



Retiring jurists (left to right) William Whitbeck, Judge, Court of Appeals; Michael Cavanagh, Justice, Michigan Supreme Court; E. Thomas Fitzgerald, Judge, Court of Appeals; and Charles Filice, Judge, 54A District Court.

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# ICBF honors retiring jurists

The Ingham County Bar Foundation is proud to recognize Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Judge E. Thomas Fitzgerald, Judge William Whitbeck and Judge Charles F. Filice.

Each of the retiring jurists has contributed to the honor and integrity of the judicial system throughout their lengthy tenures.

No matter the power or position of those arguing before them, each embraced the proposition that the judicial system was designed to protect, fairly and impartially, all those who came before them.

We thank and honor the following jurists for embodying the mission of the ICBF:



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**Justice Cavanagh** served 32 years on the Michigan Supreme Court, four as Chief Justice. He is the longest-serving appellate jurist in Michigan history.

Cavanagh received both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Detroit. While serving as a justice, he was the liaison between the tribal and state courts. Cavanagh has joined Alane & Chartier, PLC.

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**Judge Fitzgerald** has served 24 years on the Michigan Court of Appeals. He was first elected to the Court of Appeals in 1990, and won reelection three times in the intervening years.

In 2002, Fitzgerald received the “Justice Blair Moody Judge of the Year” Award. He plans to

continue his involvement in the legal profession with a focus on providing pro bono services.

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**Judge Whitbeck** served on the Michigan Court of Appeals since appointed by Governor John Engler in 1997. Whitbeck served as Chief Judge for six years and as Chief Judge Pro Tem for two years.

Prior to taking the bench, Whitbeck was in private practice for over 20 years and served in the administrations of three Michigan Governors: George Romney, William Milliken, and Engler.

Whitbeck plans to continue to pursue his second career as an author and is hard at work on his second book.

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**Judge Filice** served on the 54-A District Court since 1971. At that time, he was the youngest judge in the history of Michigan.

Filice was also a member of the State Bar of Michigan Standing Committee on Standard Criminal Jury instructions, and the former Chief Trial Attorney and head of the Criminal Division of the Ingham County Prosecutor’s office.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University and his J.D. from Wayne State University Law School.

Filice’s contributions to the community over the years have earned him the Ingham County Bar Association Camille S. Abood Distinguished Volunteer Award and the Medallion Award from the Boys and Girls Club of America for outstanding service. □