney/Judge that you take with you on the bench?

One of the greatest lessons I have learned, and continue to live by, is to be true to my convictions, try to do the right thing, and follow the law. Always be consistent in doing the right thing.

What organizations are you a part of?

Currently I am a member of the State Bar of Michigan and Michigan Judges Association. I am also an active member of the Ingham County Bar Association, the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association, the Michigan Women's Lawyers Association, MSU Inn of Court, and the American Bar Association.

Can you share an interesting or funny fact about yourself?

I love music and I love to sing. I read music and played the clarinet in high school.



Ernsie Augustin
Secretary

55th District Court Judge Donald L. Allen

By Robert Easterly



The Honorable Donald L. Allen, Jr., was appointed judge of the 55th District Court by Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2008. He was elected to the bench in 2010 and re-elected in 2016. Judge Allen is the first African American judge to

serve in the 55th District Court. He is also proud to be the first judge from Delhi Township.

Judge Allen is the presiding judge of Sobriety Court. Sobriety Court involves intensive supervision of repeat offense substance abusers who have committed to making a lifestyle change. Sobriety Court has changed hundreds of lives, saved tax dollars, and has been recognized for its degree of success compared to similar programs both in the State of Michigan and nationally. Judge Allen believes in effecting change in his community, volunteering on many boards and committees. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and recently served as the keynote speaker for the Epsilon Tau Sigma Chapter's annual Youth Workshop. Judge Allen is also particularly

proud to serve as a board member for the Michigan Chapter of Communities in Schools, a non-profit, dedicated to helping students succeed academically and graduate high school.



Robert Easterly
Vice President

Ingham County Court Judge Clinton Canady III

By Dan Doyle



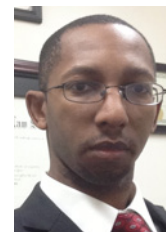
The Honorable Clinton Canady III is one of the Ingham County Circuit Court Judges. He was elected November 2, 2010. He is also one of the founders of the Lansing Black Lawyers Association, now the Davis-Dunnings Bar

Association. He presides over the Swift and Sure Sanctions Program in Ingham County. The SSSP was designed after the Hawaii Hope Program. The goal is to give its participants the last opportunity to avoid going to prison. Therefore, it is an

intensive and zero tolerance probation program. If someone was to violate, they are brought before the Court swiftly usually within 3-5 days.

The main difference from SSSP and normal probation is the money. The SSSP pays for the programs for its participants. It pays for substance abuse and domestic violence treatments. The SSSP has relationships with organizations such as PATS, K Pep, House of Commons and a list of many more. It has a dedicated probation agent, a dedicated defense attorney as well as a dedicated apprehension team if necessary. The SSSP generally has 50 probationers at a time and has had numerous individuals graduate from the program. The program works, as Judge Canady has countless photographs of graduates on the

wall of his office. As Judge Canady states “we have discovered the key to success is employment.” If someone is employed and can maintain their lifestyle they are less likely to re-offend.



Dan Doyle
Treasurer

54-A District Court Judge Cynthia M. Ward

By Mary A. Bowen



The Honorable Cynthia M. Ward was elected to the 54-A District Court in November 2018. The DDBA would like to thank Judge Ward for the brief interview and discussion of her new specialty court, the Domestic Violence Court.

hearings. Offenders will attend review hearings as a group and remain in the courtroom as each offender interacts with the judge. No other types of cases will be heard during this dedicated time.

The guiding principles for the Domestic Violence Court are:

1. Enhancing victim/survivor safety
2. Ensuring trauma-informed practice through court policies and procedures
3. Holding offenders accountable
4. Valuing procedural fairness and constitutional protections

What is your favorite part about being a judge?

I have the opportunity to make incremental change, make a difference, and have an impact. The legal system is larger than Judge Ward. I love being able to do something that is meaningful to the litigant in front of me. I like the intellectually stimulating and varying levels of complexity of the law. I appreciate the opportunities to research legal issues, especially the legal questions brought before me. I also enjoy reading case law that affects my work.

What legal organizations are you a member of?

I am a member of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Association of Black Judges of Michigan, and the Michigan District Court Judges Association.

What jurisdictions are you licensed in?

I am licensed in Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Do you preside over a specialty court?

I preside over the 54-A Domestic Violence Court. All charged Domestic Assault 2nd and Aggravated Domestic Assault intimate partner offenses (1-year misdemeanors) are directly assigned to me. The purpose of the direct assignment is to provide oversight and treatment to promote victim safety, accountability and offender rehabilitation under the same court's jurisdiction. The Domestic Violence Court includes a dedicated pretrial docket where only domestic violence cases are scheduled and addressed during a specified time. There will also be a dedicated docket for post-conviction review

What community organizations are you a part of?

I am involved with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) -Lansing Branch.

What is one interesting fact about you?

I ran three marathons in one year.



Mary A. Bowen, President

Did You Know?



Judge Peter D. Houk Inducted Into Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals

Fraser Trebilcock is honored to announce that The Honorable Peter D. Houk (Ret.) has been inducted into the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals for 2020. "I am extremely honored to have been inducted into this organization and look forward to continuing my passion of practicing law," says Mr. Houk.



Mr. Houk has practiced law for 50 years, he was the City Attorney for Lansing, the Prosecuting Attorney for Ingham County, and Assistant Attorney General for the state of Michigan before being appointed to the bench in 1986. Since retiring from the bench, Mr. Houk has mediated hundreds of cases.

He has accrued many honorable recognitions throughout his career, including being named twice by Lawyers Weekly as one of Michigan's most respected judges, being listed in Super Lawyers continuously since 2006, as well as Best Lawyers in America® for Alternative Dispute Resolution. Mr. Houk was an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at Thomas M. Cooley Law School for twenty years. He has been elected as a Fellow of the State Bar of Michigan, is on the American Arbitration Association list of approved mediators and arbitrators for construction and commercial matters and, is a Western District of Michigan Court Approved Mediator.

The National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals ("NADN") is an invitation-only professional association whose membership consists of mediators & arbitrators distinguished by their hands-on experience in the field of civil & commercial dispute resolution. With over 1000 members throughout the United States as of 2019, the NADN is the most extensive public roster of experienced ADR attorneys available online.

Fraser Trebilcock Welcomes Attorney Jean E. Kordenbrock to the Firm's Lansing Office

Fraser Trebilcock is happy to announce that attorney Jean E. Kordenbrock has joined the firm and will work primarily in the firm's Lansing office.



Jean has a proven track record of supporting her clients' business initiatives, positioning clients and colleagues for success. In addition to her work in private practice, she has served as the catalyst for numerous nonprofit organizations and issue advocacy campaigns.

Jean's practice focuses on governmental affairs, nonprofits and campaign finance. She has previously consulted with federal and state government officials on matters such as compliant ballot question initiatives, successful millage campaigns, and a public grassroots advocacy campaign in Michigan. Jean has provided legal counsel to the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and was appointed by former Michigan Governor John Engler to serve as Executive Director of the Michigan

Women's Commission, Department of Civil Rights where she was responsible for all Commission activities and program initiatives.

"Jean's proven track record of success makes this a great addition to our firm, and we are excited to have her on board," said Michael H. Perry, President of Fraser Trebilcock.

Foster Swift Elects Anne Seurnyck as President of the Firm

Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC announces the election of Anne M. Seurnyck as President.



In this role, Seurnyck will chair the firm's Executive Committee, which leads the 100 attorney firm.

Seurnyck becomes the first woman elected as President in Foster Swift's 118-year history. She is also among the first female executives ever elected to lead one of Michigan's largest law firms.

Seurnyck has been tapped for many leadership roles throughout her tenure at the firm. She has served as Vice President of Foster Swift's West Michigan office, Practice Group Leader for the Municipal Law Group, Chair of the firm's Recruiting Committee, and a member of the firm's Diversity Committee. She has also been actively involved in developing and implementing firmwide policies.

Seurnyck has spent her entire career at Foster Swift. She found a unique niche early on, becoming, at the time, one of a few lawyers in Michigan to practice [library law](#). Seurnyck also represents [municipalities](#)

and public entities, with expertise on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Seurnyck pursued a non-traditional path to the presidency at Foster Swift. While earning numerous leadership roles, she was also one of the first lawyers to navigate the firm's flex program, which supports attorneys who work an approved alternative schedule. Seurnyck, a parent of three, says this opportunity allowed her to build a strong and successful legal practice while being an involved parent.

"We want to make sure that practicing law fits with life," said Seurnyck. "I am appreciative of the firm for seeing that we don't have to fit the traditional mold, that there should still be an opportunity for advancement in leadership roles while on an alternative schedule."

Seurnyck has proven it's possible to build a successful law practice, be involved in daily firm management, mentor young attorneys and have a meaningful personal life while working a flexible schedule. In her role as President, she now wants to make sure that others know they can utilize this program without risking their careers. "We see the value in what individual attorneys bring to the firm," she said.

As President, Seurnyck will not only continue to serve her clients, she will continue to serve Foster Swift by offering the same support she has been given by the firm over the course of her career. She is particularly focused on continuing to grow the firm's associate attorneys into future leaders.

"We have a lot invested in making sure this is a great place to work and for clients to do business," she said. "We will continue to implement new ideas and new technologies to meet the needs of our clients and our employees."

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., April 15th for the May issue).



Warner Calls for Diversity Scholarship Submissions

As part of its ongoing commitment to promote diversity within the legal profession, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP is now accepting scholarship applications for two programs: The Law School Admissions Test Preparation Course Scholarship Program and the Diversity Law Scholarship Program.

Now in its 13th year, the LSAT Preparation Course Scholarship Program provides scholarships of up to \$1,500 each to enable racially and/or ethnically diverse college students to participate in a study course to prepare them to take the LSAT. Studies have shown that students who take a formal LSAT prep course score higher on the test, which determines entrance into law school. Applications are due May 1.

To be eligible for an LSAT prep course scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a Michigan resident or currently attend a Michigan college or university
- Be a junior or senior during the 2019-2020 academic year
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Have a demonstrated financial need
- Take the LSAT prep course by Dec. 31, 2020

Scholarships will cover the cost of tuition for an LSAT Preparation Course, consisting of self-paced, live online and in-person classes offered by Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions.

The Diversity Law Scholarship Program, which was previously named the Minority Law Scholarship Program, provides students with financial assistance to offset the educational costs of earning a law or paralegal degree. The firm awards \$5,000 to a law school student, \$2,000 to a paralegal student and \$1,000 to a legal secretarial student. Applications are due March 1, and winners will be selected by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

To be eligible for the Diversity Law scholarship, applicants must be accepted to or attending a Michigan law school, be a Michigan resident attending an accredited law school in the United States or be a Michigan resident majoring in paralegal or legal secretarial studies in an accredited program.

For more information on either of these scholarships or to apply, visit <http://www.wnj.com/About-Us/Diversity/Scholarships-and-Applications>.

ABOUT WARNER

By providing discerning and proactive legal advice, Warner Norcross + Judd builds a better partnership with its clients. Warner is a corporate law firm with 230 attorneys practicing in eight offices throughout Michigan: Grand Rapids, Southfield, Midland, Macomb County, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Lansing and Holland. To learn more, visit www.wnj.com, follow us on Twitter [@WNJLLP](https://twitter.com/WNJLLP) or connect on [LinkedIn](#).



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.

YLS Post-Holiday Mixer

The Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section was excited to host its annual post-holiday mixer at Arcadia in Lansing on January 30, 2020. At the event, members enjoyed an array of appetizers while they networked with other young lawyers for a low-key, casual break following the business of the holidays. Interested in learning about future social events or have ideas for future events you would like to share? Email our listserv at icba-yls@googlegroups.com.



ICBA-YLS Young Lawyer Spotlight: Kathleen Miller

Kathleen has spent her professional career advocating for the needs of survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. She values multidisciplinary teams that partner together to make survivors' needs a priority, hold offenders accountable, and increase justice and safety for the community.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I am the Advocacy Supervisor at Michigan State University Center for Survivors. At the Center for Survivors, we believe in the strength and resiliency of all people impacted by sexual violence. We stand with survivors against all forms of social injustice by promoting individual healing and building an empowered, inclusive community. As Advocacy Supervisor, our team provides legal, academic, personal and institutional advocacy to help individuals impacted by sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation. All our services are free and confidential. <https://centerforsurvivors.msu.edu/>

Where did you go to school?

I received both my undergraduate and law degree from Michigan State University.

When were you admitted to practice in Michigan?

December 2014

Why did you go into the legal field?

To help provide a voice, advocacy and support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

What advice do you have for those considering law school?

After receiving my undergraduate degree in 2007, I worked in the social services field for four years before starting law school. I found this work experience very valuable to my law school education and would recommend it to any undergraduate considering going to law school.

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

While I was studying for the bar exam (and hating my life), I had a recurring dream of becoming a baker and smelling freshly baked bread all day.

Where did you grow up?

West Bloomfield, Michigan

Who is your biggest role model and why?

My Grandfather (Herman Albert Miller). He taught me the true meaning of hard work, integrity, and how to live each day joyfully with a song, a joke, and a smile. I miss him every day.

What do you do in your free time?

I love euchre, dogs, taking spontaneous road trips, reality TV, McDonald's fountain diet coke and any activity that involves a camping chair.



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

I have a 120 lbs. Akita named Chloe and an American Bulldog/Pitty mix named Salt. Chloe loves spending the entire day outside even in the winter. Salt spends her winter inside under blankets. Both love to be in the water and chasing squirrels.



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, Jennipher Martinez and Erica Terranova.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 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.

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:

- 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.



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:

- 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:

- TBA

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.



Bankruptcy Judge Scott Dales' Analysis of Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019

By Patricia J. Scott

At the Ingham County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section's January Meeting, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Scott Dales from the Western District of Michigan provided an in-depth analysis of the "Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019" ("Small Business Chapter 11").

Judge Dales informed that the Small Business Chapter 11 takes effect on February 19, 2020, after going through a three-year process of enactment. The new "subchapter" has similar features to Chapters 12 and 13, but it also still tracks a typical Chapter 11 in many ways, while serving as a cost effective means for reorganization.

The major highlighted components of the Small Business Chapter 11 include: the debtor must make an election to qualify (not automatic); a trustee is appointed in every case; there will not be any committees; no U.S. Trustee fees; allows for modification of residential mortgage if debt is primarily for business purposes;



no absolute priority rule; and maximum debt in the aggregate is \$2,725,625. There various procedural differences were also discussed. As time progresses, the application of the new Small Business Chapter 11 will evolve.

The next Bankruptcy Section Meeting will be held on February 27, 2020, at 12:00 p.m., at the State Bar of Michigan. The speaker

will be Doug Sheridan from Sheridan Realty and Auction. Please RSVP to Patricia Scott at pscott@fosterswift.com if you plan on attending.



engage
inspire
enhance
promote

NALS of Lansing Awards and Installation of Officers Night



Lansing Brewing Company
518 E. Shiawassee St.
Lansing, MI 48912

**Tuesday, March 24, 2020
at 5:30 p.m.**



Carved Pork Loin and Beef Dinner

Includes salad, mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, green beans, & broccoli
(cash bar available)

Cost: \$27 per person
Please make checks
payable to "NALS of
Lansing"

Please R.S.V.P. by
March 10, 2020 to:
Kathy Rood
215 S. Washington Sq., Ste. 200
Lansing, MI 48933

Name: _____

Attending: _____

Guest Name(s): _____



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.

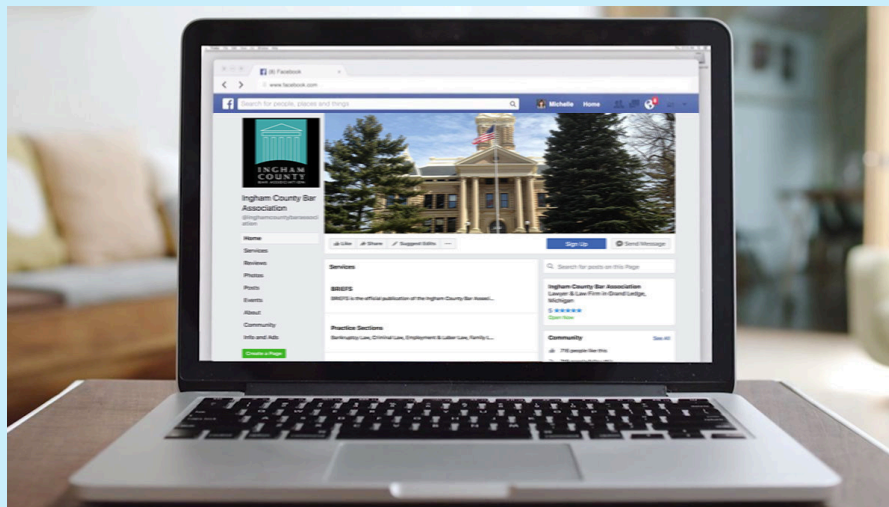
As part of its longstanding commitment to the profession, the ICBA hosts events throughout the year that are educational and entertaining, in addition to networking opportunities for members. These events are made possible by the generous support of ICBA members.

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](#).

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](tel:8009680738) 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 Angela Wall, 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, Rates & Policies



NEXT ISSUE

**MAY 2020 FEATURING 70+
AND RETIRED LAWYERS**

Thanks for reading **BRIEFS**

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briefs@inghambar.org



Have a great Spring!



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