

July 2021



Ingham County Bar Association

# BRIEFS



## Power Couples

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SAVE  
THE  
DATE

127<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner  
**November 11, 2021**

Meet the Judges  
**January 20, 2022**

Semi Annual Bench Bar Conference  
**February 5, 2022**

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Barristers  
**March 10, 2022**

Annual Shrimp Dinner/Annual Meeting  
**May 18, 2022**

*We are looking forward to resuming in-person events.*



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@ICBALawyers



## 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](http://www.inghambar.org)

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# President's Message



Sandra Lake,  
ICBA President  
slake480@gmail.com

As my year as President of the ICBA comes to a close, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve this outstanding organization. I leave knowing that my position will be filled by the far more capable Charles Lawler.

We are looking forward to resuming in-person events. Mark your calendars for the following:



- 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner – November 11, 2021
- Meet the Judges – January 20, 2022
- Semi Annual Bench Bar Conference – February 5, 2022
- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Barristers – March 10, 2022
- Annual Shrimp Dinner/Annual Meeting – May 18, 2022

I would also like to remind everyone that you are welcome (and encouraged) to submit articles for publication in BRIEFS. BRIEFS is published 6 times per year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Articles need to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. For additional details, visit the ICBA website at [www.inghambar.org/briefs](http://www.inghambar.org/briefs)

You can also post job openings on our website. Visit the Member Benefits section for details on how to post a position. These postings are available for review in the Job Bank. There are currently four job openings posted.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your participation in our on-line events over the past year. For me personally, I have treasured getting to see so many of you. I would also like to once again thank our Board members, sections chairs, and volunteers who so generously gave their time, creativity, and ingenuity during this very unique time.

Kind regards. Kind thanks. Kind wishes.

# Q & A Meet Our Power Couples

## Mike and Amy Bailey



### **When, where, and how did you meet?**

We met at Cooley Law School in 1982. We both had the same Wills and Trust class.

### **Were you both lawyers when you married?**

Yes. We were married on September 14, 1985, after both passing the July 1985 bar exam.

**How long have you been married?** On September 14, 2021, we will have been married 36 years.

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** We work together at our law firm, Bailey & Terranova, and primarily practice family law. We now have two sons, Matthew and Patrick, that have joined us and our partner, Erica Terranova, to work at our firm, and another son, Tyler, who is in his third year of law school and is interning at our firm this summer.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** As previously mentioned, we have three sons, Matthew, who is 31, Patrick, who is 29, and Tyler, who is 24. Since we were in private practice, we were able to balance our careers with our responsibilities as parents. We were always able to assure that one of us was available for our children. We had help from family and friends, as well as our assistant’s sometimes, but we worked together as a unit to be the best parents we could possibly be, as well as continue to operate our practice.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** As attorneys being involved in the same practice, you certainly understand the demands of the practice. It would probably be much more difficult when you are in a relationship with a non-attorney spouse because of not only the demands on your time, but sometimes it can also be emotionally draining as well. Having a spouse in your same line of work is great and it is helpful when discussing issues that you may have - bouncing ideas off of each other on how to handle your case.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** The

best experiences we have had together recently have been when we were both able to motion the court for the admission of our two oldest children, Matthew six years ago and Patrick three years ago, to the Michigan Bar, with the admission ceremonies taking place at the Michigan Court of Appeals. We will be doing the same again in one more year for Tyler. We were both able to speak as to why we felt our sons would be appropriate members of the Bar and it was very fulfilling to know what they had accomplished due to going through the same amount of education ourselves and knowing the amount of effort that they put into it and how it has paid off.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** We both enjoy working out. We also have a cottage in Charlevoix, Michigan that we “escape” to.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** We believe that being in the same profession has been beneficial for us. As we indicated, having our own practice allowed us to spend more time with our children while they were growing up, and to be able to participate in important milestones in their lives. Working together also allows us to discuss issues that we may have in our various cases, which is very helpful.

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** N/A.

## Hon. Laura Baird and George Zulakis



### **When, where, and how did you meet?**

We met on the steps of Thomas M. Cooley Law School, on Laura's first day, in May of 1976. We were introduced by a mutual friend. George began law school in January of 1975.

### **Were you both lawyers when you married?**

We were married in 1980. We were both licensed attorneys before we were married.

### **How long have you been married?**

We have been married for 41 years.

### **Where (do/did) you work and what**

**kind of law (do/did) you practice?** Laura began practicing family law at the James Phillips Family Law Clinic in Lansing, while George spent his first year with Zeff and Zeff, a plaintiff's personal injury firm in Detroit, before forming a partnership with a law school friend, in Lansing, in 1979. Dunn and Zulakis, PC. The practice consisted primarily in municipal law, as well as juvenile and criminal law.

In August of 1980, after the birth of our first child, we formed Baird and Zulakis, PC, in Lansing. It was a general practice, with Laura still focusing on family law,

and George on criminal law, juvenile law and personal injury. Following the traumatic birth of our second child in May of 1981 due to malpractice, Laura added birth trauma to her workload, as did George, to a lesser extent, representing a number of families whose children were similarly injured.

Following the birth of our third child in 1986, Laura became more active politically. She was elected to the Ingham County Commission in 1992 and appointed to the Community Mental Health Board, shortly thereafter, following which she served three terms as a State Representative from 1994 to 2000. In 2000, she was elected to the Circuit Court where she served until her retirement in February of 2020. Meanwhile, George continued the practice and specifically focused on criminal and juvenile law until his retirement in October of 2018.

### **Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?**

With two very young children one of whom was severely disabled, we each juggled our law practice, taking turns caring for the children, while the other was in court or meeting with a client, and taking turns as well with night feeding/care duties, particularly for our fragile son. As the children grew, we found a way to spend quality time as a family, while simultaneously preparing for trial/all-nighters at the legislature/ or a family court docket. Despite having to care for and shuttle our kids to events, and manage our disabled child's care, like many couples of our generation, we found a way to manage. In retrospect, we did what we had to do to survive, and hopefully thrive.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** As attorneys, we share an intellectual bond and an understanding of the nature of each other's work, that couples who are not both employed in the same field, may not experience. As litigators, we are both strong willed, which of course can increase the likelihood of disagreement, though we both believe in the "civil" resolution of disputes.

### **Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?**

No particular anecdote, but in general, our training and discipline help us break down problems, at work and home, while finding reasonable and constructive solutions.

### **What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?**

We have both enjoyed travel around the world, and getting away on weekends to our cottage, or previously, visiting relatives. We both enjoy reading, one of us primarily non-fiction, while the other is fonder of fiction. George has enjoyed golf, or playing the guitar and mandolin, while Laura has enjoyed cooking, sewing and watching the sun glint on whatever body of water we find in front of us. We have often been comforted by our dog(s).

### **On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?**

On balance, being in the same profession has been a good thing.

### **If you are retired, do you miss the practice?**

We each feel that our careers were fulfilling. Neither of us misses the practice, however, each of us believes it was time to move on to the next phase of our lives.

## Geoffrey and Andrea Bilabaye



### When, where, and how did you meet?

We met in law school. We were both teaching assistants at the Academic Resource Center.

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** We were law students when we married.

### How long have you been married?

Four years.

### Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?

Geoffrey: I am a prosecutor, and Andrea is an appellate family law attorney and an adjunct law professor.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** We don’t have children.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** Being married to a lawyer is rewarding because the other person understands the intricacies of the job, and sometimes the other person challenges you to be better at your job. But it is also challenging because you are both almost, too busy.

### Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?

Geoffrey: It reflects my love for the law and the profession. I love being a lawyer so much, I am married to one.

### What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?

Traveling works great. You can’t just stop working and hang at the house, you have to get away, out of town.

### On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?

It is both good and bad. Good because you can ask what the other person thinks, and the other person is able to sympathize with everything—because they know exactly how you might be feeling. It can also be bad, because sometimes you are just too busy.

### If you are retired, do you miss the practice?

Geoffrey: I know I will miss it terribly. I don’t think there is a job out there that would excite me as much as being a lawyer does. There is a part of me that I believe was truly made for this profession. I enjoy the work, and I enjoy the intellectual challenge—almost like a game.



## Scott and Torree Breen

### **When, where, and how did you meet?**

We met the first year of law school in Contracts class at Michigan State University College of Law in 1997.

### **Were you both lawyers when you married?**

Yes. In fact, Scott insisted that we both pass the bar before we were engaged in the fall of 2000. We thankfully both passed the bar in early November 2000 and were engaged just before Thanksgiving.

### **How long have you been married?**

20 marvelous years.

### **Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?**

Currently, we both work at Willingham and Coté, P.C. Scott practices business law, real estate law, alcohol beverage law, and tax law. He has a LLM in taxation in addition to his JD. Torree graduated from full-time litigation handling insurance defense and now is the firm's Chair of the Estate Planning Department. Torree also handles family law/divorce, commercial/probate litigation, and alcohol beverage law.

### **Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of**

**parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** Yes, we have two beautiful children. It was actually nice being married to an attorney while having children because we feel we are much more understanding of each other's commitments. Together nothing fell through the cracks and there has not been any envy or jealousy. Obviously practicing law has demanded more from both of us to share the responsibilities of the home. Scott often bore more responsibility of picking children up and taking them to their extracurricular activities while Torree was a full-time litigator because she was all over the State of Michigan on a daily basis.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** Other couples with one lawyer spouse often appear to have the same patience or understanding as attorney spouses in regard to the demands of the profession. When watching couples interact it is clear the attorney is usually the dominant one in the relationship and often dominates the conversation. With the exception of our closest friends, sometimes it is harder to bond with the non-attorney spouse because the both of us have more in common with the attorney spouse.

A challenge to having an attorney as a spouse; however, does create a long-drawn-out, long-winded argument when there is a difference of opinion. This is often supported by evidence or examples. This is both annoying and time consuming because the argument is rarely short.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** We love hosting our friends over for dinner and bonfires. We love visiting the U Club with our children. We love to travel. We often go down south during the winter to visit the warm weather and the ocean. We also travel up north during the summer to the mountain resorts in the LP as well as go to the UP to go pike and perch fishing. Scott loves to play golf. We enjoy attending and watching football games, baseball games, and going to our children's extracurricular events. It is our goal to attend a baseball game in every Major League stadium in America.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** We think it is a good thing. We studied together in law school, and both had different strengths and weaknesses. We helped each other with the other's weaknesses and celebrated each other's victories. We were able to work together in law school and that has set the foundation for our strong marriage and the ability to work together at our law firm. We have various clients we share and often add different strengths to the table. Working together both professionally and personally has helped us grow together and get through the hard times of life. We are never bored with each other's company and always have something to talk about both professionally and personally.



## Mark and Kimberly Burzych

### When, where, and how did you meet?

We met in the fall of 1987 during registration for our 1L year at Catholic University of America Law School in Washington, DC. Kim grew up in Bethesda, Maryland (a suburb of D.C.) and Mark grew up in Okemos. When Kim asked Mark where he was from, he, like any proud Michigander, held up his right palm and explained Michigan is shaped like a mitten. When he proceeded to say “Okemos” and point to the middle of his palm, Kim had no idea what he meant!

We went on a “double date” with two 1L colleagues at the end of our first week of classes, left our original dates after the movie, and have been together ever since. When Mark transferred to the University of Michigan Law School after the 1<sup>st</sup> year of law school, we maintained a long-distance romance during the era of long-distance landline phone bills (pre-FaceTime, internet, emails, or cell phones).

After law school, we studied for the bar exam together. We took our bar review and prep class at the Kellogg Center watching videotaped presentations of the review material. (One of our bar review instructors was Phil Prygoski, our beloved next-door neighbor a few short years later.) Studying for the bar exam, we learned that each person has different preparation strategies and we learned to be patient with each other. That lesson has served us well throughout the years.

**How long have you been married?** We got married after law school and within a few years of beginning our legal careers and have been married for 29 years. We have 3 grown children, none of whom has chosen to practice law. Early in Kim’s career, she worked for the Michigan Tax Tribunal as a hearing referee and later for the Michigan House of Representatives as an analyst for the Tax Policy Committee. Kim ultimately became a Hearing Referee for the Michigan Department of Treasury conducting hearings regarding individual income taxes, business taxes, motor fuel taxes, tobacco taxes, etc. Mark has been in private practice since law school

graduation, ultimately co-founding Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, PLC in 2008. Mark’s practice focuses on business and corporate matters, especially the hospitality industry. Mark’s niche expertise is franchise law, now representing approximately 40 franchise systems throughout the country and internationally. Mark also taught state and federal administrative law for over a decade as an adjunct professor at WMU Cooley Law School.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** Kim’s professional life with the State of Michigan has been ideal for our family. When the children were young, she was fortunate to be allowed a part-time work schedule for many years. Kim was able to spend a significant time with our growing family, helping in the classrooms, volunteering with the school PTOs, and caring for our children during their formative years. In fact, once the children were older, the State of Michigan allowed Kim to transition back into full-time work.

Mark’s private practice career, though demanding from an hours perspective, also provided flexibility to be involved in the children’s activities. Mark coached most of the children’s sports teams from soccer, to tee ball, baseball, softball, and basketball. We made family dinners at 6:30 (a time selected to accommodate Mark’s private practice schedule, and the family’s hunger pains) a priority, and we almost always made that work.

One story that is illustrative of the challenges and competing pressures that two busy lawyers have is an event from the summer of 1995. Mark was working on a large project that was going to require him to work the weekend, much to Kim’s dismay because she was

pregnant with our first child and wanted to have “one last weekend to ourselves” before the baby arrived. Mark felt compelled to be at the office because of all the work that had to be done. Lo and behold, God had a different plan because Kim’s water broke very early Saturday morning. So much for the work that “had” to be done!

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** Being married to an attorney has been uniquely rewarding. We have benefited throughout our relationship (attending law school, studying for the bar exam, building careers, etc.) from being able to discuss the interesting issues that we face in our work and knowing that the other person is often able to help us think through the issues and analysis. However, being married to a fellow attorney has made it difficult to win an argument at home unless the argument was with one of our kids.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** While we both have our own interests to help take away the pressures of the professions, our favorite relief comes from family vacations. When our children were much younger, we found resorts with kid’s clubs offered the best opportunities for the entire family to have a vacation. Later, we purchased a place on Lake Charlevoix and we enjoy summers together boating on the lake. A lesson we learned is that everyone needs to find these releases from a very stressful and demanding profession.

## Michael and Morgan Cole



### **When, where, and how did you meet?**

Morgan and I met in our second semester of law school, when I mustered up enough courage to sit next to her on the first day of our Torts II class.

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** Yes! Newly minted. We were admitted two days before we married. A momentous week.

### **How long have you been married?**

We will celebrate our 10-year anniversary this October.

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** We started our legal careers in Washington, D.C. before moving back to start our family. Morgan is the Ingham County Probate Register/Court Administrator. Michael is a member of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC with a business practice that specializes in franchising, intellectual property, liquor licensing, and other corporate matters.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** Yes, we have three wonderful children (Mary, Margaret, and Michael, Jr.).

While you may catch us driving around in the hot mess express, our approach from the beginning has always been “family first” and “communication is key.” Busy schedules require purposeful planning. Importantly, we have also been blessed to have employers and mentors who understand and share the same family values.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** We both appreciate the other’s time and understand and appreciate the unique demands of the profession. It also helps that we speak the same language. There’s no math, marketing, or medicine going on at our house, so while we may have to be extra careful to choose our words wisely in conversation, it is easy to discuss and/or bounce professional ideas off one another.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** When you ask a question, expect the response will be another question.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** Laugh. Laugh with each other, at each other, in good times and in bad, just laugh.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** A great thing!



## Maureen Dyer and Scott Mandel

### When, where, and how did you meet?

1984 at a Wayne State Law School alumni reception in Lansing.

### Were you both lawyers when you married? Yes.

### How long have you been married?

36 years

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** Maureen began her career as a research attorney at the Michigan Court of Appeals and then became a Clerk for visiting judges of the Michigan Court of Appeals. Thereafter, Maureen worked in the General Counsel's office at the University of Michigan and in private practice at the Hubbard Fox firm in Lansing. Scott has spent his entire career at Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith in Lansing.

### Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?

We had two children, Cassie and Noah, while we were both practicing. For the first few years, we shared the added responsibilities of parenting while we both worked. Maureen decided that parenting would be her priority and left the practice of law.

### Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?

While we are able to "talk shop" and understand the more technical aspects of the work, on the overall, those discussions are infrequent.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** Early in our marriage, I was asked to prepare an involved and important brief at the last minute, requiring me to spend an entire weekend in the office. Maureen was "all in" when I explained what I had to do and the reason for it. She knew how much that particular case meant to me. While a non-lawyer spouse could have been equally supportive and understanding, the depth she brought to what I was working on and why it was so important was unique.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** We have both been active in our community and Congregation. We relish the time that we spend with our kids and enjoy spending winters in the warm weather of Florida and the balance of the year in Traverse City as our get away. Maureen has pursued her passion of music by singing in a number of choirs and groups. Scott is an avid golfer and can be found on the fairways, or in his case, more likely the roughs, on many a golf course.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** For us, it has been a good thing. Even though we do not do it often, there is the ability to "talk shop."

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** Maureen does not miss the practice. Scott is still practicing.



## Sammie Eyde and Tim Seeger

**When, where, and how did you meet?** We met in San Diego in our first year of law school. We were in the same section.

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** Yes. We had been practicing for five years when we got married.

**How long have you been married?** Almost two years. We got married in 2019.

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** Sammie works at the Ingham County Public Defender's office practicing criminal law and Tim works at Grewal Law in the Grand Rapids office practicing general civil litigation with a primary focus in employment law.



**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?**

Sammie: Yes! Louisa Elizabeth Seeger was just born in Feb. 2021. Currently, I'm still on maternity, so my life has been baby all day every day.

Tim: The past few months have brought a tremendous change following the birth of our beautiful baby girl. I feel being married to a lawyer has been a tremendous help as she understands the stress, frustration, and the demands of the work to be done.



**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** Sammie: Uniquely challenging and rewarding for somewhat of the same reason. I love that we can always talk evidence, trial strategy, brainstorm cases, etc. However, that also means work never stays at the office.

Tim: I love it as I have the queen of evidence and procedure at my disposal whenever I am home.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?**

Sammie: Spend time with friends and family, we love to travel (or used to), hiking and anything that involves being outside. I watch a lot of intellectually stimulating television such as real housewives and most shows found on bravo.

Tim: It was golf, now its spending the time I have after work with our daughter ... and sleep.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** Sammie: I think overall being in the same profession is a good thing. We never run out of crazy stories to share with each other and when the other person is in trial or has a big motion or something like that, we're able to understand the stress of that in a unique way.

Tim: As stated, I think it is a good thing. We are both litigation attorneys. Understanding the stress, frustration, and consumption of time involved in our practice is helpful. There is something unique about being an attorney that often times, only another attorney can relate to.



**Michael and Preeti Gadola**

**When, where, and how did you meet?**

We were classmates in law school and met on the first day of classes at Wayne State University in the fall of 1987. We met when Preeti saw Michael's bookstore bag, and nervously asked him what he purchased that she might have overlooked! Our first date was Friday night of that first week of school. Niki's Pizza and The Old Shillelagh in Greektown.

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** We graduated from law school, both took the July 1990 bar exam (fortunately, both of us passed) and married three weeks later. We honeymooned in Bermuda and began our respective legal careers immediately upon our return from that trip.

**How long have you been married?** We have been married for thirty years.

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** Michael is a Michigan Court of Appeals Judge and Preeti is a Member of the Michigan Tax Tribunal. The majority of cases Preeti hears are on the subject of property tax, although there are some non-property tax cases. Michael hears all types of cases at the appellate level.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?** We have two children and when they were young, Preeti stayed home with them and worked part-time as a Michigan Tax Tribunal Referee and Bar Exam Grader. Michael worked full-time in various positions in state government. Michael coached our son's flag football and basketball teams and we spent countless hours attending our daughter's team sports events, choir concerts, and high school musicals.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** It is uniquely rewarding to have a spouse who understands the rigors of legal practice. We can also

intelligently discuss legal issues that would generally make others bored to tears. And if we're being honest, we can still manage to bore one another to tears with those stories from time to time! But it is helpful to have the listening ear of a person with an understanding of what the other is facing.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** One interesting fact about our professions is that Preeti is a trial court judge and her opinions are appealed right to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Of course, Michael does not hear any Tax Tribunal cases and his colleagues are just fine with reversing and remanding her opinions! Though most often she is affirmed of course.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** Michael is an avid cyclist, runs and has completed bike races and multiple marathons and triathlons. Preeti spends her time gardening, reading and occasionally trying (and failing miserably) to keep up with Michael. Together, we enjoy going to movies, traveling, and trying new restaurants.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** It is a good thing for the reasons stated above. Preeti can attend law-related events with Michael and comprehend the discussions and vice versa. There is also an understanding and empathy for the work-related pressures we each face. This makes it easier to know how and when to support one another in stressful times.

## Rose and Peter Houk

### When, where, and how did you meet?

We met in Wayne State University Law School, our first year, 1966. It was not the story book meeting, that is, love at first sight. We began dating late in our second year. We kept it a secret from our friends and law school classmates because the milieu in law school was much like a Peyton Place and we did not wish to be the brunt of the gossips (who by the way were mostly men as we only had six women in our law school class).



PS. The picture is from our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with our son and daughter and our five grandchildren. It was a wonderful weekend.

We were married September 1, 1968, a day before our senior year started. We took the first week for our honeymoon and fortunately suffered no consequences from our professors for not being in class. There was much speculation, however, as to who I (Rose) had married. (Remember the gossiping I told you about?) In fact, the word around school was that I had married a friend who belonged to my study group. It was Gary who had to set everyone straight about who I had married.

### Were you both lawyers when you married?

No. We suffered through our senior year together, had a couple of classes together, including Tax Law with the venerable Professor Don Gordon. We often studied together, and Tax was once such subject. One day, the Professor

called on Peter to discuss a particular issue in one of the cases. He was incorrect in his analysis, and I (Rose) disagreed with his answer. I raised my hand to respond to Peter's answer, which the Professor could not ignore. I answered it, correctly, and the Professor seemed satisfied, albeit a bit hesitant to comment that I was right. When class recessed, he asked both of us to see him. We did and he hemmed and hawed a bit, then asked if we did this often, i.e., argue about issues and analysis (Peter and I called it discussing the issues). We told him we did. Somewhat reluctantly he asked if "discussions" seemed to affect our personal relationship. Stunned, we just looked at him and assured him that the discussions we had about the law were not personal, they were about lawyering, why would it affect our personal relationship? (Peter's memory of this story and the answers given is somewhat different he wanted it pointed out.)

### How long have you been married?

This year we will celebrate 53 years of marriage. It seems impossible that it has been that long. It seems that only last year we celebrated our 50th year.

### Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?

Rose: I started practice at Legal Aid in Lansing. From Legal Aid, I ultimately joined a small private law firm, Mitchell, Villella and Houk. After having 2 children I could no longer endure the long hours of private practice and joined the Attorney General's Office in 1980. I was an Assistant

Attorney General for about 30 years. I retired from the AG's Office in 2009. I am currently doing pro bono work for charitable nonprofit corporations.

Peter: I am currently in private practice with the Fraser Firm with mediations and arbitrations as my primary business

as well as some limited general civil law. I spent 13 years doing criminal law as the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney and as an Assistant Attorney General. I was Lansing City Attorney for five years prior to being Prosecutor for Ingham County and spent 17 years as a Circuit Judge on the Ingham County Circuit Court.

### Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?

We did have children, a girl, Emily and a son, Peter. We both contributed to the multitude of new responsibilities of taking care of children. We had a Nanny for them. It would not have been possible for both of us to continue our careers without childcare. But both of us shared all household and child responsibilities such as laundry; grocery shopping; taking children to the doctors or dentists; arranging for pick-up after school or sports events; showing up for recitals; soccer games; and fixing meals for all of us. Having a family was a "shared" event.

### Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?

Being married to another lawyer is different and uniquely challenging from other couples. First, your time at work is not just a matter of making money, you are also charged with the care of a client, thus adding to your burden of having to also find quality time for a spouse and family. Secondly, your time and your spouse's time in the practice of law sometimes conflicted, or found one or both of you out of town; or shuttered in your den to prepare for trial the next day. That too is something other couples probably didn't find necessary, two workspaces in the home, one for each lawyer to spread out,

keep files and your own filing system. (Just because you were both lawyers did not mean you filed things under the same filing system.)

That being said, there were also uniquely rewarding times being married to another lawyer. You could discuss legal issues that were bothering you, keeping in mind confidential matters, of course. But it often gave us a chance to “try-out” legal theories with someone unrelated to or involved in the case. Law partners are fine for this task, too, but they are also busy with their own case load and may not have the time to just gently gnaw at a problem. The other rewarding part of being married to another lawyer is that each of you could appreciate the stress your partner was undergoing, or the time demands that the practice might make. You could also proudly watch, and applaud, the rewards or advancements taken by the other partner.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?**

Rose: I can think of two instances when being married to another lawyer was unique. Peter was City Attorney at the time. His office and the circuit courts were located in City Hall. I happened to be in a hearing in Circuit Court one morning when the fire alarms went off halting all proceedings with court personnel rushing to make sure everyone evacuated the building. I don’t even remember if it were a fire or a bomb threat (the reason for the alarm) but when we both found each other outside on the plaza in front of City Hall, we realized that we both could have died together in that incident and left our daughter an orphan. It was a shocking realization that our “togetherness” in all things was not necessarily a good thing at all times.

The second event that comes to my mind was while I was still in private

practice. Peter was City Attorney. I was representing a family trying to deal with a teenager that was suffering from mental health issues and drug use. He was still at home, although his mother was trying to have him committed for residential treatment. I received a hysterical phone call from her indicating that she and her son had just had a horrible argument and he was threatening to kill her and that she thought he had a gun in the house. She was afraid to call the police because she did not want him or anyone else harmed or even killed.

I was pregnant with our daughter at the time and obviously suffering from brain fog shutdown so went to the house to see if I could “talk him down” so to speak. Fortunately, I made mention of where I was going and why to my secretary as I hurried out the door. Peter called shortly after I left and my secretary, wise young lady that she was, told him where I was going and why. I am just guessing here, but I really doubt that many other husbands had to race across town to stop his pregnant wife from doing something really stupid like going into a house with a drugged-out teenager with a gun, as that was the message he had been given. (My secretary clearly misunderstood when I told her that I was meeting my client, the boy’s mother at their house to talk to him.) Now, I was not as stupid as both my husband and secretary must have thought. I did not go into the house, I peered through a window, I admit, but seeing nothing, convinced my client that we should call the police to secure help for her son. About that time, Peter showed up, I honestly could not tell from his face if he was livid, scared to death or relieved that he found me alive and not in the house. I do know he hugged me while whispering not so quietly, sweet nothings, like, “What the H--- did you think you were doing?” Ultimately, we found the boy, in a

drugged-induced sleep, and got EMS and the police to take him to the hospital for some intervention. He did get help and was able to ultimately re-join his family. I often wondered what happened to him as an adult. And yes, he did have a shotgun in his room on the floor.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?**

We purchased a small cottage on a little lake in Northern Michigan, no TV, no radio, no phone, just the lake, the kids, and the loons. We still have it more than 40 years later. Now our children and grandchildren enjoy it in the summertime as well. It is still a place to which we retreat when we want to slow down and restart the engines and spend time with our children and grandchildren.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?**

We are not sure there is a rating available for us. Being in the same profession worked well for us and gave us a good living and sense of worth. We don’t believe this factor defines a relationship, however, or a marriage. We had similar stresses as our friends who were professionals in different areas. We had the same “discussions”, I am sure, about who was going to take the garbage out or do the laundry or whatever was needed/under discussion at the time. Like all other couples, we did our best at the time and have lived to tell about some of it. We are not sure that being in the same profession necessarily gave us an edge.

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?**

Rose: Peter is not retired, of course. My guess is that he never will. He maintains enough business to stay engaged but has missed, and still misses the comraderies of the office and lunch with friends during Covid.

*Continued on page 16*

*Rose and Peter Houk continued.*

I am retired from making money, is how I see life now, since I still keep my hand in the “practice of law” through my pro bono work, but at a greater distance than I did before. I miss the excitement of making an argument after researching a particular legal issue, having discussions with colleagues about whatever the latest Supreme Court ruling was that affected our work, directing my staff, or encouraging them to think a little broader than they were accustomed to doing. But I don’t miss having to answer the bell at the same time every day. And I do like the freedom to be able to say no if someone asks for my advice. I just wish I knew how to implement that “freedom”.



**Amy  
Ronayne  
Krause and  
Kurt Krause**

**When, where,  
and how did you  
meet?** We were introduced by

colleagues from the Attorney General’s Office in July 1998. Three colleagues specifically, and one of them walked into Kurt’s office and said, “You need to call our Amy”, and set my name with office phone number on a piece of paper on his desk. He did call. We went lunch. While the details of that lunch are better shared in person, suffice it to say each of us has a very different version of it. Nevertheless, after that lunch, we ended up working on some cases together and we started dating on July 10, 1999 and married on April 8, 2000.



turned out to be a good thing to be in HP for that time, because Kurt joined that division about 6 months after Amy left it---and it was three women in that division that set us up. So, Amy was a prosecutor the AG’s office when we met, and Kurt was in HP. He ended up transferring to the Health Care Fraud division and we ended up working in the same building for years. We loved it. Then Amy was appointed to the district court bench in Lansing and was there for almost 8 years and, has now been a judge on Michigan Court of Appeals for over 10 years. Kurt left the AG’s office and was in the Michigan Department of Community Health and worked there as a lawyer and also, as Chief Deputy of the department for 2 years. MDCH merged with DHS, and it became the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. He has been a criminal

**Were you both  
lawyers when you  
married?** Yes

**How long have you  
been married?**  
Over 21 years

**Where (do/did)  
you work and  
what kind of  
law (do/did) you  
practice?** When we met, we were both Assistant Attorneys General. Amy had worked in the Health Professionals (Licensing) division for about 8 months before being transferred to the criminal division. That

defense attorney for over three years now with Chartier & Nyamfukudza, P.L.C. We have practiced many different areas of law throughout our careers. Amy mostly as a prosecutor, Assistant Attorney General and a judge, and Kurt in health care and criminal law.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** We find our marriage extremely rewarding. We both love the law and love discussing issues of law.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** We don’t think there is any specific experience or anecdote, it is more of a daily uniqueness to be able to talk about some obscure element of the law and have your spouse not only understand it but be able to discuss it fully.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** We have three rescue dogs currently and love playing with them and taking them for walks. Kurt loves to golf and fish. Amy loves to read and travel. Together we love traveling or, as we did during the pandemic, have staycations. Unplugging from everything is key and have time to focus on us as a couple. We also really enjoy great films and theater. Those are two other interests about which we have wonderful conversations.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** We think it is an excellent thing and would not want it any other way.



**Andrea and Michael Larkin**

**When, where, and how did you meet?**

We met at a wedding rehearsal in the Basilica at the University of Notre Dame on December 7, 1984, when our respective former Notre Dame roommates married one another, and we were paired as bridesmaid and groomsman at the wedding!

**Were you both lawyers when you married?**

Yes, Mike had been practicing in Tucson, Arizona for two years and Andrea was practicing in Grand Rapids at Varnum at the time. We dated long distance and were married on May 31, 1986.

**How long have you been married?** 35 years on May 31, 2021

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?**

Mike was a personal injury lawyer at Haralson, Kinerk and Morey in Tucson, AZ, then joined the Sinas Dramis law firm. Andrea was a commercial litigator at Varnum in Grand Rapids, then at Molloy, Jones and Donohue in Tucson

and Dickinson Wright in Lansing. In 2012 she ran successfully for district court judge at 54B District Court.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** We had three children while both practicing: Edward in 1989, Theodore (Ted) in 1991 and Grace in 1996. We had a nanny for about the first decade of parenthood and equally shared responsibility when we were both at home. When our nanny’s husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness and several attempts at replacing her did not work out, Andrea took an extended leave of absence from her partner position at Dickinson Wright. When our youngest was in driver’s training and the older two were off in college and graduate school, Andrea ran for 54B District Court judge!

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** The benefit is that we understand what the other is going through at different phases of our profession such as during trial preparation. We think it’s a benefit to speak the same “language” and to have an easy understanding of issues we end up talking over.



**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** We both love this profession. Our fathers were attorneys, and we were fortunate to have a good understanding of what was involved in practicing law before we chose it as our own career. No anecdotes come to mind but we both understood the challenges and stresses of preparing for and being in trial.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** Our family kept us very busy in the early years and gave us lots of distractions from our work. Since the nest has been empty, we have enjoyed traveling, reading, and spending time in the Tucson desert and at Lake Michigan.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** On balance we both agree it was a very positive thing.

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** Andrea retires on June 1 so we will answer this question as to be determined! Mike has no plans to retire in the next few years.

## Mike and Mary Levine



### When, where, and how did you meet?

We met when we were working at the MI Attorney General's office. Mary was a law clerk and Mike was an Assistant AG in the State Affairs Division. He wanted to take me out for a date, and I kept putting him off. Finally, one of the secretaries in our office made us agree on a time and the rest is history.

### Were you both lawyers when you married?

Mike was, and Mary was in law school at Cooley and graduated shortly after we married.

**How long have you been married?** On May 26<sup>th</sup> we will be married for 43 years.

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** Mary practices in the affordable housing arena, mostly concentrating on real estate and business organizations, government law with a bit of federal taxation. Mike also works in that arena, but practices in health care law, professional licensing, and government law with an emphasis in transportation. We were in private practice together for about 12 years and we recently merged our practice with Fraser Trebilcock (where Mike was a member for a number of years before we opened our own office).

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?**

We have two grown children - about 40 years we welcomed our daughter (who

is also an attorney) and 3 years later our son. We agreed, early on, that practicing law and raising children was pretty much an equal obligation and we worked out a good arrangement for child care, etc. It was a lot of juggling, but it worked out for us. Both of us were active in advocating for early education child care and our children first attended the EC3 child care center on the former campus of the School for the Blind. When our daughter was starting elementary school, we became active in another child care endeavor called School Age Child Care that provided before and after school care for children in the East Lansing School District.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** What an interesting

question. There are a lot more so-called debates with married attorney couples. We think it just goes with the territory. But really, when both couples are working full-time, especially when you are raising small children, it's all the same challenges relative to family time and career.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?**

Early in Mike's practice (after the AG's office, before he joined Fraser), he accepted probate court assignments in abuse and neglect matters. Usually, he was appointed to represent the child's interests. Our workday routine called for Mike to take the children to day care at EC3 and Mary would pick up the children at the end of the day. One Friday evening, after Mary picked up our children, as she was driving home through the neighborhood near EC3 and as she approached Saginaw Street (surrounded by other cars in traffic), she saw that she was driving toward an unfolding police raid of a home. Several officers with guns drawn were stationed

outside of the home. One officer hiding behind a tree was so close to the street that he could have touched her car, she was that close. Right then, the traffic signal turned red. At that point, she was afraid that if she had stopped, she would have put our children and herself in the middle of a more dangerous situation. In a split-second Mary made the decision to run the red light to extricate herself out of the unfolding situation. She made it home before the 6 o'clock news. The raid was the lead story. Child Protective Service had removed 3 children from the home. The police had arrested a mother with a small child along with the child's grandmother. Mary turned to Mike and said, "I bet that you'll get called on this case." Sure enough, about 45 minutes later he was called by CPS. He represented the interests of the child of the mother arrested in the raid at a hearing the following Monday morning. A few months later, the police raided the home again and it made the news again. Fortunately, no children were present.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** A lot of family vacations up north, we both played tennis, Mary likes to garden though she does not think she is particularly good at it. Mike loves to read, work out, and play golf. Lately, because of the pandemic, we have done a lot of walking in our neighborhood and both of us discovered Audible.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** It has been a good thing. We have supported each other in our individual and joint endeavors, and it's worked out pretty well for both of us.

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** We are not retired but we are in a comfortable place in our practice and looking forward to a time when things are back to near normal so we can resume our exploration of the world which got interrupted by Covid.



## Mike Nichols and Wendy Schiller-Nichols

### When, where, and how did you meet?

We met representing opposing parties in a case. Wendy represented the husband in a divorce when she was working at the Abood Law Firm; I represented the wife when I was working at the Reynolds Law Firm. The case turned into a big fight over whether we agreed on language in the divorce or whether I tried to “slip one by” in the final draft. Wendy wanted to grieve me, and Andrew Abood had to talk her off the ledge and convince her I’m a good guy. It is probably one of the main reasons that I can never say “no” to Andrew. Judge Lawless also denied Wendy attorney fees in her motion to set the judgment of divorce aside, which helped. (I don’t remember that ending that way... but okay).

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** Yes – transitioning from roles as associates to launching our own endeavors and we decided that we liked each other enough to try to practice together ... once Wendy got over that wanting to grieve me thing (Thanks again, Andrew).

**How long have you been married?** December 30, 2005 was the day that Judge Lawless presided over the ceremony. The height of irony.

### Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?

Mike: I do DUI/Crim Law, serious cases when they come my way like murder or CSC and the occasional fun case off the beaten path – like suing a vet who tried to keep my client’s dog once; Wendy does Personal Injury/Family Law and Criminal Law along with talking me off the ledge when necessary (hopefully less frequently in the last few years).

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** This is probably the hardest question to answer and there really is not an answer at least not one that is simple. We have two older kids from my first marriage and one child in common. It was not always easy caring for an infant and running a law firm. Many days were spent with Wendy bringing Morgan to work with her and having one foot on the bounce chair and both hands on the computer. Blending this family while still maintaining or adhering to our responsibilities to our clients and to the business side of the practice is very arduous. Because we have different roles on both sides of our lives it can become really difficult to respect each other’s effort or output to the ultimate product that is family/law firm successes. That is one of the keys to holding it together -- now over 15 years: respecting the effort the other makes even if it is from a different perspective, appreciating what you have and not taking the other for granted. All of it is an investment and I believe that outcome is the product of input.

My middle child is contemplating law school and I have had him come help me at the office as a trade for help on things like paying for the occasional traffic ticket for him or helping him make a purchase. There are many notes that are still on little post-it’s around my office that my kids have written throughout the years – and you can see them on zoom – on which one of the kids wrote me a note urging me to wrap up work and leave. For example, prominent on my hutch is a note from our youngest Morgan, now 11 as I write this: “Father, I am bored! Let’s go home.” They sacrifice for us when we sacrifice for the client and that is why I have no compunction about taking them on nice trips or buying them nice gifts.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** Probably the number one reward is that we each can understand where a challenging case or client arises and the extra time and stress that has to go into it. It helps to be supportive when you can identify from personal experience!

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** That’s easy – when one of us gets a traffic ticket we call in a favor from the other. Guess who’s in the debit side of the chit column on that one.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** We used to jet ski; ride ATV’s and boat but having a small child changed that. Now we ski; horseback ride and pretend to play golf. Mix in with that some travel and I try to stand in the kitchen and clean dishes when Wendy cooks. We like to binge watch series and movies but so many movies anymore are really not very good. We’ve probably watched Schitt’s Creek and Curb Your Enthusiasm at least twice each. We use our workout room to work out with our youngest in the evenings: one can treadmill, another can use the stationary bike and a 3<sup>rd</sup> can use either the elliptical or the recumbent bike or do a little yoga or stretching or some strength in the studio portion. When it’s nice we walk the dogs.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** A good thing (what else do you expect me to say?)

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** Not retired. I’ll slow down I’m sure and I’ve slowed down in the third decade from the first two decades (this is year 22) but not there yet.



**Amanda and Jeff O'Boyle**

**When, where, and how did you meet?**

It's actually kind of a funny story, we met when I pulled his hair. We were both on a school bus traveling from the University of Illinois to see a Chicago White Sox game in 2005 (notably the year they last won the World Series). I was an eager Freshman, ready to make friends so I decided to go on the trip by myself. After a less than promising conversation with the person seated opposite of myself, I reached and pulled the hair of the person seated in front of me. That person turned out to be Jeff. Nine innings and a bus trip home - the rest was history.

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** Jeff is not a lawyer, he is a now a physician. When we married, he was a second year medical student and I was a paralegal working at a private law firm.

**How long have you been married?** We just celebrated our 10 year anniversary!

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** I am a municipal attorney for the City of Lansing since I graduated in 2017. Jeff is a triple board-certified physician in both family medicine and preventative medicine with a focus in addiction. Jeff currently owns a direct primary care practice, Beyond Primary Care, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, focusing on family medicine and addiction medicine.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?** We just welcomed a little boy in August 2020. We did not intend to have a "pandemic baby," but that is what life has dealt us. Working primarily from home over the past year has certainly come with its difficulties and challenges, but one of the marvels has been the ability to spend more quality time with our little one.

Being a physician in the middle of a pandemic created a real challenge for our family. Before the era of vaccinations there was always the risk that Jeff could contract COVID or bring it home with him. When other jobs came to a standstill, being a physician was classified as an essential worker. COVID not only greatly impacted his practice, but also all of the ailments that coincided with it, such as depression and substance abuse.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** Jeff and I have the best of both worlds. We joke that our roles switch at home - I'm the doctor of the house and he is the lawyer of the house, which mostly consists of him yelling random legal terms and declaring his victory. We are never at a loss for conversation and we each bring a unique perspective to current news and political debates.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** We are avid gardeners. Every year we plant a large vegetable garden and then can our own salsa, marinara, pickles, etc. We also enjoy spending time together with our son and two huskies.

## Michelle and Matthew Rick

### When, where, and how did you meet?

We met in 1983. We were freshmen at Michigan State University and lived on 4-South in Case Hall. At the time, the halls had men's and women's wings. Our RA's held a joint meeting at the very beginning of the school year. We were told to look around, as there was likely going to be someone among us who would end up married. We had no idea at the time it would be us!

### Were you both lawyers when you married?

No. We became engaged our last year of undergraduate at MSU. We were married after Matthew's first year of law school at then the University of Detroit School of Law (now UDM Law). Michelle took a gap year to make some money for the wedding. This worked out well for many reasons, including that Michelle had use of Matthew's outlines and experiences with law professors at U of D.

Being in law school together at U of D enabled us to go on a study abroad in London the fall of 1989. Matthew was a 3L; Michelle was a 2L. We studied at Regent's College in London. In addition to taking classes, being in Europe then enable us to travel and experience things we would never otherwise had the opportunity to do. We attended an IRA terrorist trial in Belfast. We spent a week traveling in Italy. We chiseled the actual wall in Berlin and were likely one of the last visitors to have to obtain a visa to go into East Berlin. We spent that Christmas with Michelle's relatives in Poland, including a distant uncle who was a WWI veteran. We got kicked out of what was then Czechoslovakia as we didn't have travel visas to take the train through the country. In total, we spent 5 months abroad that trip.

### How long have you been married?

We will be married 33 years on June 25, 2021.

### Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?

Matthew began working as an attorney in the Lansing prehearing offices of the Michigan Court of Appeals. He eventually clerked for Judge Don Holbrook Jr. From there, he worked in private practice for several years representing the Michigan Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association, before transitioning to work for the State, at the Attorney General's office (in the State

Affairs division), as General Counsel for the MEDC, and now at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Matthew presently serves as Senior Deputy Director of the Legal Affairs Administration for MDHHS. He oversees a vast array of legal issues pertaining to Medicaid, Children's Services, public health, patient and client confidentiality, and many other MDHHS divisions.

Michelle's goal was to be a litigator. Thus, while she began working for the Hubbard, Fox Law Firm right out of law school, she left private practice in a year to become an assistant prosecuting attorney in Livingston County. After 3 years as an APA (and having had two of the Rick's four children), she began working for the Attorney General's office. She and Matthew were in different divisions, but greatly appreciated having the same employer for a number of years, which enabled them to have a meaningful work/family life balance. Michelle worked in the Tort Defense, Retirement, Habeas Corpus, and Consumer Protection divisions. From the AG's office, Michelle then worked in Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's legal division for a year before taking the circuit court bench in Clinton and Gratiot counties. Michelle served in that capacity for thirteen years before running, unopposed, for the Michigan Court of Appeals 4<sup>th</sup> District, where she currently sits.

### Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?

As noted above, the key to us finding that work/family life balance was providing public service. Working at the Attorney General's office at the same time not only provided us with



vital flexibility when our children required a parent's attention for sick days, doctor appointments, class field trips, but it also enabled us to take time off for family vacations and holidays. We deliberately forewent the economic benefits of private practice because we placed greater value on our family time. We also believe in doing the right thing when acting as public servants. Our choice of public service has worked very well for us, as our marriage has sustained and we have a very tight knit family today, even as our children are now adults.

Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?

We certainly can relate to the work pressures experienced by the other spouse. We speak and understand the same work language. Even our law school experience was different because we were married at the time. We both understood the time commitments required for law exams, including the bar examination.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?**

Given that we married before Michelle started working, Matthew has been able to move for Michelle's admission to the State Bar of Michigan, as well as move for her ascendance to the 29th Circuit bench. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Michelle's investiture for the COA has been delayed, but he will once again make the requisite motion. It is unique and very special.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?**

We have always dedicated ourselves to family time. When our children were young, we had a travel trailer and we traveled extensively through the state. Our favorite vacation spot is Au Train, mid-way between Munising and Marquette. While the trailer is gone, we still maximize our weekends exploring Michigan and beyond. While the children were in school, we spent spring breaks in France, Italy, Germany, Florida, Alabama, New Orleans, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

Matthew separately looks forward to upland hunting several times every fall. Through the years, he has had several hunting dogs, the best one being Lincoln, the German Shorthair Pointer. Getting out in the woods with his brothers, son and son-in-law make the time very special.

Since her mid-forties, Michelle began running. She finds it a great way to clear the mind. She has run the Detroit International ½ marathon several times, the Grand Island half marathon, and numerous turkey trots and Christmas eve day runs in Lansing. Michelle also has a 250cc Piaggio that she has enjoyed riding. She also enjoys wine weekends with friends and coworkers.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?**

We have enjoyed being a part of the same profession. We are proud to have served the State for many years. We expect to continue our public service for a few more years.

## Jerry and Linda Sutton

### **When, where, and how did you meet?**

Met when we both worked in downtown Lansing.

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** Jerry completed his degree; then helped put Linda through law school after marriage!

**How long have you been married?** 44 years... but it really is “88 years because we have worked together the entire time.”

**Where (do) you work and what kind of law (do) you practice?** Sutton Advisors, PLC, we have our own firm specializing in business, tax and estate planning.... preventative law: seeking to anticipate and prevent legal problems and litigation.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** Shared very well ...it was ‘easy’ because we both knew the other’s responsibilities and appointments.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** It has been extremely rewarding. Our legal education trained us to look at things from all different angles.



**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** We have viewed our practice as a business that supports the life we wish to live.  
**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** 1) followed our daughter throughout her athletic career now enjoying the fact that she has joined us in practice....  
2) visiting family around the country, often by train ...very relaxing.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** A wonderful thing.

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** We are not retiring...we decided early on in our careers that we would “retire” a little every year. Since our daughter, Jordan Sutton, joined us in our business, we are still having a good time...

## Clifford and Lucille Taylor

**When, where, and how did you meet?** We were classmates at the George Washington University Law School in Washington D. C. Lucille arriving via Penn State and Cliff from University of Michigan.

**Were you both lawyers when you married?** Yes. We married in Washington, a year and a half after graduation. By then, Cliff was a Navy officer on a Destroyer and Lucille was working as a legislative assistant for a member of Congress from Cincinnati, Ohio.

**How long have you been married?** 52 years--we often tell newlyweds: the first 25 years are the hardest!

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** After Cliff's military service, we relocated to Ingham County. Lucille worked as a policy analyst then as Minority Counsel for the Michigan House of Representatives for 7 years, was a stay-at-home-mom for 9 years, returning to work as the Majority Counsel for the Michigan Senate for 4 years, then as Chief Legal Counsel to Gov. John Engler for 12 years. Thereafter, Lucille was an appointed Special Assistant Attorney General from 2004-2018. Cliff initially was an Assistant Prosecutor in Ingham County and then practiced privately with Denfield, Timmer & Taylor until appointment to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1992. After 5 years on that bench, Cliff was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court where he served for 11 years with the final four as Chief Justice. After

leaving the bench Cliff was Of Counsel with the Miller Canfield law firm. Our delightful "last act" took us to Naples, Florida where, for the winter semester, we were Visiting Professors at the Ave Maria School of Law for 10 years.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the "jealous mistress" of your professions?** We have two children (Michael and John) born in 1978 and 1980. Lucille was a very dedicated mother. Cliff less so—especially in even-numbered years—when the elective offices he pursued and secured necessitated that he was away a good bit.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** When we first came to Lansing it was quite rare to find two lawyer marriages, as in the late 1960's, there were still very few female lawyers. As we share professional, political and social interests, we always felt this made our married years very interesting, relatively easy and always lively.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** Not really, but because we bring the same set of skills into discussing personal, and public issues—conversations can become more intense. I think our kids would say the impact of our professional training bore more heavily on them than on other kids.



**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?**

We each did some civic, school, or church activities. Also travel—especially cruising—ballroom dancing and extensive gardening at our Laingsburg Lake home.

**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** It was a GREAT thing. We always have been very compatible and having the same discipline of thought has brought us together.

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** We miss the intellectual rigor that is the best part of being among practicing lawyers.



## Eugene ("Gil") and Marilyn Wanger

### When, where, and how did you meet?

Gil and Marilyn were students at the University of Michigan Law School in 1958 when they met at a party given

by some fellow students on the Ides of March (The 15th). Gil was a senior and Marilyn a junior; both attended with other dates. Even so, Gil called Marilyn the next day to go to a movie together.

### Were you both lawyers when you married? How long have you been married?

Gil didn't move that fast when it came to marriage. However, after graduation, he returned to Lansing, his home town, and went into private practice. The next year, Marilyn, one of the Morris sisters from Mason, took a job in the Attorney General's Office and moved to Lansing. They married in July, 59 years ago.

### Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?

After a while in private practice, Gil was elected a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention of 1961 where he wrote the ban on capital punishment and the provisions for the Auditor General. Following the constitutional convention, he returned to private practice.

Marilyn spent a few years as an Assistant Attorney General in the State Affairs and the Education divisions, but her career was primarily with the Michigan Court of Appeals. Her last 20 years there she was a Commissioner.

Gil especially remembers one case that he lost in the 6th Circuit on the issue of congressional intent, whereupon the court's decision was speedily reversed by an act of Congress; and another case in the Michigan Supreme Court that he won where the justices, in a unanimous opinion, quoted with approval a full paragraph from his brief.

### Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?

Lawyer/lawyer marriages are uniquely rewarding because you do truly understand when the other is talking about a legal issue or other people involved in the practice of law. Besides, Gil always says that they have the best-reasoned arguments in town.

## Norm and Joy Witte

### When, where, and how did you meet?

We met at Smith & Brooker, P.C. in Bay City in 1985, where we were both summer law clerks. Norm had just finished his first year, and Joy had one more semester to go. We shared an office. Norm loaned Joy his stapler and the rest was history.

### Were you both lawyers when you married? Yes.

**How long have you been married?** June 16, 2021 will mark 32 years. So far it is working out.

**Where (do/did) you work and what kind of law (do/did) you practice?** Joy started doing general litigation at Rhodes McKee in Grand Rapids, in 1985 and then moved to Plunkett Cooney in Lansing where she did insurance defense for a number of years. From there she was appointed four times to the Michigan Workers Compensation Appellate Commission. After her period of governmental service she was hired

after a lengthy interview process by Witte Law Offices, PLLC where she practices landlord/tenant law.

Norm started doing commercial litigation and bankruptcy work at Loomis Ewert in 1987. From there he spent two years clerking with Bankruptcy Judge JoAnn C. Stevenson in Grand Rapids. After that he spent a year with James B. Brown & Associates, and then started his own solo practice in 1995.

Our firm practices predominantly in the areas of landlord/tenant law, bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

**Did you have children while you were both practicing? If so, how did you share the added responsibilities of parenthood on top of the demands of the “jealous mistress” of your professions?** We had four children while we were practicing. Joy was fortunate to be able to take off a significant period of time after each child was born and both Plunkett Cooney and the Appellate Commission worked with her to flex her hours to accommodate parenting duties.



Norm simply stood back and observed in awe.

**Based on your observations of other couples who were not both lawyers, how is being married to a lawyer (different/uniquely challenging/uniquely rewarding)?** Neither of us really have a frame of reference for comparison, but we do find that our conversations at home not infrequently turn to legal topics and work. That probably is one reason that our two oldest children are both attorneys; Jake is an associate at Fahey Schultz and Allison is an assistant prosecutor in Ionia County.

The fact that we have the same training and profession means that we have one more thing in common besides family. It's also useful to have someone to brainstorm with and to use as a sounding board, especially in small-firm practice.

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** Norm: I suppose it would be our sense of humor, which can have a decidedly legal cast to it. For example, we've decided to name the pontoon Subpoena Colada.

**What do you do (together, separately, or both) to get away from the pressures of the profession?** We both really enjoy travel when our schedules permit. Summertime is for pontoon rides on the Grand River.

Joy is an avid gardener and can frequently be found outside with boots and gloves. We are currently raising our two-year old grandson and Joy spends much of her time with him, filling in Zoom hearings as needed.

Norm has four hundred hobbies, one of which is restoring old cars. Lately he has been spending his spare time waist-deep in the engine bay of a 1971 Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser.



**On balance, was being in the same profession a good thing, a bad thing, or both?** Being in the same profession was a good thing. It made us much more understanding of the pressures the other faced. A simple example: from the beginning of our careers, we had an agreement that if we were talking on the phone to each other during the work day and one of us said, "I have to go," the correct response from the other was, "Love you, bye," and to hang up. Neither of us can think of a time when it was at all a negative thing that the other was also a lawyer.

Quite literally, if not for the practice of law, we would never have met, so we can't see it as anything but a positive.

**If you are retired, do you miss the practice?** We are not yet retired but looking forward to finding out whether we will miss the practice.

An addendum:

Norm, I always wondered if, just as a lark, you ever limber up one of those old typewriters and use it in the practice,

just to befuddle some young lawyer who has never received a letter typed on one. Please add that to the questionnaire attached!

You're of course asking about the eight vintage typewriters in the museum I call my office. The answer is no, but there's a bit more to that story. I've never bought a vintage typewriter but Joy found a couple at garage sales and those ended up in my office. From there, clients just started giving them to me; one I got from Fred Trost.

One day Allison stopped by after a class at Cooley and was commenting that she wanted an old typewriter. By chance a client had just dropped one off the prior week, an attractive red portable from the 1930's, so I said she could have it. It went to our house and ended up on the counter doing shopping list duty. Some of the lists read more like ransom notes than grocery items.

Finally, I asked Joy if there was anything she wanted to add, since I prepared these responses. This is what she said:

**Do you have an anecdote or an experience that illustrates why being married to an attorney is unique?** If you know Norm, then you know that being married to him PERIOD has to be unique. The other day I noticed, again, that he can answer virtually any question the kids and I present to him. Jake: what is the best way to cut 45-degree mitered angles in Azek to make new columns on the front of our house? Allison: Dad, I'm designing the split roof for my aviary, can you give me a hand with the supports? Seth: how should we go about designing a functional cold air intake system through the Accord? Which led to them designing a custom fabricated hood scoop, laser cut airbox, 3D printed intake, and more! Caitlin: Dad, can you explain this new recording software? I'm trying to layer in four instruments over my voice. Me: Honey, can you hang this new chandelier I bought in place of the old one? I also know, anytime, during any hearing, I can contact him and get an instant answer to any legal or factual question I'm facing in court. I'm so humbled to be married to such an amazing man.



# Congratulations to the new ICBA-YLS Board Members!

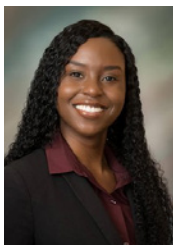
By Marisa Vinsky



**Marisa Vinsky**

[marisa@cndefenders.com](mailto:marisa@cndefenders.com)

This year, YLS had four positions available for the Board of Directors. Elections closed on May 11, 2021, and the winners were officially announced at the ICBA Annual Shrimp Dinner. After a close race, we are happy to commend the winners of this election.



**Ernschie Augustin** was reelected as a Board member, after serving this past year as Secretary of YLS. She is an attorney at Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices, PLLC, and practices in the areas of elder law and estate planning, including probate litigation.

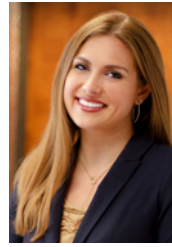
The new individuals elected to the Board are **Hilary Stafford**, **Lauren Kissel**, and **Kelly McClintock**.



**Hilary Stafford** is an associate attorney at Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC. She is a member of the firm's General & Commercial Litigation practice group, and her practice concentrates on employment discrimination defense, personal injury litigation, third-party no-fault disputes, and insurance defense.



**Lauren Kissel** is an associate at the Sinas Dramis Law Firm and focuses her practice on plaintiffs' personal injury law, particularly auto no-fault, car accidents, bicycle law, and sexual assault cases.



Finally, **Kelly McClintock** is an associate attorney at Grewal Law PLLC and works in the areas of family law, sexual assault litigation, human trafficking, and general civil litigation.

All positions are for two-year terms beginning on July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. We are so excited to welcome these individuals to our Board, and we look forward to a busy year ahead.

# Spring 2021 Swearing-In Ceremony

By Stephen Foucher



Through the efforts of ICBA-YLS; Judge James S. Jamo; Janell Liles; and Kacie Smith, three (3) new attorneys were sworn into the Michigan Bar on

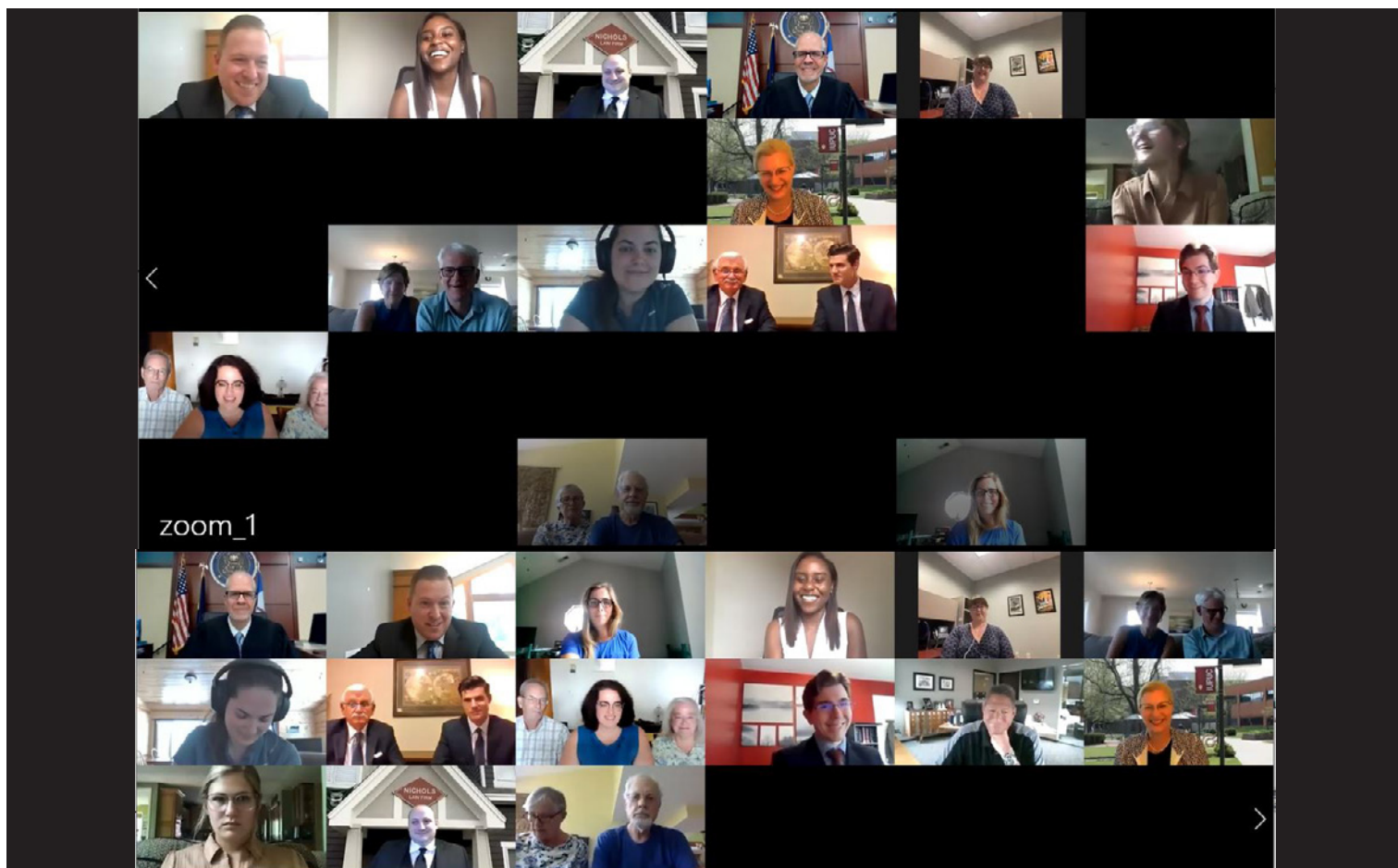
June 8, 2021. The swearing-in ceremony was conducted through Zoom, which enabled the families and friends of newly-admitted attorneys Christian Fairbanks, Lauren Sutter, and Holly

Geerdes, to watch and share in the special event.

With COVID restrictions still in partial effect throughout the State of Michigan at the time of the swearing in, many individuals who recently passed the Michigan Bar or submitted a motion to practice within the state, had been searching for ways to swear-in to the State Bar and simultaneously enable their loved ones to watch remotely. Fortunately, Judge Jamo and his 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 last year.

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



# Press Release

**Local Law FIRM, Bahrie**

## Law's Writ For Certiorari Granted

**By Supreme Court of the United States for fall 2021 Docket**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lansing, Michigan – May 25, 2021**

– Bahrie Law, PLLC is pleased to announce that the Supreme Court of the United States has granted our Writ of Certiorari and will hear our veterans Social Security disability case in October, 2021. Ron Bahrie, Justin Bahrie, and Nicholas Kipa have been prosecuting this case since 2014. The petitioner, David Babcock, served as a National Guard pilot for over 33 years, including active-duty deployment to Iraq. As required for all dual-status technicians, he served in uniform, held a rank in the National Guard, maintained military fitness standards, and was subject to military supervision. Yet because his indisputably military role was also classified as partly civilian for federal employment purposes, the Sixth Circuit held that pension payments resulting exclusively from his dual-status service were not “payment[s] based wholly on service as a member of a uniformed service.” 42 U.S.C. § 415 (a)(7)(A). Although several other circuits have agreed with the Sixth Circuit, the Eighth Circuit gave the statute its straightforward reading: it requires only “that the service be as a member of the uniformed service.” *Petersen v Astrue*, 633 F.3d 633, 637 (8th Cir. 2011). Because National Guard service is indisputably “uniformed service,” and a dual-status military technician like Babcock receives a pension “based entirely on his service as a National

Guard technician,” their pensions qualify. *Id*

The case involves a simple statutory interpretation question. Under a provision of the Social Security Act known as a Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), the government offsets an applicant’s Social Security benefits to account for other retirement payments that an applicant receives for employment during which he did not pay into Social Security. But WEP contains an exception if the person is receiving “a payment based wholly on service as a member of a uniformed service.” The question in this case is whether service as a dual-status technician falls within the exception, and we will argue that the text requires the answer to be yes.

The Sixth Circuit, and the others on its side of the split, rely on an interpretation that rewrites the statute. They take the word “wholly” in the uniformed-services exception to exclude dual-status technician employment because it has a civilian component and so “is not wholly ‘service as a member of the uniformed service.’” 959 F.3d at 218. In that reading, “wholly” is applied to service rather than to payment. But that effectively moved the word “wholly”:

Actual text (III) a payment based wholly on service as a member of a uniformed service

Sixth Circuit’s version (III) a payment based wholly on service wholly as a member of a uniformed service. A court is “not at liberty to rewrite the statute” and “must give effect to the text Congress enacted.” *Ali v. Fed Bureau of Prisons*, 552 U.S. 214, 228 (2008).

With our experience and knowledge of the Sixth Circuit, we knew we would lose on application, reconsideration, Hearing, Appeals Council, Federal District Court, and the United States District Court for the Sixth District and lose we did. But this case and others like it had to be heard!

The government’s position is deeply unjust and disrespectful to veterans who served as dual-status military technicians. Dual-status military technicians play a critical role in maintaining the readiness of the National Guard and the Army and Air Force Reserves. They serve in uniform, observe military protocol, and are indistinguishable from active-duty personnel on post. They also stand ready to be deployed with their units for active-duty service, as Babcock demonstrated when he was deployed in Iraq and received numerous decorations, including the Bronze Star, Army Achievement Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. And dual-status military technicians typically receive lower pay than their active-duty



Contact: Ronald M. Bahrie, Justin M. Bahrie, Nicholas A. Kipa  
(517) 694-1300

colleagues, making them a relatively inexpensive resource for the government to maintain our Nation's military readiness. No wonder, then, that even the Sixth Circuit recognized that "the position of a National Guard technician in irreducibly military in nature."

Within 24 hours of our loss at the United States Court of Appeals we received five requests to help from Yale Law

School, Harvard Law School and three Washington DC firms with a worldwide presence. They believed our fact pattern and interpretation of the law was correct and would help other veterans.

We partnered with Neil Katyal and Kirti Datla of Hogan Lovell in Washington DC. Neil Katyal was solicitor General in the Obama Administration and has appeared in the Supreme Court of the

United States 43 times. His assistance at SCOTUS will be invaluable.

If you or an organization that you represent are able to provide any amicus support or you desire additional information, please email us at [info@bahrielaw.com](mailto:info@bahrielaw.com) or contact us through our website <https://www.bahrielaw.com/>

## ICBA MEMBER DIRECTORY

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





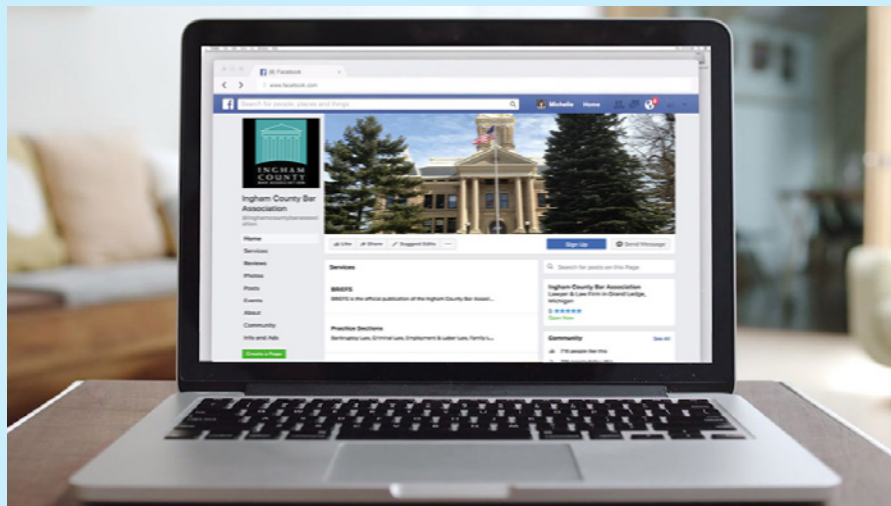
# ICBA Sponsorship Opportunities

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**





## 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: March 19th from 12:00 - 1:00pm via Zoom

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pscott@fosterswift.com).

## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:briefs@inghambar.org)

**Next issue:**  
**September 2021 County Judicial Clerks**

**Enjoy your Summer!**



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