



January 2021

Ingham County Bar Association

BRIEFS

State Appellate Defender Office

President's Message

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SADO's Project Reentry

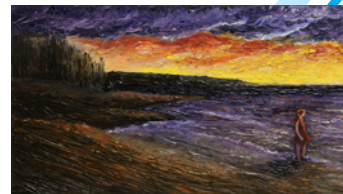
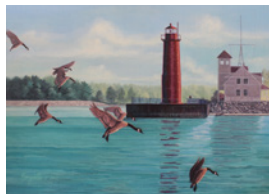
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ICBA Logo And Letterhead Policy

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

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President's Message



Sandra Lake,
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What is the role of an attorney and counselor at law in our society? In a time of political turmoil, economic uncertainty, and fears concerning our physical safety, our community needs our profession to lead the way. To shine a light on the calm waters of the harbor rather than the turmoil of open waters. To de-escalate rather than escalate. To lead with kindness, compassion, and professionalism rather than insults and jeers. To remind the world that we can agree to disagree and still respect one another's opinions.

The ICBA describes itself as follows:

Founded in 1895, the Ingham County Bar Association continues its 123-year 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. The ICBA is proud to provide programs and services designed to improve our local judicial system, foster & enhance

the quality of legal services in our community, and provide educational and professional programs for our members.

I am proud to say that these objectives are as true and relevant today as they were in 1895. Our programs may look different in the midst of a global pandemic, but the ICBA is still committed to objectives that transcend the individual, that benefit our profession and our community, and that offer educational opportunities to our members.

We hope you will join us (virtually) on January 14, 2021 for our annual awards banquet. This year, the banquet is being hosted by WLNS news anchor, Sheri Jones. Recipients have been selected by the awards committee for the following awards:

Thomas E. Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award – Hon. Laura Baird, Ret.

Leo A. Farhat Outstanding Attorney Award – Mary Chartier

Camille S. Abood Distinguished Volunteer Award – A. Michelle Lane

Theodore W. Swift Civility Award – G. Alan Wallace

Liberty Bell Award – Elaine Hardy

Pro Bono Award – Jeffrey T. Landon

We will also be continuing our Meet the Judges virtual meetings on February 11, 2021, where we will hold a panel discussion with incoming judges: Justice Elizabeth Welch (Michigan Supreme Court), Hon. Michelle Rick (Michigan Court of Appeals), Hon. Shannon Schlegel (Clinton County Circuit Court), and Hon. Kelly Morton (Eaton County Circuit Court). This is a fantastic opportunity to become acquainted with the incoming judges and learn about their individual court procedures and preferences.

And, if you have not had a chance to do so, please visit and subscribe to the ICBA YouTube channel, where you can access videos of our virtual events.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

SADO's Juvenile Lifer Unit: Bringing Our Clients Home

By Tina Olson, Assistant Defender/Juvenile Lifer Unit Manager



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Over 360 Michigan citizens, imprisoned for homicide offenses committed as children, became eligible for resentencing in 2016. But who would represent them, and what would those resentencings encompass?

In 2012 the Supreme Court of the United States held mandatory sentences of life without the possibility of parole for juveniles convicted of homicide offenses unconstitutional.¹ In 2016, that holding was ruled retroactive.² At the time, Michigan had more people convicted as children serving LWOP sentences than almost any other state in the country.

The basis of the Supreme Court's holding boiled down to a simple concept—children are different. And, the Court said, sentencers had to take into account the ways in which children are different and the mitigating factors of youth. Those factors include the child's chronological age and its hallmark features, the family and home environment, from which the child usually cannot extricate themselves, the circumstances of the homicide offense, including the presence and influence of peers, and the possibility of rehabilitation. These factors include the neuroscience the Court relied on: that

children's brains are not fully developed until sometime in the early to mid-twenties.

Many of Michigan's "juvenile lifers" were former SADO direct appeal clients, who were now entitled to new sentencing hearings. Judges would decide between re-imposing LWOP, or sentencing the person to a term of years, as mandated by the Michigan legislature.³ In response to the Supreme Court's rulings, and aware of the challenges to be faced, SADO formed its Juvenile Lifer Unit, and was appointed to represent 193 of the juvenile lifers. The remainder of the juvenile lifers are represented by private, pro bono, or appointed counsel.

Despite *Miller* and *Montgomery's* instruction that sentences of juvenile LWOP should be rare, the prosecutors in Michigan sought LWOP sentences in about two-thirds of the cases.

Demonstrating the *Miller* factors to a sentencing court in a contested hearing is not a simple task. "When *Montgomery* first came down in January of 2016, there were worries about how the defense community in Michigan could find representation for [these] juvenile lifers," said Assistant Defender Jacqueline Ouvry. "Would we be able to marshal the resources to do it right? We knew that kind of sentencing hearing would be a radical change from what Michigan had known."

Assistant Defender Rebecca Hahn noted, "This is work has only been made possible by decades of lawyers fighting to prove with science, research and data that children are truly different from adults, and courts must think about their cases and sentences differently than when an adult commits a homicide."

The contested resentencing hearings are complex, and only presented after a comprehensive mitigation investigation into a client's life history. "Mitigation is the process by which advocates are able to go beyond the strictures of legal arguments and represent the true humanity of our clients. Mitigation transforms 'defendants' into people,"

said Mitigation Attorney Katherine Root. "And my work in mitigation enriches my own life. It gives me the opportunity to meet, learn about, and build relationships with people I otherwise would never have met, and I've learned valuable lessons from them all."

" I bear witness to the resilience, change, and growth in my clients' characters.

- Assistant Defender
Jacqueline Ouvry

The teams working on the cases vary, depending on the needs of the client's individual circumstances. "I've worked with teams that included fact investigators, mitigation specialists, academics," Ouvry said. "I've explored racial tensions, history, military families, visual art, video testimony, the Vietnam War, premature birth, gangs, attachment issues, gospel music, breakdancing and more, all in the name of telling my client's story."

Expert witnesses are also vital in every case. A neuroscience expert may be needed to explain the science of the adolescent brain. An expert on the Michigan Department of Corrections' disciplinary policies and record-keeping is typically needed as well, to shed light on the client's correctional record. A forensic evaluation of the client can also be key. But many other types of experts may be needed, depending on the client's individual case. Gang experts, trauma experts, toxicologists, pathologists—each client has their own experience, which must be explained to the sentencing court.

The presentation of all the mitigating evidence at the juvenile lifer's resentencing makes an impact. "Recently, at a resentencing hearing, the judge and the prosecutor both said they wished more defendants came before them with a mitigation work-up like what we presented. That's my wish too," said Ouvry.

Today, SADO's Juvenile Lifer Unit consists of four Mitigation Specialists, six Assistant Defenders with full juvenile lifer caseloads, and other Assistant Defenders with partial juvenile lifer caseloads. Talented SADO legal assistants support the work of the Unit as well.

The work of the Juvenile Lifer Unit is uniquely satisfying. Hahn said, "Working on behalf of children sentenced to die in prison is rewarding work. I tell their story, and show who they were, what they experienced, and who they have become today—including their hardships, and their struggles to become a better and changed person." Ouvry echoed the sentiment. "I bear witness to the resilience, change, and growth in my clients' characters."

The ability to change is substantiated by a study of released juvenile lifers in Pennsylvania—the state with the most juvenile lifers of any—which revealed a remarkably low one percent recidivism rate (recidivism being conviction of any crime).⁴

To date, 105 of SADO's clients have been successfully resentenced to a term of years, and 58 clients have been released, either on parole or discharged. The released juvenile lifers are an extraordinary group of people who give back to the community and demonstrate every day that rehabilitation is not only possible—it's a reality.

But some worry that their clients will never get to experience that reality. One attorney said, "I worry so deeply about my clients waiting for resentencing. COVID is raging through the MDOC. We know that released juvenile lifers are some of the safest returning citizens. It makes no sense to me that they remain incarcerated, their lives at risk, when they can be safely reintegrated into their communities."

Endnotes

- 1 *Miller v Alabama*, 567 U S 460 (2012)
- 2 *Montgomery v Louisiana*, 136 S Ct 718 (2016)
- 3 MCL 769.25 and MCL 769.25a
- 4 [Philadelphia-Juvenile-Lifers | msudecisionmakinglab](#)



Q&A with SADO Director Jonathan Sacks

By Tina Olson, Assistant Defender/Juvenile Lifer Unit Manager



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What are some of the challenges SADO has faced since you became Director?

I returned to SADO in 2018 as Director after serving as the first Executive Director of the Michigan Indigent Defense

Commission. The opportunity to put new public defender systems in place and observe best practices throughout the country allowed me to appreciate SADO's standing as a model public defender office in everything we do — representing clients on direct appeal; advocating for children in Michigan who were sentenced to die in prison; administering the roster of appointed appellate counsel; training Michigan's criminal defense bar; and helping our clients return to their communities.

Our biggest challenge is how best to combine these separate functions into a shared and complementary mission to best serve our clients.

Separately, as with all other institutions, our challenge in 2020 has been to keep our work effective and meaningful during this pandemic. This challenge has been compounded by the direct threat to the health, safety, and lives of our incarcerated clients from COVID-19.

Along with challenges, have there been notable successes and achievements? What are some of the highlights?

The successful advocacy for our clients accomplished by my SADO colleagues. We have had over a dozen Michigan Supreme Court arguments, many releases of Michigan's juvenile lifers, and recent exonerations of the actually innocent. Perhaps most impressive though, is that we have continued this work during the pandemic, adapting to client counseling and advocacy while shifting to a remote workplace.

SADO also rose to the challenge of advocating for incarcerated individuals who are particularly at risk from the pandemic due to the lack of social distancing and best practices for hygiene in prisons and jails. SADO attorneys coordinated volunteer projects that resulted in over one hundred early releases from Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne County jails. This success has been recognized through the award of a federal grant to formalize the project through 2021. SADO also conducted remote trainings for hundreds of criminal defense attorneys on litigation of jail release motions, and in partnership with the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, on the legal issues presented by virtual trials. SADO's website has collected resources to best assist incarcerated clients during the pandemic.

What do you find most rewarding about being the Director of SADO?

I have the opportunity to work among a group of colleagues who strive to provide the best possible advocacy to our clients at what are often the most desperate points in their lives. Many of our clients feel alienated and confused by a criminal justice process they do not understand. I have the privilege of working with people every day who bear witness and provide a voice where there was none.

What are your priorities for the future?

First, I hope that SADO continues to grow into a larger role as an advocate for our clients through policy development and community involvement. The Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration invited SADO to offer policy prescriptions in response to a burgeoning population of people in Michigan serving jail sentences. SADO has also gained a larger voice in the returning citizen community. I hope these successes provide a foundation for future development of the office.

Second, SADO needs to be more involved in racial justice efforts. This priority means more strategic litigation based on an inequitable and unfair criminal justice system. It also means that SADO needs to look internally, and do everything we can to transform into a model anti-racist and diverse organization.

The Public Defender Division of SADO

By Jessica Zimbelman, Managing Attorney



Jessica Zimbelman
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The core function of the State Appellate Defender Office is to provide high-quality legal representation for our indigent clients in the trial and appellate courts throughout Michigan. The Public Defender division does just that and uses a variety of approaches to achieve tangible results for our clients. We strive to always put the needs of our clients and their families at the heart of our efforts.

Investigation on appeal: Michigan's court rules, and, rules of procedure allow for off-record investigation on appeal. What this means is that SADO attorneys can consult with experts, talk to witnesses, or search for evidence, to build a record on appeal to show a client was not given a fair trial or that there were problems in the plea process. SADO attorneys frequently obtain

remands from the Court of Appeals to have evidentiary hearings in the trial court, many of which are essentially complex mini-trials. Such investigations have led to countless new trials and several exonerations.

Michigan Supreme Court: SADO attorneys advocate in the Michigan Supreme Court, arguing issues that benefit all clients who find themselves charged with criminal offenses. Just in the last year, SADO attorneys have briefed and/or had oral argument (lately by Zoom!) on the following issues: the constitutionality of the Sex Offenders Registration Act; what is required to prove second-degree child abuse; the appropriateness of jail credit in light of *People v Idziak*; several double jeopardy challenges; how funding of defense experts should work under *People v Kennedy*; the statements made for medical diagnosis exception to hearsay; how MCL 768.27b interplays with hearsay; whether a sexually delinquent person conviction is subject to the sentencing guidelines; and whether there can be a felony murder and first-degree child abuse conviction when there is only one act. Such a robust practice benefits Michigan's criminal legal system as a whole, and our individual clients.

Sentencing challenges: Another common way SADO attorneys help secure relief for their clients is through challenges to Michigan's complex sentencing guidelines scheme. SADO attorneys work with their clients to obtain resentencing hearings based on legal errors at sentencing. At these resentencing hearings, SADO attorneys present mitigating evidence to the trial court, through a sentencing memorandum and/or work with SADO's sentencing mitigation specialist. SADO attorneys and clients oftentimes see substantial reductions in sentences.

Court rules, training, and MDOC advocacy: SADO attorneys do many things outside direct advocacy for their clients in an attempt to improve the criminal legal system. SADO attorneys are actively involved in submitting and commenting on proposed amendments to Michigan's court rules. SADO attorneys volunteer their time to train fellow lawyers, judges, law students, and work with the community on legal issues and advocacy. And, SADO attorneys work with the Michigan Department of Corrections to try to better the lives of their clients while incarcerated.

SADO's Project Reentry: Supporting our Neighbors on their Journey Home

By Marilena David-Martin, SADO Deputy Director and Project Reentry Manager



Marilena David-Martin

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Approximately 95% of people who are incarcerated will one day return home and back into the community.¹ Some will not be ready. Some will not return to welcoming communities or families. Some will not have housing, employment, transportation, or emotional support. Some will need a lot of guidance. That's where SADO's Project Reentry comes in.

SADO's Project Reentry launched in 2016 around the same time our juvenile lifer litigation began. One of our first juvenile lifer clients was 67 years old when he was able to come home after being sent to prison as a 17-year-old. He was behind bars for five decades before he was finally, and at the same time, abruptly told: *you're free, figure it out, and good luck*. That is no way to come home after 50 years in prison.

Project Reentry's mission is to help incarcerated people plan for their return back into the community and to assist them once they get there. Whether they served 50 years, or 50 days, everyone could use a little help. We help by providing wraparound reentry services to individuals represented by court-appointed counsel on appeal and

by providing reentry workshops and community events and resources to all of Michigan's citizens returning home.

We deliver reentry assistance in a number of ways, beginning with the development of a Comprehensive Reentry Plan. These are individualized plans that identify safe housing, employment leads, transportation, counseling services, and community support networks, as well as contacts for enrolling in school, insurance programs, benefits, and obtaining vital documents. The reentry plans are used at all stages of litigation—in negotiation with prosecutors, in advocacy at sentencing, and as support before the parole board.

At a recent resentencing hearing, an attorney and her client faced an uphill battle as they went before a trial court that had already remarked it would never issue a lesser sentence. With the help of Project Reentry, the attorney submitted a Comprehensive Reentry Plan for her client prior to resentencing. On the record, the trial court remarked about the usefulness of the reentry plan and reduced the client's sentence by 7 months. The attorney credited this reduction to the reentry plan.

Reentry plans also serve an important one-stop shop function for the individual coming home and for their support network. One incarcerated client who had been in the system for the past 17 years said that he had never before felt hopeful or excited about returning home until he saw the mental health counseling options outlined in his reentry plan. He reflected that if someone had only found such promising counseling for him years ago,

he might not have experienced as much turmoil as he had in the past.

In addition to preparing reentry plans used in litigation, Project Reentry also hosts monthly reentry workshops for those in the community. The workshops address life skills, such as building credit, family reunification, mental well-being, technology, filing taxes, entrepreneurship, and more. The workshops are meant to teach proactive life skills, build community amongst the formerly incarcerated population, and connect people with community resource providers. During the pandemic, workshops have been hosted online with great turnouts.

One goal of Project Reentry is to increase access to reentry planning to everyone in Michigan who could benefit. To that end, we have developed reentry resources available to all members of the general public. One of those resources is a Reentry Guidebook containing chapters on everything from preparing for parole, obtaining vital documents, receiving public benefits, finding housing, understanding finances, learning technology, working toward family reunification, and more. The other publicly available resource we developed with the help of a Programmer who donated his services, includes a Reentry Services Locator. This Locator contains over 600 statewide resources searchable by location and type of need. It is available online or as a mobile application. Our hope is that the reentry planning tools we are building can be used by other defenders and client advocates to assist as many people as possible.

When we first launched Project Reentry in 2016, we had no funding

and depended on volunteers from the University of Michigan School of Social Work and in-kind contributions from staff. Nearly five years later, we have one full-time Reentry Coordinator on staff and are in our second year of a federal Byrne JAG grant with a staff of one Mitigation Specialist and two Reentry Specialists.

One of our reentry team members is Jose Burgos, a former juvenile lifer who served 27 years in prison after entering prison at 16-years-old. This provides a unique and necessary perspective to our mission. When asked about his current role in reentry planning, Jose shared:

Immediately upon my release I quickly learned the importance of a reentry plan, and the role it plays for a successful smooth transition back into society after any amount of years of incarceration, but most importantly for those who have served decades behind bars. Unlike many others, I came home to a support network that was ready and willing to assist me and make sure that all of my immediate needs were being met to reduce the amount of anxiety and uncertainty as I entered into a society as an adult after being incarcerated from the ages of 16 to 43. Being part of SADO's Project Reentry has now given me an opportunity to pour into others the very same way many others have poured into me. The ability to provide reentry services to others is a critical

component in making sure that they too have a smooth transition back into society with all the necessary resources they will need. The more resources we provide, the less likely they will re-offend which translates into a lower recidivism rate and a safer community.

Without Jose on our team, we could not have helped Mr. Smith² earlier this summer. After serving nearly 40 years in prison, Mr. Smith was discharged from his prison sentence in the middle of the pandemic. On a Friday night at 10:00 p.m., Mr. Smith was dropped off on the steps of a homeless shelter after his housing option fell through. Mr. Smith has Multiple Sclerosis, is confined to a wheelchair, and needs help with functions of daily living. He had been dropped off without his medication, without full medical records, without proper identification, and without sufficient release paperwork.

Immediately, our reentry team sprang into action. One member of our team met him on the steps of the homeless shelter to congratulate him on his release, and more importantly, to let him know we were going to fix this. On Saturday morning, Jose brought Mr. Smith breakfast and sat with him in the shelter, letting him know he was not alone. Jose made it clear to our team that it was not an option to let Mr. Smith stay there another night due to the dire conditions and inability to meet Mr. Smith's medical needs. On Saturday early afternoon,

Mr. Smith's SADO attorney was with him at the shelter making a plan to address his immediate needs. Soon after, approximately 15 hours after Mr. Smith had first been discharged, our team secured a comfortable handicap accessible hotel room for Mr. Smith. Jose volunteered to stay with him for several days and assisted him with daily living. He also took Mr. Smith to see the sights and sounds of the free world—Downtown Detroit, the Detroit Riverfront, and Belle Isle. By Tuesday, the team had found a permanent assisted living facility for Mr. Smith, and staff and community supporters had raised over \$5,000 for Mr. Smith.

What started as a nightmare scenario for Mr. Smith ended with a proper homecoming where our reentry team wrapped our arms around him to ensure he was safe, cared for, and treated with dignity. For our team, that is the goal: to wrap our arms around as many people as possible, to bring dignity to the reentry process, and to let them know they are not alone.

For more information about Project Reentry, visit www.sado.org/go/project-reentry, contact Marilena at mdavid@sado.org, and connect online @SADOreentry.

Endnotes

1 <https://www.bjs.gov/content/reentry/reentry.cfm>

2 Mr. Smith is an alias for anonymity.

Q & A with MAACS



Brad Hall



Kathy Swedlow

Could you describe the background and history of MAACS?

In 1978, Michigan's legislature passed the Appellate Defender Act, creating an appellate indigent defense system consisting of the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) to handle about 25% of appointed criminal appeals and an approved "roster" of locally appointed private attorneys to handle the remainder. An independent Appellate Defender Commission was established to oversee the new system.

To manage the assignment process and roster, the Commission proposed an "Appellate Assigned Counsel Administrator's Office," which would be separate from SADO. In a 1981 administrative order, the Michigan Supreme Court approved that structure, and in 1984 the legislature appropriated funds for a new agency known as MAACS, with its architect Barbara Levine serving as the first MAACS Administrator.

For the next three decades, MAACS operated as an independent agency responsible for admitting and training the private counsel roster, while ensuring compliance with a set of nine Minimum Standards for Indigent Criminal Appellate Defense Services. MAACS also worked with trial court staff to assign appellate counsel from SADO or the separate rotating "local lists" of roster attorneys in each of Michigan's 57 circuit courts.

In 2014, the Supreme Court merged MAACS with SADO and directed the Commission to review its operations and propose appropriate changes. That process led to new leadership and the implementation of several significant reforms, including the standardization of attorney fees, the regional consolidation of most assignment lists, a reorganization of assignment levels, enhanced training and support, and the development of a robust case management system for assignments, attorney oversight, vouchering, and data analysis.

Who are the current staff of MAACS?

Brad Hall is the MAACS Administrator and Kathy Swedlow is the Deputy Administrator. A third attorney on our staff, Patricia Maceroni, provides advice and support to the roster as Litigation Support Counsel. And our outstanding administrative support staff is made up of Terry Huhn, MariaRosa Juarez Palmer, and Sabrina Schneider. They process appointment orders, review fee vouchers, assist in attorney oversight and correspondence, and support attorney-client video visits, among other critical tasks.

The MAACS roster consists of about 150 private attorneys, most of whom accept regular appellate assignments throughout the year.

How many indigent citizens does MAACS provide representation for each year?

In an ordinary year, MAACS staff processes appointment orders for about 3,300 indigent felony appeals. About 20% of these are appeals from trials, with the remainder being guilty plea appeals or other miscellaneous assignments. MAACS roster attorneys have historically handled about 75% of all appointments, but two recent adjustments have increased the MAACS share of assignments. First, in 2019, SADO began accepting a lower overall number of assignments but a higher percentage of trial appeals, which has allowed SADO to handle a larger share of difficult appeals while meeting its statutory mandate of 25% of "cases pending before the appellate courts." Second, in 2020, SADO increased the case weight credit awarded to staff attorneys, effectively reducing expected caseloads for attorneys and the office as a whole.

Consistent with the overall structure of Michigan's assigned appellate system, these adjustments will increase the number and percentage of appellate assignments handled by MAACS roster attorneys, though it is not yet clear how much. This year, with the pandemic and the many ways it has affected the criminal justice system, overall assignments are down significantly, particularly for trial appeals. But we anticipate that courts will begin returning to more normal

operations in 2021, and the number of appellate assignments will return to non-pandemic numbers—and potentially much higher to account for the backlog. This will result in more work than ever before for the MAACS roster.

What are the biggest challenges MAACS faces?

MAACS's biggest challenge, by far, is funding. Unlike SADO—which relies on state funding for attorney salaries and benefits, support staff, office space, expert witnesses and investigators, and virtually all other costs of appellate representation—MAACS appeals are funded entirely by the counties. In some places, this can mean flat fee policies equating to \$10/hr or less, coupled with difficulty getting reimbursed for basic expenses such as copying, postage, or travel, to say nothing of expert witnesses and investigators. MAACS has neither the resources nor the authority to force local governments to improve their funding mechanisms. This has had devastating consequences on the availability of capable appellate counsel and the quality of representation for clients.

We have, however, made significant strides in recent years by securing most trial courts' voluntary adoption of a more reasonable attorney fee policy. This policy calls for rates of \$50/hr or \$75/hr, depending on case complexity and attorney experience, with presumptive maximum fees of 45 hours for trial appeals and 15 hours for plea appeals (plus travel).

While the expansion of this standard policy has improved matters significantly, problems remain. First,

there are twelve trial courts that maintain their own unique attorney fee policies—which typically pay substantially less money. These include some of Michigan's largest trial courts, accounting for almost 40% of indigent criminal defendants. Second, the MAACS standard rates—which likely represent the high-water mark for achievable local investments—remain well below the rates of \$100-\$120/hr under the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission's proposed Standard 8, which will apply to trial-level indigent defense but not appeals. To attract and retain the attorneys needed to provide high-quality representation for all indigent criminal defendants on appeal, MAACS must find a way to ensure better compensation.

What are the plans for MAACS moving forward?

MAACS has several exciting goals for 2021, of which we will highlight three here. First, we hope to grow participation in our standard fee policy and regional assignment lists. This could include the establishment of a new Mid-Michigan assignment region including courts in Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, Gratiot, and Jackson Counties—all of which still maintain their own appellate fee policies which pay far less than most other courts in the state. While this could otherwise entail a significant local contribution from these counties, the current decrease in overall assignment levels may make this an opportune time for reform in these courts.

Second, with the expert assistance of SADO programmer Eric Buchanan, MAACS will continue development of its intuitive and popular case

management system. This includes planned improvements to the assignment and vouchering components, a new CLE self-reporting component, a correspondence tracking component, and on-demand reporting of attorney performance and fee metrics. Third, with help from SADO's Training Director Marilena David-Martin and the rest of the Project Reentry team, we hope to continue growing the training and support services we can provide to MAACS roster attorneys and their clients. We will also work to improve attorney recruitment, oversight, and retention to ensure quality appellate representation to the growing number of MAACS clients.

How can an attorney join the MAACS roster?

MAACS welcomes applications to join the roster from conscientious appellate lawyers with diverse experiences and backgrounds, and those who are committed to representing indigent clients and contributing to the reform of Michigan's indigent defense system. MAACS ordinarily admits a new group of attorneys each fall, and then offers orientation and training sessions to the group. New attorneys also receive individualized mentoring and help from MAACS's Litigation Support Counsel. And all MAACS attorneys have access to the resources on SADO's website, as well as a variety of targeted trainings throughout the year.

Interested applicants should visit the MAACS page on www.SADO.org and review the materials at the "Join the Roster" link.

SADO Internships

By Sofia Nelson, Assistant Defender



Sofia Nelson

The State Appellate Defender Office hosts legal and mitigation interns both for summer internships and externships in our Detroit and Lansing offices. Our summer internship program runs the end of May through August. Interns are paired with an attorney supervisor with whom they work throughout the course of the internship.

Interns will have the opportunity to attend court proceedings (mostly by Zoom right now), meet with clients (also by Zoom), conduct research and investigation, brainstorm strategy, and draft case related documents. In non-pandemic times the summer internship also involved a tour of a functioning prison and various networking events throughout the summer with other social justice oriented legal organizations.

Our goal with the internship program is to give interns a complete picture of what a career as a mitigation specialist or an attorney at a public defender agency entails. I interned at a public

defender office in law school, and that experience led me to know that the best fit for me was a career public defender.

For our legal internship we draw from law schools all over the country and particularly encourage those who grew up in communities impacted by mass incarceration or who have personal or familiar experience with the criminal legal system to apply. For mitigation interns we draw from undergraduate institutions and social work programs. For more information you can email interns@sado.org. We are still looking for summer 2021 interns!



SADO's Mission

Fighting injustice through access, advocacy, compassion, and education.

The Growing Need for the Use of Independent Trustees

By Sally D. Babbitts



While the vast majority of trusts are managed by the grantor(s), and subsequently a surviving spouse or adult child, there is a growing need for independent

professional trustees. An independent trustee would be a neutral, non-beneficiary, non-family member, and could be in the form of a bank, a trust company, an attorney or CPA, or other qualified professional. Banks, trust companies, and even brokerage firms, all offer professional investment management, tax preparation services, and some additional trustee services. However, their minimum investment levels have steadily increased over the last decade and many people with modest portfolios do not qualify for their services.

An independent trustee may be necessary when there is no qualified surviving spouse or adult child, or when the family dynamics are such that a disinterested third party would be more effective in keeping harmony between the beneficiaries. The majority of probate litigation cases that I am involved in either as a litigator or mediator, erupt from a lack of trust and/or lack of communication between the beneficiaries. When the second parent passes away, the gloves come off, and every perceived slight by each child boils up and becomes a battle ground. Most of these lawsuits could have been avoided if an independent trustee had been selected. And many times, the case is resolved by the appointment of an independent trustee.

The growing need for independent trustees seems to be resulting from a few different situations. First as people live longer, so do their children. However, they many not remain physically and/or cognitively equipped to manage a trust. Another situation that just screams for the use of an independent trustee is the blended family—which has been on the rise particularly since people are living longer and remarrying later in life. Preparing an estate plan for a blended family using traditional nuclear family planning techniques is a recipe for disaster. Separation of assets upon the death of the first spouse, and then again on the death of the second spouse, needs very careful planning and articulation. And the length of the marriage doesn't seem to make any difference, even 35-40 year marriages create disputes between the survivors. No matter how well the siblings get along while the parents are married, there are issues below the surface that typically take the form of financial disputes once the parents have passed.

There has also been a shift in the type of assets that are owned in trusts, and many trustees are not equipped to manage real estate, farms, or smaller investment portfolios. For those people who have a modest investment portfolio, a business enterprise, a farm, or other assets that are not a good fit for the banks, trust companies, or brokerage firms, there is a black hole of options for trustees. This is where the independent individual trustee such as an attorney or CPA can provide a great service.

When selecting an independent trustee, it's important to consider the type of assets in the trust, they type of management skills that are necessary,

and the costs associated with using an independent trustee. While the banks, trust companies, and brokerage firms tend to charge their fees based on the size of the investment portfolio under management (ie: 1.1% of the first \$1,000,000 as an example), an attorney or CPA can charge an hourly fee regardless of the dollar size of the trust assets. In this role, the trustee acts as the quarterback and coordinates with investment advisors, accountants, and other necessary professionals to make sure the assets are all properly managed and that all reporting is done properly and timely. This ends up being a customized management structure that not only provides better management, but is far more cost effective than a flat rate fee (or a lawsuit!).

The time for selecting an independent trustee can vary for each client. Ideally the independent trustee is selected at the same time that the client is preparing their estate plan and creating the trust. Typically, the grantors/settlors will serve as the initial trustee(s) and the independent trustee would step in when the grantors/settlors become unwilling or unable to manage the trust themselves. However, trusts can be amended to change the successor trustee to an independent trustee, and if necessary, the beneficiaries and/or the courts may appoint an independent trustee. Of course, a qualified estate planning and probate attorney can provide more details in each particular case.

Sally D. Babbitt is the co-chair of the Ingham County Bar Association Probate & Trust Section and serves as an independent trustee as part of her practice. She can be reached at sally@sallybabbittlaw.com or 517-507-3306

ICBA-YLS

Hosts Successful Trivia Night

By Marisa Vinsky



Marisa Vinsky

marisa@cndefenders.com

ICBA-YLS hosted a virtual trivia night on October 15, 2020. With this year looking vastly different than those in the past, ICBA-YLS thought long and hard about new ways to remain active within the community. This trivia night via Zoom was an opportunity for young lawyers to connect with each other and have fun, while also staying safe.

The theme of the night was “Rollin’ with the 90’s,” where participants had to answer questions about all things 90’s. There were questions about movies, music, and books that many YLS members enjoyed growing up. Because of the close proximity to Halloween,

there were also various questions related to that holiday. Special bonus points were awarded to the member that showed up in the best costume.

The special prize for the winners was a gift card to Horrocks, with ICBA-YLS wanting to support a local business during these challenging times. The night was full of laughter, nostalgia, and friendly competition. ICBA-YLS wants to congratulate the winners—Jessica McNamara, Katherine Bennett, Aaron Levin, and Mark DeLuca—and thank everybody who participated. Look out for another virtual trivia night in 2021!



Art at SADO:

The State Appellate Defender Office proudly displays art created by incarcerated people (and those formerly incarcerated) in its offices in Detroit and Lansing. It is our great honor to have such amazing displays of talent and beauty gracing our walls.



ICBA-YLS

Featured Young Lawyer:

Alaina Nelson



Alaina Nelson

anelson@fosterswift.com

Alaina is a member of Foster Swift's Trusts and Estates Practice Group in the Lansing office.

Prior to joining Foster Swift, she served as a summer extern for Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services where she mediated landlord-tenant and small claims cases after becoming a certified civil mediator. Additionally, she was a member of the Michigan State Housing Law Clinic as a clinician where she dealt with all aspects of the landlord-tenant relationship, including educating residents on their basic rights, working with tenants on the brink of eviction, assisting renters living in unsafe conditions, and connecting people with community resources.

For her legal education, she attended the Michigan State University College of Law. During her time at Michigan State, Alaina received multiple awards and recognitions for her achievements, including a full tuition scholarship and Jurisprudence Achievement Awards for receiving the top grades in her class. At Michigan State, Alaina also served as an Associate Editor of the MSU Law Review and participated in the Dean Charles H. King Scholars Program.

Alaina received her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Arizona. She was awarded a scholarship by the University of Arizona for her academic excellence.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I work at Foster Swift Collins & Smith as an associate attorney in the Trusts & Estates Practice Group.

Where did you go to school?

I went to the University of Arizona for my undergraduate degree and then to Michigan State University College of Law for my law degree.

When were you admitted to practice in Michigan?

I was admitted to practice in Michigan in November 2019.

Why did you go into the legal field?

I wanted to pursue a career that would be challenging and engaging.

What advice do you have for those considering law school?

For those considering law school, I would advise them to always keep in mind the reasons why they would like to be a lawyer, which can help you persevere through the more difficult moments in law school.

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

If I weren't a lawyer, I would be a teacher.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Quincy, Michigan.

Who is your biggest role model and why?

My biggest role model is my grandmother because throughout her life she demonstrated what it meant to be a thoughtful and independent person.

What do you do in your free time?

My husband and I are completely renovating a house we bought in Lansing, so most of my free time is spent on home renovation projects.

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

I have a rescue dog named Gatsby. My husband and I adopted him a few weeks after we got married. He is a Shiba Inu/Chihuahua mix and looks like a fox.

ICBA-YLS

Hosts Virtual Swearing-In Ceremony with Judge Dunnings



Through the efforts of ICBA-YLS, Judge Shauna Dunnings and Tracy Hufnagel, Judge Dunnings' judicial assistant - three new attorneys were sworn into the Michigan Bar on November 20, 2020. The swearing-in ceremony was conducted through Zoom, which enabled the families and friends of newly admitted attorneys Hannah Buzolits, Jay Miller, and Jordan Miller, to watch and share in the special event.

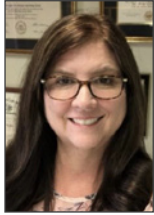
With COVID restrictions in full effect throughout the State of Michigan, many individuals who recently passed the Michigan Bar, (which was conducted online in July 2020), have been searching for ways to swear-in to the State Bar and simultaneously enable their loved ones to watch remotely. Fortunately, Judge Dunnings and her team were willing and happy to offer a helping hand and to conduct the swearing-in ceremony through Zoom, which most, if not all, of the courts throughout the State of Michigan have been utilizing for civil and criminal proceedings since the State re-opened after being shut down this summer.

Congratulations to all of those who were recently sworn-in to the Michigan Bar and a big thank you to Judge Dunnings and her team for all of your help towards making the swearing-in ceremony happen.

ICBA BRIEFS July 2020-June 2021

Committee appoints Associate Editors for the new fiscal year

January



Deadline: December 15th
Theme: State Appellate
Defenders Offices
Associate Editors:
Tina Olson
Phone: 517.334.6069
Email: tolson@sado.org

July



Deadline: June 15th
Theme: Power Couples
Associate Editors:
Dakota Larson
Phone: 623.210.2232
Email: dakota.a.larson@gmail.com



Jessica Zimbleman
Email: jzimbleman@sado.org



Fred Baker
Phone: 517.318.6190
Email: fmbjrp11c@outlook.com

March



Deadline: February 15th
Associate Editor:
Brad Horton
Phone: 517.655.6380
Email: hortonb@cooley.edu

September



Deadline: August 15th
Theme: County Judicial Clerks
Associate Editor:
Larisa Zubac
Phone: 517.483.6500
Email: lzubac@ingham.org

May



Deadline: April 15th
Theme: Prosecutors
Associate Editor:
Mike Nichols
Phone: 517.432.9000
Fax: 517.203-4448
Email: mnichols@nicholslaw.net

Babbitt Receives Certificate in Forensic Psychology



Sally D. Babbitt of Babbitt Legal Group, PC has completed a post-graduate certificate in Forensic

Psychology from San Diego State University. Babbitt will use her credentials in her litigation practice as well as expanding into jury and litigation consulting and in pursuing her writing in true crime. Babbitt's practice focuses on estates, trusts, and probate litigation as well as Mediation services. She has been practicing in the greater Lansing area for twenty years and currently is located in Delta Township. She can be reached at 517-507-3306 or sally@sallybabbittlaw.com

Thank you for the support of HOP 2020!

The ICBA-YLS Executive Board would like to thank the area firms, attorneys, and support staff that donated for the 2020 Horn of Plenty! While the annual event looked a little bit different this year due to health and safety concerns, we very much appreciate everyone's donations to Capital Area Response Effort (CARE) and Advent House. 2020 has been a challenging year for so many in our community, and your generosity has made an impact. THANK YOU!

Press Release

The Sinas Dramis Law Firm Listed Among State's Best in Personal Injury Law



Laura Zemaitis, Marketing Assistant,
616-301-3333, laurazemaitis@sinasdramis.com

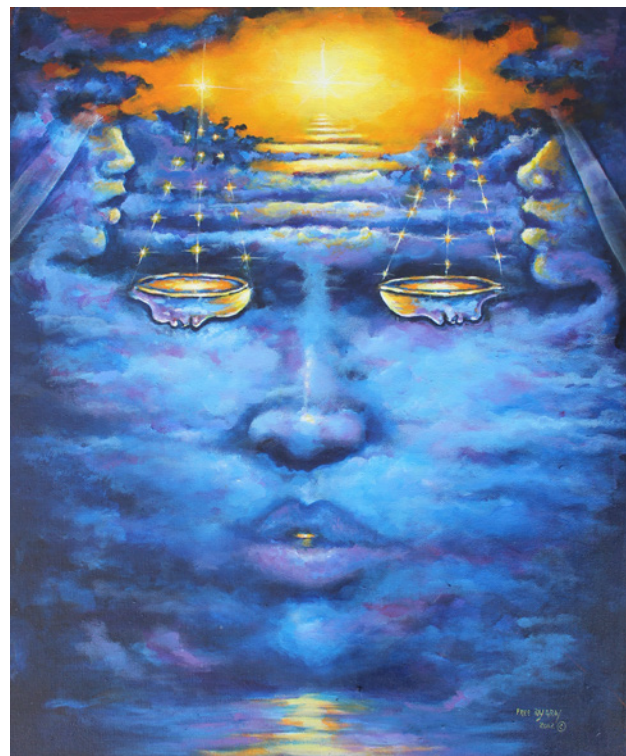
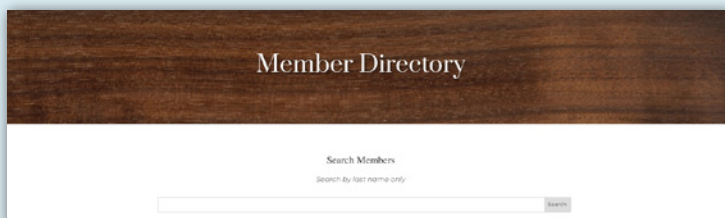
MICHIGAN - The Sinas Dramis Law Firm, a statewide legal presence serving all of Michigan, has once again been listed as one of Michigan's "Best Law Firms" in plaintiffs personal injury litigation. This designation recently appeared in the 2021 edition of the U.S. News—Best Lawyers® publication, *Best Law Firms*. This is the tenth consecutive year that the Sinas Dramis Law Firm has received this prestigious distinction, confirming its continued professional excellence in the field of personal injury law.

A firm's eligibility for inclusion in *Best Law Firms* is dependent upon having at least one of its attorneys included in the "Best Lawyers" list for that year. This year, five Sinas Dramis Law Firm attorneys were included in that list in the area of personal injury litigation. To be listed in *Best Law Firms*, eligible firms must undergo a rigorous evaluation process that includes client feedback and peer review from leading attorneys in the firm's particular area of practice.

The Sinas Dramis Law Firm has been in existence for 70 years and has offices in five cities. The firm represents victims of serious personal injury and wrongful death throughout Michigan. Over the years, the law firm's attorneys have held numerous leadership positions in several major professional organizations and are highly respected by the Bench and Bar, particularly in matters regarding motor vehicular injury.

ICBA MEMBER DIRECTORY

Are you listed in the
[online member directory?](#)



Press Release

Fraser Trebilcock Welcomes

Matthew J. Meyerhuber to the Firm



Matthew J. Meyerhuber
mmeyerhuber@fraserlawfirm.com

Lansing, MI – Fraser Trebilcock is pleased to announce the hiring of new attorney Matthew J. Meyerhuber who will work primarily in the firm’s Lansing office. Matt is a welcome addition to the firm’s litigation department.

Before graduating from the University of Michigan Law School in 2020, Matt externed at the Michigan Department of Attorney General, where he assisted the Flint Water Crisis prosecution team. Matt also gained valuable experience interning at the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 5 Office of Regional Counsel and at the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center.

During law school, Matt was a Notes Editor for the Michigan Journal of Environmental and Administrative Law and served on the Federalist Society’s



124 W. Allegan St. Suite 1000 Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 482-5800	One Woodward Ave. Suite 1550 Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 237-7300	125 Ottawa Ave NW Suite 153 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 301-0800
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Contact: Eriks Dumpis, (517) 377-0865, edumpis@fraserlawfirm.com

executive board. Outside of work, he enjoys cooking and spending time in Michigan’s outdoors camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

“We are thrilled to have Matt join the firm, and are confident that he will continue the mission of providing excellent legal services to our clients,” said Michael H. Perry, President of Fraser Trebilcock.

Since 1883, Fraser Trebilcock has been providing preeminent legal services and representation to small and large businesses, individuals, governmental entities, and associations. Through its association with SCG Legal, Fraser Trebilcock has access to a global network of independent law firms. More information is available at fraserlawfirm.com | scglegal.com.

Press Release

Elvin Caldwell, Joins Fraser Consulting as New Legislative Consultant



Elvin Caldwell
ecaldwell@fraserlawfirm.com

Lansing, MI – Fraser Consulting, a full-service governmental and legislative affairs firm and a subsidiary of Fraser Trebilcock law firm, is pleased to announce the hiring of Elvin L. Caldwell, Jr. as a new legislative consultant.

Before joining Fraser Consulting, Elvin worked in education and public relations gaining valuable experience and recognition, in 2017 he was nominated for the Lansing Champions Award.

While overseeing administrative duties, Elvin was also responsible for creating impactful and mutually beneficial relationships for stakeholders through the various events, communications and interactive enrollment campaigns.



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Contact: Eriks Dumpis, (517) 377-0865, edumpis@fraserlawfirm.com

“We are thrilled to have Elvin join Fraser Consulting, he brings knowledge and experience that will be a great contribution to our ongoing efforts for our clients,” said Scott Everett, Director of Legislative Affairs.

Since 1883, Fraser Trebilcock has been providing preeminent legal services and representation to small and large businesses, individuals, governmental entities, and associations. Through its association with SCG Legal, Fraser Trebilcock has access to a global network of independent law firms. More information is available at fraserlawfirm.com | scglegal.com.



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.

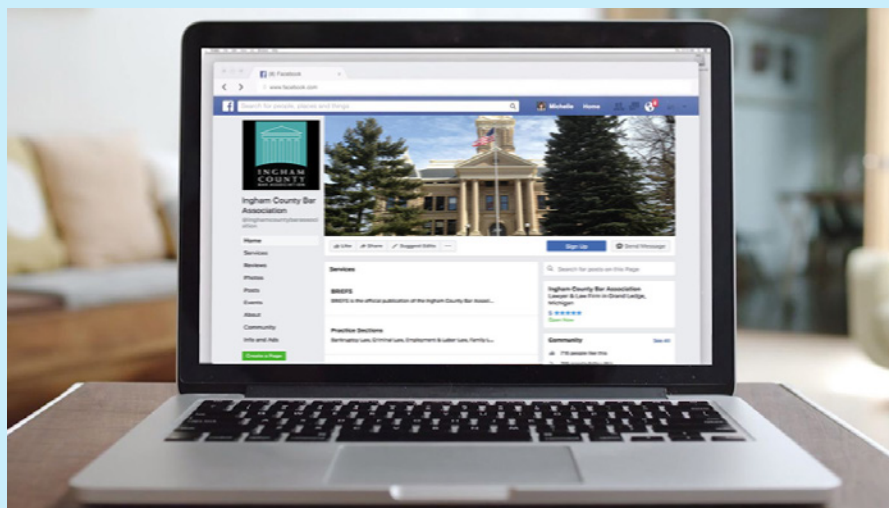
As part of its longstanding commitment to the profession, the ICBA hosts events throughout the year that are educational and entertaining, in addition to networking opportunities for members. These events are made possible by the generous support of ICBA members.

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.



2020-2021 Firm/Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities
2020-2021 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](#)





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:

- TBA

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 Fraser Trebilcock.

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

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:

- TBA

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.

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 July).

Copy Deadline

Content submissions are due the 15th of the month for the following month's issue (e.g., deadline is March 15th for the April 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 and Format

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

Submit articles in a Word .doc/.docx

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 the editor, at briefs@inghambar.org. Within 24 hours, you will receive an email confirmation that your article was received.

Opinion Articles

Opinion articles selected for publication will be printed with a disclaimer noting that the viewpoints are that of the author and not of the Ingham County Bar Association. BRIEFS reserves the right to reject, edit or modify content submitted for publication.

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

Thanks
for reading
BRIEFS



Feedback? briefs@inghambar.org

Next issue:
March 2021 featuring our
Public Defenders

Happy New Year!



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[@ICBALawyers](https://twitter.com/ICBALawyers)