

October 2021



Ingham County Bar Association

BRIEFS

County Judicial Clerks

President's Message, Page 4

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Judge Swartzle, Page 26

Welcome new ICBA President, Charles Lawler

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SAVE
THE
DATE

127th Annual Dinner
November 11, 2021

Meet the Judges
January 20, 2022

Semi Annual Bench Bar Conference
February 5, 2022

13th Annual Barristers
March 10, 2022

Annual Shrimp Dinner/Annual Meeting
May 18, 2022

We are looking forward to resuming in-person events.



@inghamcountybarassociation



@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

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Pamela Amato

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Barristers:

Aylysh Gallagher / Ernsie Augustin

Bench-Bar Conference:

Charles Barbieri / Lindsay Dangl / Jessica Zimbelman

BRIEFS:

Mary Bowen

List Serve: Staff

Meet the Judges:

Brendon Basiga / Jessica Zimbelman

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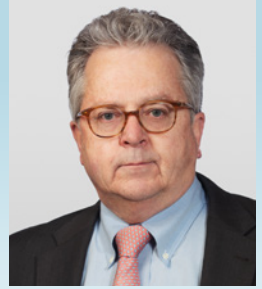
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Madelyne Lawry
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President's Message



Charles Lawler,
ICBA President
clawler@clarkhill.com

THANKFUL

"A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues."—Cicero

As I embark on my year of service to the Ingham County Bar Association ("ICBA") as its President and the last year and a half of the pandemic, I can't help but stop for a moment and contemplate all that I, and we as attorneys, have to be thankful for. I appreciate how I was accepted by Michigan State University's College of Law as I started my journey to become an attorney later in life. The faculty and students were especially supportive and empathic to me and my career change. Without their aid I am not sure I would have persevered.

Then upon graduation and my passage of the bar I am thankful to Clark Hill, PLC for hiring a non-traditional (old) first year associate. My colleagues have provided me tremendous support and encouragement along the way. Albeit much of that was using many red pens when reviewing my writings. I had never written more than a couple paragraph letters prior to becoming an attorney. To all at Clark Hill who held me to a higher standard than I may have held myself to, I simply say thank you.

The ICBA allowed me the opportunity to become a member, serve on a number of committees, and give back to the legal profession. This career change significantly changed the life of myself and my family. The members of the bar have generally been courteous and

willing to help an individual who had changed careers and taken on a new challenge. To all of you who have given advice over the years, thank you. To the ICBA staff and for the tremendous thought, effort and service they provide to the legal industry I would like to give a special thanks.

The pandemic has made me aware of a number of others who we attorneys should appreciate. I understand the pressure and stress that the pandemic has put on our law firms, our support staff, and the court system. Many law firms have been tasked to move through uncharted waters during the pandemic. The leaders of these firms had to decide whether it was safe to work at home or in the office, whether they could allow meetings in the office and what the future would look like for the legal profession during and after the pandemic. They did this with constant changing information. For their efforts they should be commended.

I think of all that our support staff at Clark Hill were faced with. Were they going to work from home or the office? Would there be a job for them after the pandemic? What would their work environment look like? How were the courts going to operate and how do we work with them? All I know is the support staff at Clark Hill took this challenge and never looked back. I

suspect that is what happened at many firms. Please take a minute and tell your support staff how much you appreciate them.

Recently, I was able to participate in a telephone conference with the Ingham County Court System to understand what obstacles they faced during the pandemic and to provide feedback on what worked and what didn't work. Had I not participated in that conference I am sure I would not have been fully aware of the struggles faced by the court system to try and keep the cases moving. Furthermore, they were required to carry out tasks which were imposed on them by other governmental authorities with little or no local input. But here again, this important part of the judicial system persevered. We who practice in Ingham County should stop and thank everyone in the court system for all their efforts during the pandemic (and during regular times) to allow us to do our jobs. In my opinion, they deserve a big pat on the back.

What about our clients? Think of what they have faced through the pandemic. I can't imagine facing the obstacles they have encountered through additional government regulation and staffing issues alone. Through all that, these clients have continued to get up everyday and do the best they can. Furthermore, they have continued to call

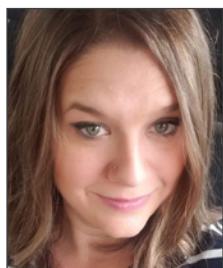
attorneys to aid them in their struggles. They are the life blood of our business existence and should never be taken for granted. Every day when I get to my office, I am thankful for the clients who have partnered with me through my career. We should all tell them thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

It seems that many times in life we obsess with what we don't have, or what we think we don't have. I think if we, as attorneys and Americans, took a minute and really thought about it we might conclude that we have a great deal to be thankful for. While the United States is not perfect there is no other nation in the world that I would rather live in.

While being an attorney is not a perfect career, I can affirmatively state, without reservation, that I am thankful for making the career change and for having the opportunity to spend my professional career with such a wonderful group of individuals. I hope if you take a minute and contemplate where you are in your life that you will all feel the same way.

The (Wo)Men in the Arena

By Larissa Zubac



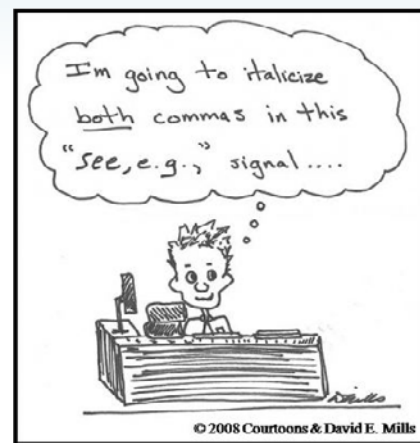
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When I was asked to act as associate editor of a BRIEFS edition featuring clerks, I immediately and enthusiastically responded with a yes...and then immediately and enthusiastically asked what the committee meant by "clerks"? Did that mean judicial clerks or court clerks? Or perhaps it meant a retrospective on the 1994 gen-x classic film by Kevin Smith? To which Madelyne Lawry graciously replied that it could be whatever interpretation I wanted (but not the Kevin Smith movie). That is when the suspenseful, dramatic, plotting music queued up in my mind.

It was an important question because I think for most if not all of us, the term "clerk" carries a few different meanings—there are court clerks, law clerks, judicial clerks. Some are paid,

some are not. Some are elected. Some are appointed. Some are hired. Some perform research and writing, some are the keepers of records. Regardless of how my over-analytical brain processes it, they all have a common denominator: all of them are important in equal measure.

If your law school experience was anything like mine, then shortly after the speech about the statistic improbability of actually completing law school, you probably got the speech about clerks. Actually, there were two clerk speeches: 1. "Be nice to court clerks because they are gatekeepers" and 2. "You should clerk after law school." Regardless of what duties they specifically perform, all clerks are the oil in a court's well-oiled machine, and, as such, all clerks should



When judicial law clerks go rogue. be in the limelight for this edition of Briefs, because as it turns out, our law professors were right! Our Clerks are the ones in the "arena": the doers of deeds, and the ones who have dared greatly.

This edition of Briefs celebrates them all: the clerks downstairs, the clerks in the judicial suites, and the former clerks who are now in different and various seasons of their careers. This edition explores the benefits of clerking, how it has affected lawyers' careers differently, and looks under the hood of Clerk Byrum's office. It was truly a pleasure putting this edition of briefs together because as a person who had not clerked after law school, I found the information enlightening, and enjoyed getting to know so many colleagues I have not connected with before. I hope you will too!

A Court Clerk is a Lawyer's Best Friend:

About County Clerk Barb Byrum



clerk@ingham.org

Barb Byrum is currently serving in her third term as Ingham County Clerk, serving as the Clerk of the 30th Circuit Court and as the County's chief elections official. Byrum has successfully conducted 29 elections, 5 union elections, and was one of only a handful of counties to complete the 2016 Presidential Recount.

Since 2016, Byrum has been credentialed as a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator by Election Center, the only national program of continuing professional education that specializes in elections administration and voter registration. In 2017, she served on the Election Center's Security Task Force. Byrum also donated her expertise to Michigan's Election Security Commission, the Secretary of State's team of advisors tasked with strengthening and better securing elections in the state.

In 2014, the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan struck down Michigan's same-sex marriage ban, opening a window for same-sex couples to marry before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals closed that window

with a stay. Byrum proudly officiated over the first same-sex marriage ceremony in the State of Michigan during that window and went on to officiate dozens of ceremonies that day. Later, when the US Supreme Court held that marriage equality was the law of the land, Byrum again proudly issued marriage licenses so that loving couples who had waited years, indeed decades, to marry were able to.

Byrum has been an active member of the community throughout her life, with a focus on promoting voter registration, including voter registration drives in partnership with the League of Women Voters, the Ingham County Jail, MSUVotes, and ASMSU. She has also registered voters at local events, including Black Lives Matter rallies in Lansing and Mason in 2020 and other events in years prior, helping to ensure that rally attendees can vote their issues at the ballot box. Byrum believes that voting is the ultimate act of protest.

In May 2021, Byrum spearheaded an effort to waive 30th Circuit Court fees for certified copies of conviction in June 2021 for those applying for expungement under the recently enacted Clean Slate legislation. She believes that anyone who is legally eligible for expungement should have the opportunity to apply and granting equitable access to records helped facilitate that process.

Byrum has consistently encouraged women, persons of color, and young

people to run for office. She is a reliable source of information for any and all that ask. She also has used her platform as a County leader to stand up for issues she believes in through her participation in various events and committees, including the Ingham County Diversity Committee and the Health in All Policies Steering Group.

Byrum is also an active volunteer and pursues many philanthropic endeavors, including sitting on several boards of directors. Organizations that she is affiliated with include the Mason Public School Foundation, Mid-Michigan Girls on the Run, and Helping Women Period.

Byrum previously served three terms as the Michigan State Representative, serving House District 67. During her time in the Legislature, Byrum served as the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Redistricting and Elections.

Byrum graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Management and holds a law degree from MSU College of Law.

Introduction to and Organization of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court Clerk's Office

As Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk Byrum oversees the Clerk's Office supervisory team who manages day-to-day operations. Non-supervising deputy clerks are unionized court

employees, however they operate under the deputization of the County Clerk. This joint County Clerk/Circuit Court approach to operations has been in place since 2014.

The Office has two full-service locations: The Veterans Memorial Courthouse (VMC), located at 313 West Kalamazoo Street in downtown Lansing and the Ingham County Courthouse, located at 315 South Jefferson Street in downtown Mason.

The Circuit Court Clerk's Office is staffed by twenty-three employees. They are organized into five Divisions/Areas:

- General Trial Division (Criminal, Civil, and Appellate Matters)
- Domestic Division (Divorce, Custody, Parenting Time, Support, etc.)
- Juvenile Division (Child Protective Proceedings, Juvenile Delinquency, Adoption, Name Change, etc.)
- Mason Operations (Staffs the Mason location of the Clerk's Office and supports the Circuit Court Judge holding court there.)
- VMC Operations (Counter, Mail, Switchboard, Copy Requests, Record Management, etc.)

Each General Trial Division Judge has one deputy clerk assigned to their docket. Each Family Division Judge has two deputy clerks assigned: One for domestic matters and one for juvenile matters. This intentional setup permits each deputy clerk to build familiarity with the Judge's docket and individual, specific practices.

Best Practices for Interacting with the Ingham County 30th Circuit Court Clerk's Office

- **Please do not add plastic dividers or tabs to filings denoting different sections.** The Clerk's Office has implemented an electronic document management system, so many filings are imaged upon filing. Consider including the information at the top of the relevant pages.
- **Domestic Relations Matters: Do not forget to send an additional copy of filings for the Friend of the Court Office.** Include the FOC copy with the original filing with the Clerk's Office.
- **Do not forget a Judge's Copy for motions and responses thereto.** Send the Judge's Copy by mail to the Office of the Judge the case is assigned to unless other arrangements are made with the Judge's Office. Judge's Copies (in a sealed envelope addressed to the Judge's Office) may also be delivered to the Drop Boxes located both Clerk's Offices.
- **Notary Public Services Available.** Free notary services are available at both locations for any filing made in-person. Please have unexpired, state or federal picture identification ready for review.
- **Hearing Scheduling.** Contact the Judge's Office directly to schedule or adjourn a judicial hearing by calling (517) 483-6500. Praecipes are not required.
- **Returning Copies.** If confirmation that a filing was accepted, transmit an

additional copy of the filing, a cover letter, or even a copy of the first page of the filing and a postage prepaid, self-addressed envelope to mail it back. A deputy clerk will stamp the copy as "RECEIVED" and mail. Alternatively, most cases filings may be monitored at courts.ingham.org

- **Minimum Filing Requirements.** Carefully review MCR 8.119(C) for minimum filing requirements. Some highlights:
 - Once a new case is filed, append the Judge's name to all subsequent filings.
 - Plaintiffs/Appellants/Petitioners: Append a Circuit Court case classification code to your case-initiating pleading. See MCR 8.117.
 - If a fee is due, remit payment at that time. Cash, check, money order, and credit/debit cards are acceptable payment forms for in-person transactions. Please only pay by check or money order if sending by mail. Make checks or money orders payable to Circuit Court Clerk.
 - After the case is initiated, all subsequent filings must contain the complete case number: [Year]-[Number]-[Case Type Code] (e.g., 21-321-AA). Please double check your case number before filing.

The Clerks of the 30th Circuit Court are some of the hardest working people in the State, and they endeavor every day to ensure that the Court runs smoothly. Follow the tips provided above to ensure facilitation of that work.



ICBA Meet Our Clerks



Kacie Smith
ksmith@ingham.org

Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, any noteworthy pre-lawyer jobs, whether you are admitted to the bar, for which Judge(s) you clerk, etc.).

I graduated from Grand Valley State University as an undergraduate and then from Michigan State University College of Law for the JD. During law school I interned for Judge Collette in Ingham County as well as with North Ottawa Community Health System in Grand Haven, MI. I am admitted to the bar, and I first started clerking with Judge Collette. After his retirement in 2018, I began clerking with Judge Jamo, also of the Ingham County Circuit Court.

What made you decide to clerk? Were you generally looking for a JC position or were you aiming to clerk for your specific judge and if so, why?

I liked the internship experience with Judge Collette, and it just so happened that his then-current law clerk was leaving at exactly the same time I was finishing with the bar exam. It just worked out for me to join his staff.

What does your day-to-day look like working for the court? What kind of job duties do you perform?

Day-to-day, I start by cleaning up some email – which might include doing a few brief paragraphs of research for

the Judge, responding to inquiries from various attorneys about individual cases, or responding to administrative issues that have arisen. I do a lot of case and calendar tracking and reaching out to counsel to follow-up on questions, return of forms or documents, and status updates. I also am currently organizing case information trying to prioritize cases and get things set for trial. I also generally have a writing project ongoing, drafting opinions or procedural orders for any administrative cases or motions under advisement which Judge Jamo will review before finalizing the drafts.

What is your favorite or most interesting part of this job?

I love that every day is a little different as far as the problems we are presented with and the solutions we find to resolve them. No two cases are exactly the same, and Judge Jamo and I both try to recognize and honor that in how we approach the docket. I also very much enjoy legal research and writing in and of itself—I love to find that piece of research that ties everything together, to fit the pieces of a decision into its proper place like fitting together a puzzle.

What is the most surprising thing you have learned so far?

Just how much work goes into running and maintaining a docket, and how big a role every person on the staff plays into that. In our office, we have Judge Jamo, the judicial assistant, the court reporter, and myself, as well as a docket court clerk and a docket prosecutor. It takes a lot of organization and effort on everyone's part to pull things together, and I'm grateful to have been part of a staff that works together to make sure that everything is running smoothly.

Is there anything you would want lawyers to know who come into your judge's courtroom about practicing before her/him?

Honestly, the biggest thing is just that if you don't know how a procedure works in Judge Jamo's courtroom, ask us. It is so much easier to answer a question in advance—can I bring witnesses to this? Can I share my screen on Zoom? Than to try to adapt on the fly. As far as specific practice, I would say Judge Jamo can be a bit different in letting each attorney have their say until they're satisfied, but sometimes this gives the perception that attorneys have to keep talking to fill time, and an unprepared attorney can easily turn their own argument inside out. Be prepared, be succinct, and be clear, and that will make it easier for everyone to understand your argument.

Bonus: Judge Jamo does require attorneys to file hard-copy judge's copies. If we don't see a hard-copy judge's copy, we don't always see your motion because of the way the clerk's office here is digitizing files. Unless you are very sure that a judge is accepting an electronic judge's copy, or that a court is an e-filing court such that a judge's copy is alternatively provided, file that hard-copy judge's copy.

We all know that clerking improves research and writing skills. How else has clerking affected your skill set as an attorney?

The skill set of administration: how to prioritize, how to organize great amounts of information, how to manage a busy inbox, even little things like how to calendar. The number of attorneys we see that don't know how to manage their own calendars or even look up dates is always a surprise. There's also a lot of

work that happens in the background, like scheduling, organizing judge's copies, file preparation, staying informed about changes to the law or policies, coordinating with different offices and administration within the court and the county, with different parties, with the Ingham County Jail or other facilities, and knowing how to do those things—or how to find out how to do something if I don't know—has been hugely beneficial. Your argument is only as good as the preparation and organization it takes you to get before a Judge, so the administrative skill set is key.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking? What were they?

I was pleasantly surprised with both Judge Jamo and Judge Collette by how much clerking is an active conversation with the judge and the rest of the staff. It is pretty rare that I spend all day stuck in my office and work independently the entire time—Judge Jamo and I are often bouncing ideas off each other, discussing cases and issues that arise, discussing changes to the law, and deciding how to approach a problem or organize a calendar. The judicial assistant is often involved as well, reminding us of various goings-on in certain cases, what might be happening with this attorney or that, whether we're scheduling something that's already scheduled. It's a real back and forth between all of us.

Do you think attorneys, or the general public have any misperceptions about law clerks? If so, what are they?

Yes, and the biggest one I would point to is question #10 on this list: law clerking has frequently been perceived as a temporary, just-out-of-law-school job that young lawyers do for a year or two before moving on. A lot of law clerks do approach clerking in this way—and a

fair number of judges encourage moving on after a relatively short time—but it's not always the case. Don't assume that every law clerk is new, young, or inexperienced; some of us have been doing this for a while, and we do have valuable information or insight to give when the right question is asked.

Generally, where would you like to land after clerking?

At this time, I haven't got any plans to move on. I enjoy clerking very much, and I enjoy the team I work with a lot.

Other than being a part of the best circuit court team around, what else are you passionate about?

I have a dog, Darcy, who is the best—if silliest—dog ever, and I'm into cross stitch, reading, and traveling as well.



Ryan Wier
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Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, any noteworthy pre-lawyer jobs, whether you are admitted to the bar, for which Judge(s) you clerk, etc.).

Currently, I clerk with the Honorable Clinton Canady III. I attended the University of Michigan and received a bachelor's degree in political science. After attending the University of Michigan, I went to law school at Michigan State University. During law school, I participated in a plethora of internships dealing with all facets of the law, including administrative appeals, policy work, civil litigation, and criminal litigation. I learned very quickly that I had a real passion for civil and administrative work because every case in this arena is like a jigsaw puzzle needing to be solved. My most awarding accomplishment is winning all three administrative complaints I filed on behalf of students being deprived of their rights to a public education due to each student's disability.

What made you decide to clerk? Were you generally looking for a JC position or were you aiming to clerk for your specific judge and if so, why?

The primary reason I decided to clerk was the fact that I thrive on learning new topics every day, and the courtroom requires all parties involved to quickly learn and master new areas of the law on a daily basis. One of the reasons I chose to be an attorney, is the fact that I knew I wanted to do something different every day. In my current role, I certainly see and learn new things each day.

What does your day-to-day look like working for the court? What kind of job duties do you perform?

I assist Judge Canady with all legal research and drafting of opinions and orders. Many of our weekly motions require formalized bench memos, which provide a synopsis of each party's legal argument(s), the facts of the case, the applicable case law, and my recommendation to Judge Canady on how he should rule.

What is your favorite or most interesting part of this job?

My favorite part of the job is playing a role in the development of the law. I especially enjoy working on cases in our administrative appeal docket. Ingham County Circuit Court, by virtue of its location, receives many administrative appeals from various state agencies. These cases often present novel and complex questions of law regarding various rules and regulations promulgated by the applicable regulatory agency.

Is there anything you would want lawyers to know who come into your judge's courtroom about practicing before her/him?

Judge Canady appreciates when an attorney delivers a concise oral argument, and when parties and attorneys respect the decorum of the courtroom. Judge Canady often states that he "is a straight shooter" and is very quick to interrupt attorneys or parties that state irrelevant or prejudicial information on the record.

Generally, where would you like to land after clerking?

When I began law school, I thought, upon graduation, I would want to do criminal law. However, I quickly realized that I enjoyed civil litigation far more and am a bit of a policy wonk. Additionally, I have a real passion for public service and would like to work for a governmental agency or body doing civil litigation and/or regulatory work.

Q & A

ICBA Meet Our Past Clerks



Morgan Cole
mcole@ingham.org

Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, when and for which Judge and court you clerked, and where you are now).

I interned with Judge Aquilina during my third year of law school, but began my career in Washington, D.C. with a law firm that specialized in federal regulatory work. After spending a year in our nation's Capital, my husband and I found out we were expecting our first child and decided to move back to Michigan to be near family. Timing turned out to be everything. Upon returning, Judge Aquilina reached out to me and explained she had an opening for a law clerk position in her office. I jumped at the opportunity. While clerking for Judge Aquilina, I found a home at the Veteran's Memorial Courthouse and have subsequently served as a Conciliator at Ingham County Friend of the Court and Chief Deputy Circuit Court Clerk. I am currently the Ingham County Probate Court Administrator/Probate Register.

How did clerking affect or influence your career decisions?

I fell in love with administering the Court.

Do you think you would have taken the same path had you not clerked?
No.

What was the biggest benefit to you from clerking?

Courtroom and courthouse experience and interacting with so many attorneys and elected officials in our community.

Were there any unanticipated or unexpected benefits that you found through clerking?

Of course. Every day it was something new.

Do you think there are any downsides to clerking?

Yes, every day it was something new. ☺

Do you feel your clerk experience has affected your skill set as an attorney, and how?

Without a doubt! You appreciate good briefing and writing, and attorneys who are on time. You learn the court rules are your bible and to always be prepared. I learned to juggle so many different areas of the law such as criminal, civil, appellate, and Court of Claims.

What were some of the biggest lessons you learned from working closely with judges during your clerkship?

Judges are human and put a lot of thought into making decisions, especially the difficult ones. Ensuring a Judge is prepared with bench memoranda and assisted in the courtroom is vital. And of course, never forget to say, "ALL RISE" when the judge or jury enters or exits the courtroom.

What type of unprofessional or ineffective behavior did you see during your clerkship?

Being late for a hearing or unprepared. Saying negative remarks towards opposing counsel or court staff.

Were there any surprises during your clerkship?

All the time!

Were there any surprises once you entered private practice (or your subsequent position if you are not practicing law in the traditional sense) you did not anticipate after clerking?

Yes. I thought my clerking days were over, but law clerks hired during the COVID-19 pandemic were unable to train on jury trials. That meant I jumped back in the saddle and clerked jury trials to assist the Court and also trained the new law clerks.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking?

Maybe one. Before clerking, I perceived the judicial position as the most important in operating the courthouse. The truth is, there are over a hundred people who work in the courthouse to ensure smooth operations and who are pivotal in making everything work. The next time you see a file clerk, judicial assistant, court reporter/recorder, referee, administrative staff, caseworker or deputy, please remember to thank them. They are all imperative and deserve respect just as much as the Judges.



Stephen D. Foucrier
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Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, when and for which Judge and court you clerked, and where you are now).

I earned my B.A. at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2008. I did not immediately go to law school following graduation. It was not until around 2011/2012 that I decided I wanted to go to law school and took the LSAT. I started attending Michigan State University College of Law in August 2013 and graduated in May 2016. I began clerking for Judge Rosemarie E. Aquilina of the Ingham County 30th Circuit Court two (2) months before graduation. I was Judge Aquilina's law clerk until July 2017, which was when I transitioned to private practice and began working for Hackney Grover, PLC (now Hackney, Odlum, and Dardas) in its East Lansing location. My practice was primarily in first and third-party No-Fault law, but I also dabbled a little bit in construction law. In January 2020, I started working for Willingham & Cote', P.C., where I continue to practice in No-Fault law, as well as insurance coverage. I also do some appellate work.

How did clerking affect or influence your career decisions?

Clerking allowed me the opportunity to not only see the inner workings of the judicial system, but it also introduced

me to various fields of law. I was able to see criminal proceedings, as well as a number of civil proceedings in various areas of practice. This helped me decide what field of law I wanted to practice in.

Do you think you would have taken the same path had you not clerked?

No, I do not think I would have. I initially thought I wanted to pursue criminal law, but clerking showed me that I enjoyed civil law, particularly No-Fault law, more.

What was the biggest benefit to you from clerking?

The biggest benefit was being able to see all aspects of a case, including trial, which many attorneys starting out do not experience until 5-7 years into their career, particularly in the civil arena. Another important benefit was that I was able to meet a vast number of attorneys who practice throughout the State of Michigan.

Were there any unanticipated or unexpected benefits that you found through clerking?

Judge Aquilina had interns and externs throughout the year who I would assist in supervising. Some were from undergrad and others were from law school. I have remained friends with many and it has been fun to see what career paths they have chosen. Some have become criminal defense/prosecution attorneys, some have pursued careers in the civil arena, and others have gone outside the field of law.

Do you think there are any downfalls to clerking?

I do not think there are any downfalls to clerking. It was a great experience, and I will be forever thankful to Judge Aquilina for the opportunity.

Do you feel your clerk experience has affected your skill set as an attorney, and how?

Yes, most definitely. Being a clerk allowed me to see different styles of practice. In other words, it taught me to-do's and don'ts of lawyering, which had many applications, including oral argument, motion practice, as well as communicating with the court and with brother or sister counsel.

What were some of the biggest lessons you learned from working closely with judges during your clerkship?

Being good at what you do sometimes (if not most of the time) requires working more than just 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It takes dedication, time, effort, and practice.

What type of unprofessional or ineffective behavior did you see during your clerkship?

Attorneys would come to court wholly unprepared. People would also speak poorly and condescendingly to court staff.

Were there any surprises during your clerkship?

People hated coming in for jury duty but loved the experience when done.

Were there any surprises once you entered private practice (or your subsequent position if you are not practicing law in the traditional sense) you did not anticipate after clerking?

Not necessarily surprises, but there was certainly an adjustment period when transitioning from the court to private practice litigation.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking?

Nothing comes to mind at this time.



Luke Goodrich
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Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, when and for which Judge and court you clerked, and where you are now).

After graduating from Onkama High School in 1999, I attended Michigan State for undergrad. There, I got a degree in History and completed the Secondary Education program. When I decided that teaching was not the profession for me, I chose to go the MSU College of Law in 2005, and graduated from there in 2008. Once I was done with the bar exam, I spent much of my extra time assisting Rosemarie Aquilina with her campaign to get elected to the 30th Circuit Court. She was elected in November 2008 and I became her law clerk when she started in January 2009. I served as Judge Aquilina's law clerk from 2009 to 2013, working on criminal and civil matters. In January 2013, I decided to open my own law practice focusing on criminal defense and appeals. In 2016, I went to work for Toby White Law, where I continued with criminal defense, but also did a substantial amount of family law for the first time. I went back to my own law practice in 2017 before returning for a second stint as Judge Aquilina's law clerk in 2018, as her docket became 100% criminal. I was hired by the Ingham County Office of the Public Defender in April 2020, where I have been assigned to Judge Ward's docket in the 54A District Court.

How did clerking affect or influence your career decisions?

In law school, I was always more interested in criminal law than other types. After seeing both criminal and civil law up close for four years, I became 100% sure I wanted to pursue criminal and avoid civil.

Do you think you would have taken the same path had you not clerked?

Obviously the path would have been different, but my current job is exactly the type of work I hoped to do when I went to law school.

What was the biggest benefit to you from clerking?

Having observed every type of criminal hearing, including dozens of trials, I knew what to expect and how the system worked prior to actually representing clients on my own. Additionally, I got to meet almost all of the criminal defense attorneys in the area, which always helps when looking for a new job.

Were there any unanticipated or unexpected benefits that you found through clerking?

One benefit that I had not considered prior to being a law clerk was how much knowledge you gain about the entire court system, outside of just the attorneys. Fellow attorneys at the Office of the Public Defender often ask me questions about the filing process in the clerk's office, or dealing with pretrial services and probation, or unusual sentencing issues that I likely came across.

Do you think there are any downsides to clerking?

After a couple years, you have learned most of what you can learn, and the job can get repetitive.

Do you feel your clerk experience has affected your skill set as an attorney, and how?

Having read countless briefs in order to make recommendations to Judge Aquilina, I learned the importance of writing in a structured way and how useful headings are to someone quickly reviewing your brief. I also got a lot practice writing letters to defendants who routinely write the Court over the wishes of their attorney.

What were some of the biggest lessons you learned from working closely with judges during your clerkship?

I learned to appreciate how many cases a judge has on their plate, and the importance of getting hearings scheduled as soon as possible and keeping your arguments succinct.

What type of unprofessional or ineffective behavior did you see during your clerkship?

I once saw a civil attorney argue why the opposing party's paper exhibits had no merit, and then proceeded to drop them on the ground and start kicking them on the way back to his seat. Everyone in the courtroom was just left speechless.

Were there any surprises during your clerkship?

Not that I recall.

Were there any surprises once you entered private practice (or your subsequent position if you are not practicing law in the traditional sense) you did not anticipate after clerking?

No.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking?

No.



Shane Hilyard

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Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, when and for which Judge and court you clerked, and where you are now).

My career path has been pretty unconventional. After ending a 12-year bull riding career I worked as a paralegal for a bit, then in 2010 I was accepted to law school. My family and I moved from New York to Michigan for the sole purpose of me attending law school; 3-years and then back home was the plan. However, my wife's career with Sparrow Hospital took off unexpectedly and in June 2013 – just three months before graduation – at a restaurant in Chicago she sprang the question: "What would you think of staying in Michigan a bit longer?" We agreed it was an opportunity that she may not have had back home and let's face it – she agreed to relocate a family of six 500 miles from all we knew so I could try to live out a boyhood dream. Not only did she deserve the opportunity, but I owed it to her. By the time January 2014 rolled around I had not been employed for more than four years and my wife carried the financial load as well as making sure I had what was needed to be successful as well as our four children. We were talking about me getting back into the work force now that I had been studying for the bar since returning from Chicago. In my last

semester at WMU-Cooley, Professor Rich Henke had provided some parting words of advice for those that would be graduating at the end of the semester: If you have the opportunity to experience a judicial clerkship – do it! So, while job hunting, I applied for a judicial clerkship. I interviewed with now retired Ingham County Probate Judge George Economy and current Circuit Court and Probate Chief Judge Richard Garcia.

I felt the interview went well considering the length of time I had not interviewed for a job and the different interviewing techniques and approaches of the respective interviewers. I was offered the position which I accepted without hesitation. My first day on-the-job was two weeks before the February 2014 bar exam. Three months after starting I learned I passed the bar and was sworn in in May 2014. About nine months into my judicial law clerk career, I was approached and was made several offers for employment and once I found the right fit for me, I accepted. I have been in private practice with The Gallagher Law Firm in East Lansing since January 2015.

How did clerking affect or influence your career decisions?

My time clerking, albeit not the tradition one- or two-year stint, was absolutely invaluable. First, learning from both Judge Economy and Judge Garcia, respectively, who have two different approaches to running their separate courtrooms and approaches to law. These differences, and what was learned by these two jurists, together with the knowledge gained from my mentors in New York is the foundation which my practice rests.

Do you think you would have taken the same path had you not clerked?

I honestly believe had it not been for clerking I would have had to have taken a much different path. Clerking not only provided an opportunity to put more tools in the toolbox for when I entered private practice, but more importantly, one thing that was always emphasized in law school was networking.

Were there any unanticipated or unexpected benefits that you found through clerking?

The benefits were plenty: finally having a job after four years was appreciated by my wife and our creditors and the experience in general, I wouldn't change. When I think back, the two most important benefits I received from clerking were the networking which provided me an opportunity to meet lawyers, judges, other law clerks, and most importantly – the judicial assistants and county and court clerks. It also provided those interested in offering an opportunity to me the chance to interact with me and see how I interacted with the public and others in the profession. The second most important benefit was being able to see the practice of law from “behind the scenes.” Not only did I learn practice and procedure, but more important than that is the learning of what not to do as a practicing attorney and being able to see those things that I wanted to continue to do and improve upon as I set out in private practice; in line with this benefit is the fact that I was very blessed to have clerked for two judges at once and one judge in particular, each day for 10 months was a brand new first day at school because he did not ever stop educating me despite those long Q&A sessions that I am so grateful to have been provided.

Do you think there are any downfalls to clerking?

I think it takes a special set of skills and characteristics to be an effective law clerk. If an individual does not possess certain skills or abilities, then he or she may find himself or herself in very uncomfortable positions. As a law clerk it is not unusual to be confronted by a member of the public who is not pleased with one thing or another and many times, it's the law clerk that is the first person to try and address the complaints or be asked to ‘tell the Judge I said . . .’ It is an absolute that a law clerk is able to take and accept constructive criticism which may come from other clerks, attorneys, or court staff, but assuredly it will be coming from the Judge. If you're blessed to be clerking for two Judges as I was, you get the benefit of double criticism from, like I said, two totally different approaches to the practice of law.

Do you feel your clerk experience has affected your skill set as an attorney, and how?

Absolutely! Like I've mentioned, two different judges with two totally different approaches provided me an opportunity to see first-hand that it is not necessary to adopt a one-way approach to the practice of law. I have my own core values, personality, and traits and characteristics that make me different than others, but because every case, every client, and all the facts are going to be different in one way, shape, or form, I believe it's my responsibility to be able to adapt to the different scenarios that I face each day and having watched each of the two judges do the same has carried with me into private practice and I believe has made me an overall better attorney.

What were some of the biggest lessons you learned from working closely with judges during your clerkship?

Tough question. I have already mentioned a bunch of important lessons that I include in my daily practice and although I am still developing and growing those skills learned, other lessons that were gained by clerking are (1) just because it has been done a certain way for a period of time does not make it the right way; (2) if the attorney/client is incorrect, getting louder or saying the same thing differently will not change the fact that incorrect is incorrect; and (3) sometimes as a clerk I had the opportunity to make a difference whether it was a simple wave and nod to say hello, giving directions to a particular judge's courtroom, or just by listening to someone that needed an ear; the lesson – being nice is very easy.

What type of unprofessional or ineffective behavior did you see during your clerkship?

Some of the more consistent ineffective behaviors that were seen while clerking: (1) passing the buck and saying it was the secretary's, intern's, or other person's error that led to the attorney not being able to move forward with a particular hearing; (2) the grandstanding or posturing for no purpose whatsoever by an attorney to either provide the client with the notion that he or she was getting his or her money's worth; and (3) the appearance of, but not completely certain of times, where it could have been argued that someone was not being as transparent and forthright with opposing counsel, court staff, or the court.

Were there any surprises during your clerkship?

Yes. One of my many duties and perhaps my favorite was preparing the cases for the judge's Friday PPO hearings and being in the courtroom tracking the outcomes as the members of the public aired their dirty laundry (literally on one occasion) without a care in the world. Some of the cases were not so serious and actually had a comedic-type feel. Others, however, illustrated the purpose for why the PPO statutes and court rules were enacted. It was during these difficult hearings where a lot of my education was taught and learned with how to address certain types of people or situations. The one lesson that made the most impact for me as far as PPOs and the issue of domestic violence was how with a few words, specific tone, and look, the judge can make all the difference in the world. The parties had an on-going, long-term on again/off again relationship with a few minor children. Domestic violence was a constant in their relationship, and it was escalating. On this particular day in 2014, the Respondent was brought in the courtroom in handcuffs to show cause why he shouldn't be held in contempt. With his chest puffed out and spouting off to the prosecutor and the Petitioner/

Victim, Respondent asserted that the Judge "couldn't do that" meaning put him in jail because he had permission from the Respondent/Victim to come to her house. While still being belligerent and confrontational, in a not-heard-before tone, the judge simply said, "Hey, listen, I understand your point." And while still feeling cocky and thinking he just successfully defended himself against a contempt charge, the Judge continued: "Let's clear something up first. This Order is my Order, not hers. She has nothing to do with this Order; she is not stopping you from doing the list of things checked off here – I am. Because this is my Order the issues you are having this morning have nothing to do with her; your issue, Sir, is with me and me alone."

With those words, delivered in a Clint Eastwood-like manner, you could see all of the cockiness and power that Respondent believed he had was now gone when brought face-to-face with not just the judge, but a man – not a woman that he had controlled for so many years resulting in her inability to think, speak, or do for herself. The saying is true, if I had not heard it with my own ears or seen it with my own eyes, I would not ever believe it was said or that it happened.

Were there any surprises once you entered private practice (or your subsequent position if you are not practicing law in the traditional sense) you did not anticipate after clerking?

While clerking the days were fairly routine in the sense that I would get to my desk by 8:00 a.m. and heading to my car around 5:00 p.m. Not in private practice. It is not unusual for me to have stretches of time that I work twelve or more hours a day including consecutive weekends and holidays. Not only is this time due to the usual work, but there is additional administrative type tasks that have to be done that usually take the back seat during normal hours because of phone calls, emails, emergencies and the like so time has to be found to get it all done.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking?

No. I never thought about a clerkship because the plan was to come to Michigan, graduate, and then head back to New York to practice so there were no preconceived ideas or expectations, and during the interview the judges were very clear about their respective expectations and clear in providing me an understanding of what my duties and responsibilities would be if I were to be offered the position.

Missy Hoover
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Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, when and for which Judge and court you clerked, and where you are now).

I attended Michigan State University where I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Humanities Pre-Law, then I went on to earn my Juris Doctorate from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. After graduating from Cooley in 2011, I sat for the February 2012 Bar Exam. I was sworn into the Michigan Bar in May of 2012 and began working for the Honorable Clinton Canady III in the 30th Circuit Court in July of 2012. I worked for Judge Canady until June of 2017 when I took a job with the Saginaw County Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, where I am currently employed.

How did clerking affect or influence your career decisions?

Clerking provided a great opportunity to observe a wide range of different areas of law that helped me to shape my career path.

Do you think you would have taken the same path had you not clerked?

Most likely, but I would not have gained the wealth of knowledge and experience that I did going into my current job had I not clerked beforehand. I was able to enter my current job with little-to-no training because of all the experience I was able to glean through observation and experience.

What was the biggest benefit to you from clerking?

The biggest benefit was the opportunity to see firsthand how the court system works behind the scenes. I was able to

greatly sharpen my research and writing skills, as well as gain a plethora of practical knowledge that continues to serve me on a daily basis in my current career.

Were there any unanticipated or unexpected benefits that you found through clerking?

More than I can count. When I first started clerking, I had no idea how much I would truly gain from the experience. From courtroom observation, to interacting with juries, I learned something new every day. I never knew how seamlessly I could transition into litigation just from the knowledge and experience I gained from clerking.

Do you think there are any downfalls to clerking?

It can be overwhelming at times, and the salary could definitely use an increase, but other than that, I think everyone could benefit from doing a clerkship at some point in their career.

Do you feel your clerk experience has affected your skill set as an attorney, and how?

Absolutely. I would not have the skill set I have now had I not worked as a clerk for as long as I did. I can't think of a single skill I have today that I did not pick up while working as a Clerk. From complex things like knowing how a trial operates to simple things like filing an appearance (the seemingly small things they don't teach anyone in law school), all of it has been important in my day-to-day. Additionally, having the opportunity to observe hundreds of trials helped me to develop my own style and gain knowledge that I could have never gotten from law books.

What were some of the biggest lessons you learned from working closely with judges during your clerkship?

Never use four words when you can use two. Always remember there are two sides to everything ... and if you're lucky, there are only two sides. Always keep an open mind. Always remember the law and what you want to happen may not always agree. Time management is everything.

What type of unprofessional or ineffective behavior did you see during your clerkship?

Mostly lawyers who took themselves too seriously or not seriously enough. Nothing good generally comes from either of those things.

Were there any surprises during your clerkship?

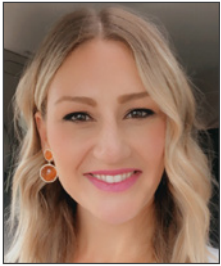
Here and there, but mostly when it came to jury verdicts or just juror behavior in general, which remains a mystery even in practice.

Were there any surprises once you entered private practice (or your subsequent position if you are not practicing law in the traditional sense) you did not anticipate after clerking?

Constantly, but probably the biggest one has been my relationship with judges now that I am an advocate as opposed to what I considered to be a "judicial extension" as a clerk. I became so used to having my opinion valued in a certain way, and once you become an advocate, that is not the case, which is what I would consider to be a rather unpleasant surprise.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking?

None that I can think of.



Megan Mertens
mmertens@ingham.org

Please give a brief summary of your career path (i.e. school, when and for which Judge and court you clerked, and where you are now).

- Wayne State University, 2006
- Thomas M. Cooley Law School, 2010
- Ingham County Law Clerk for Judge R. George Economy and Judge Richard J. Garcia, Circuit Court Family Division and Probate Court, 2010-2012
- Private Practice (LGAL and Family Law), 2012-2015
- Eaton County Juvenile Division Director and Attorney Referee, 2015-2017
- Ingham County Juvenile Division Chief Attorney Referee, 2017-2018
- Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Family Division, as of January 2021

How did clerking affect or influence your career decisions?

Clerking absolutely influenced my career decisions as I was exposed to not only the family court but the probate court which broadened my understanding of different areas the law. Having the exposure allowed my first "real job" as an attorney in private practice to focus on representing children in abuse and neglect matters and general probate proceedings such as guardianships and conservatorships.

Do you think you would have taken the same path had you not clerked?

I do not think I would have been so focused on the abuse and neglect arena, as I initially went to law school with aspirations of becoming an adoption attorney, but clerking developed my love for family law.

What was the biggest benefit to you from clerking?

Only ONE benefit?! There are so many, but what definitely comes to mind is the strengthening of my writing skills. Prior to law school I thought lawyers needed to write with very flowery, artsy language, when really being direct in a few statements drives home a point way better than any lengthy paragraph ever could.

Were there any unanticipated or unexpected benefits that you found through clerking?

The judicial and court staffs are the greatest asset to any young clerk or lawyer. I learned so much from simple, random conversations with court clerks, judicial assistants, or sheriff deputies than I ever thought possible. Definitely knowledge you can't get from school on the day-to-day on how to be a lawyer.

Also, probate hearings can be messier than PPO hearings! When it comes to grandma's lamp, you never know who will come out of the woodwork claiming back in 1982 she willed it to them. PPOs are straightforward. To this day, I've never seen a chair thrown in a PPO hearing, but I watched it first-hand checking people in for probate court.

Do you think there are any downsides to clerking?

No!

Do you feel your clerk experience has affected your skill set as an attorney, and how?

Of course - aside from the writing abilities, I had the opportunity to sit, listen, and watch the good, the bad, and the ugly that came into and out of Courtrooms 1 and 2 in terms of legal advocacy and lawyering.

The Michigan Court Rules are my friend as are the Judicial Benchbooks.

Being kind and considerate to all that you encounter during your workday as a law clerk because, you are a representative of your judge(s) and the court is just as important then as it is now. Everyone has their side of the story they want to get across and the truth lies somewhere in the middle.

What were some of the biggest lessons you learned from working closely with judges during your clerkship?

I had the opportunity to clerk for two very different judges, both unique and effective in their own ways, which gave me a good balance and consideration both personally and in my development as a young attorney.

Before you play the game, you need to know the court rules. If you are waiting for your hearing to begin, or in the zoom waiting room nowadays, always have a copy of the court rules handy.

Less is more. This goes back to clear, concise, and to the point.

Don't ask a question just to ask a question. And, don't talk just to talk.

What type of unprofessional or ineffective behavior did you see during your clerkship?

Aside from the litigant chair-throwing incident, I saw attorneys stomp their feet after rulings and one attorney brought in a plug-in fan for an all-day domestic hearing.

Were there any surprises during your clerkship?

First, how much personal information people are willing to air in public. Secondly, how disrespectful pro-per litigants can be towards the court in

general; but especially when they were not getting what they wanted or thought they deserved. And last, people hurt children. Sometimes accidentally and sometimes on purpose. Growing up, the thought never crossed my mind that someone would deliberately harm a child. It really goes without saying, but the abuse and neglect system was eye-opening and my experiences clerking inadvertently developed my passion to advocate for children who many times didn't or couldn't have a voice of their own.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking?

It's ok to mess up, to make a mistake. You're going to fail, but when you do **FAIL FORWARD**: no one is perfect, you're bound to make an error or two or three, but move beyond those with anticipation of making it a lesson learned rather than repeated.



ICBA Board Members



Pam Amato, President Elect
pamato@mcipc.com

What is the best book you have ever read? The Coldest War: History of the Korean War

Who do you think was the most important person in history? I do not think there is one most important person.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people? Integrity.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be? Head Chef at a five star Michelin Restaurant in Tuscany, Italy.

Do you collect anything and if so, what? No.

Additional ICBA Board members not pictured

Charles Lawler - *President*, Steve Sinas- *Vice President*, Sandra Lake - *Immediate Past President*, Paul McCord, Christopher Wickman and Brendon Basiga.



Lindsay Dangl, Treasurer
ldangl@mbbspclaw.com

What is the best book you have ever read?

I have a lot of favorites. A recent one would be the Colter Shaw series by Jeffrey Deaver.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

It's hard to say who was most important as so many people have influenced the course of human events. For our country, I'd say Abraham Lincoln.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

Integrity.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

Author.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

Just memories



Alexander S. Rusek, Secretary
alexrusek@whitelawpllc.com

What is the best book you have ever read?

While it may be cliché, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is the book I always come back to when I think about this question and a books overall impact on my outlook at life.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

This is a very difficult questions and I am not sure I have an answer now or if I ever will. When I reflect on history, I often think this question is better answered by looking at social movements rather than any one individual.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

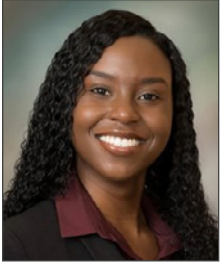
I admire people who work hard towards their goals and don't give up. I've always believed that when a person puts in the time that they position themselves to take advantage of any opportunities that may arise.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

I think I would end up in the fields of psychology or psychiatry if I had not gone to law school.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

Right now, I am continuing to work on growing my watch collection and I just started getting interested in fountain pens - both new and vintage.



Ernschie Augustin
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What is the best book you have ever read?

I would say the Bible. It's the book that keeps on giving. There is a scripture/parable for every season in your life

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

In my opinion Martin Luther King, Jr. was the most important person in history. Not only for his leadership in advocating for racial equality, but also because of his faith that his vision ("dream") would someday be a reality even if he wouldn't live to see it.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

I would say I admire authenticity and a person's mannerism.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

I can't imagine not practicing law, but if I had another profession, I would be a doctor.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

I've been collecting poetry books lately.



Mary Bowen
marybowenesq@att.net

What is the best book you have ever read?

I have a few favorites but I will narrow down my list to two books, "*The Battlefield of the Mind*" by Joyce Meyers and "*Boundaries*" by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

Any notable trailblazer or person that has opened doors or provided opportunities for the next generation makes history. The first person that comes to mind is my role model, the first African American Congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

Honesty. A person's unwavering willingness to tell the truth speaks highly of a person's integrity.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

My other profession would have been an investigative journalist. It encompasses my interests in compelling writing and traveling.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

I absolutely love brooches. They enhance any outfit plus they are pretty!



Aylysh Gallagher, YLS President
agallagher@ingham.org

What is the best book you have ever read?

The best books that I have recently read include *Men Explain Things to Me*, by Rebecca Solnit; *Conversations with RBG*, by Jeffrey Rosen; and *Cassandra Speaks*, by Elizabeth Lesser.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

I know within my lifetime one of the most important in history is Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She is an inspirational figure to many. Her wisdom, dedication, and perseverance was so courageous and her work continues to encourage me.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

Grit and Grace. Grace, both in and outside the courtroom. Grit, because I admire the courage and resolve others have to move forward even after setbacks or perceived failures.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

I like to travel a lot... so maybe a professional photographer or some other profession that would allow me to see more of the world. I love exploring different countries and all of the new experiences that come with travel.

Do you collect anything and if so, what? I do not collect anything.



Emily Jefferson
JeffersonEl@michigan.gov

What is the best book you have ever read?

That is a tough question. My recent favorites are Michelle Obama's *Becoming*, Jenny Slate's *Little Weirds*, and everything by Grady Hendrix. I am currently enjoying *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England*, by Carol F. Karlsen, which is a fascinating and thoroughly researched exploration of the demographics of colonial witchcraft, including both the legal and social aspects.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

Integrity and empathy. Because without the ability put yourself in another's shoes, strong moral values are hollow.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

Perhaps a botanist, because plants are as infinitely varied as they are endlessly fascinating.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

Not so much a collection, but recently I acquired a 1912 batwing typewriter and a 1950s stenograph. They are fun reminders of the technological progress of the past few decades.



Jessica Zimbelman
jzimbelman@sado.org

What is the best book you have ever read?

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

All the scientists

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

Empathy

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

Journalist

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

Kids toys ☺

ICBA Section Chairs



Sally Babbitt,
Probate and Trust Law
sally@sallybabbittlaw.com

The best book I've ever read?

That's a REALLY tough one! I would have to say that the most thought-provoking book I've read was Steven King's "November 22, 1963." The best autobiography I've read so far is Barak Obama's.

Who was the most important person in history?

I would have to say Jesus Christ.

The trait I most admire in people?

Is honesty. If I can't trust someone, I have nothing to build a relationship on.

The profession I would most like now?

Is retirement. But shy of that, I would love to be a law school professor (or any other kind of professor).

Do I collect anything?

My husband would say that I collect mugs, which is true. But others would probably say that I collect dogs with special needs!



Mary Chartier
Criminal Defense Law (Co-chair)
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What is the best book you have ever read?

I can't pick just one! Novels have the ability to transport you to another world. Biographies give you insight into inspiring people. History books let you glimpse another time. I can say that a great book that I read during the pandemic was written by Takura's dad, Stanley Nyamfukudza, called "The Non-Believer's Journey." What a talented author and a thought-provoking book!

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

There are too many to mention. There are obvious heroes, such as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Nelson Mandela, who have changed the world for the better. But then there are billions of other heroes, everyday people whose strength and kindness keep us going and make our lives better. People like my father, who worked all kinds of jobs such as a taxi driver, butcher, and custodian. He might

not be an "important person" in the history books, but he was certainly important to me and to everyone he ever encountered. He genuinely liked people, and he always treated people with respect and kindness. People like my parents—everyday heroes—are the people I admire the most.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

I admire and like to be around people who are positive, kind, and grateful for all life has to offer.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

There are so many areas I'm interested in. I'd love to work for NASA. I also love to bake and write. There are lots of other career paths that I could see myself following, but none that I would love as much as being a criminal defense litigator and being partners with Takura Nyamfukudza and working with our amazing team at Chartier & Nyamfukudza.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

I collect Pez dispensers--it started with a Tweety Pez and then went on from there. I have them from all over the world from my travels and from friends who have brought them back, as well. I love them!

ICBA Staff



Madison Ashley
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What is the best book you have ever read?

It's Kind of a Funny Story was probably the best book I ever read because it talks about real issues and struggles in a teen's life.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

I believe that the most important person in history is either Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks because they helped us change society for the better.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

I admire honesty the most in others because trust is important.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

If I could do another profession, it would be nursing because I've always wanted to help others.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

I love collecting shells from lakes around Michigan.



Matt Hinkle
support4@sharedresources.us

What is the best book you have ever read?

The best book I've read to date has to be *1984*. It does a wonderful job of capturing a dystopian world and the ending is well done.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

I don't know about most important, but the most impactful in my opinion was Isaac Newton. His advancements helped lead to massive leaps in science.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

Compassion, as it seems to be a trait that is lacking in my generation.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

I'd love to try woodwork. The ability to take a few pieces of wood and carve something beautiful has always amazed me.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

I collect pens, I have a drawer full of them. I love high quality pens, and if someone is handing out pens, I'll go out of my way to get one if it feels or looks high quality.



Madelyne Lawry
info@inghambar.org

What is the best book you have ever read?

One that had an impact on me, *Many Lives Many Masters*, Dr. Brian Weiss MD. The True Story of a Prominent Psychiatrist, His Young Patient, and the Past-Life Therapy.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

My son, Nash Vincent Kiebler. The disease of addiction took his life. He navigated his life with stigma and lack of evidence-based treatment, yet he was still a kind person.

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

Acceptance – it's not about titles, awards, or bank account size. When I see someone with this quality, I trust them.

If you could have had a profession other than what you chose, what would it be?

Financial advisor.

Do you collect anything, and if so, what?

Your grandmother's costume jewelry. I enjoy going to garage sales and finding pieces to put in jewelry boxes for the family youngsters to play dress-up.



Valerie Sowulewski
valeries@inghambar.org

What is the best book you have ever read?

Call of the Wild by Jack London.

Who do you think was the most important person in history?

Ronald Regan – Actor, Governor, President

What is the trait that you admire most in other people?

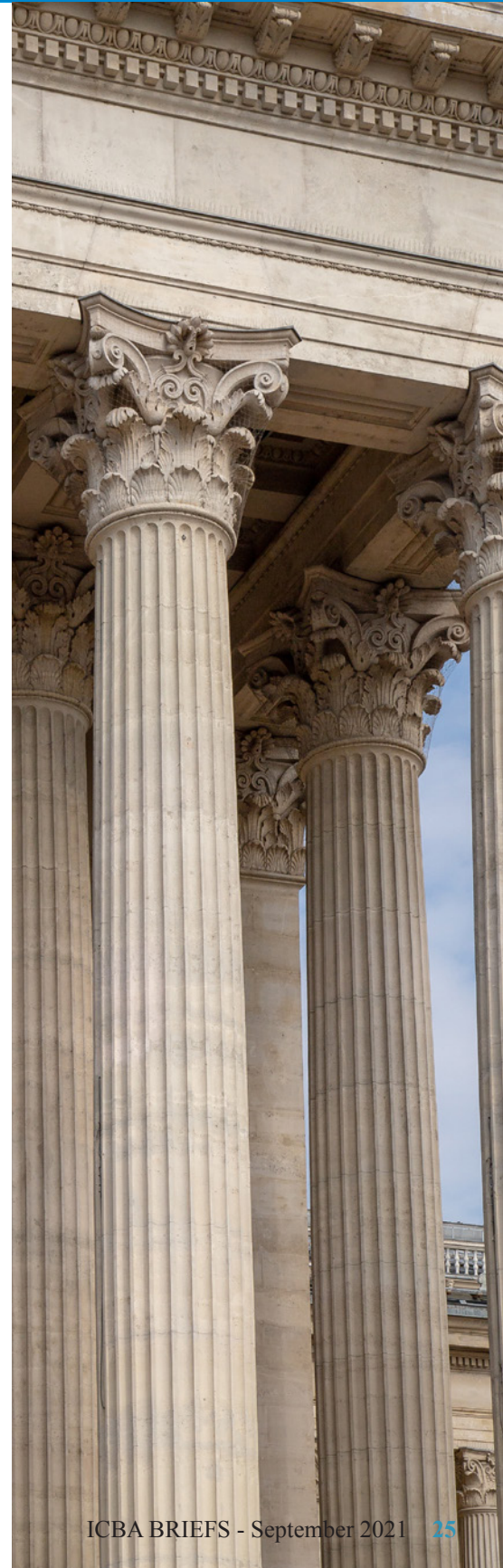
Strong work ethic. First to arrive and last to leave.

If you could have had a profession, other than what you chose, what would it be?

Printing industry, design, and layout.

Do you collect anything and if so, what?

Yes, I do, Coca-Cola memorabilia.





Judge Brock A. Swartzle

“Whatever you are, be a good one.”

Judge Brock A. Swartzle sits on the Michigan Court of Appeals and is one of the six judges from the Fourth District (which includes Ingham County). He currently lives in Okemos, and he grew up Athens, just south of Battle Creek. I had the pleasure to speak with him about his experience as a judicial clerk and how it has shaped his unique and distinct career path. Abraham Lincoln, Judge Swartzle’s favorite U.S. President, said “Whatever you are, be a good one.” Whatever Judge Swartzle has done throughout the distinct seasons of his career, he has certainly strived to be a “good one” and clerking has been an integral part of his story.

Everybody has a plan for their career path when they first start out. What was yours? Was clerking a part of that? I did not have any interest or expectation of practicing law or litigating when I went to law school. I had never met an attorney until I went to law school, but I had a teacher in Sixth Grade tell me that I should be a lawyer, and the idea always just stuck in my mind. My undergraduate degree was in economics, so my intention was to go to a law school that focused on “Law and Economics,” as the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason does, and

immediately thereafter go to grad school and get my PhD and just teach at the college and law-school levels. When I was in law school, I never worked for a law firm, because I did not want to practice law. Some friends on law review told me that I should apply for a clerkship. I asked, “Why, I don’t want to practice law?” And their response was something along the lines of, “We all know that if you can, you apply and if you get one, you do it.” So, I thought if this is what you do, I shall do it. I had no desire to stay in Virginia, where George Mason is located—I wanted to return to Michigan and go to U of M for grad school. I was lucky enough to get a clerkship with Judge Pepe in the Eastern District of Michigan—he was located in Ann Arbor, and I thought this was perfect—I would clerk for two years and then go to grad school.

Do you think clerking for such a long time furthered your career, or was clerking more like a pause in that particular season of your career? I got a lot of experience with pretrial matters because that is what federal magistrates primarily handle. I worked on prisoner civil-rights cases, habeas cases, and a myriad of other matters. But I also wanted to work for a district court judge to do some trials—just to see the whole process. I was lucky enough to get a

clerkship with Judge McKeague for one year. I truly loved both experiences. They were two very different judges, different types of chambers, but I loved all three years working for both of them.

Did you stick to the plan for obtaining your doctorate at U of M? I did follow the plan: I was accepted by U of M into the graduate PhD program for economics, and I stuck it out for a year. But, I really disliked graduate school. I think my problem was that I had these really great experiences working in a courtroom for three years and realized that grad school was not what I wanted to do anymore. And, knowing a little economics, I realized that my opportunity cost of going to school and forgoing a real income for 4-6 years was pretty darn high. So, after the year of grad school, I joined Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn as an associate.

Going into litigation was unexpected—how did your clerking experience carry over to litigation? I liked working at Honigman. Most of my work was in antitrust litigation, which was pretty interesting because it tied-in with my federal court experience, since almost all antitrust litigation is in federal court, and it had the economics element to it. Then, Judge McKeague was elevated to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 2005, and when he

moved up, he needed two additional law clerks. We talked, and I decided to take a hiatus from the practice of law. I wanted to make sure I did it for more than a year, and we agreed it would be multi-year with no particular end-date. I ended up staying with him for four years.

Is your clerk experience typical? No, it is not typical, overall. My first two clerkships were very typical term-clerk positions. Term clerks are usually one to two years, right out of law school—that is exactly what I did. But leaving the practice of law to clerk was atypical at the time, though today it is becoming more and more common for lawyers to take a pause and clerk for a year or two. It is still not common, however, to clerk for a four-year term. I just got really lucky that Judge McKeague had known me from my prior clerkship, we got along really well, and I think he liked my writing style, so it was an easy fit for those four years.

Do you think clerking for such a long time furthered your career or like you took a pause in that season of your career? I would say both. It is a bit of a pause, no doubt—you know, clerkships are usually only for a year or two—but I have friends who have left private practice to go work for the Department of Justice, the Attorney General's office, the Legislature, and then return to private practice. I think going back and forth between private practice and government is becoming more common, but it definitely was a pause.

What did you do after you ended your clerking term at the Court of Appeals? I left Honigman, and I came back to Honigman, pretty much at the same level. When I went back, I wanted a broader litigation practice, as antitrust

is very specialized. So, I came back and joined the firm's litigation department, rather than just the antitrust group.

Did your clerk experience help shape your experience in litigation?

Absolutely. It's hard to identify all the ways it helps, but it definitely makes you a better writer. When you are clerking, your primary responsibilities are research and writing, and you are writing for a professional audience. The judge you are working for—whether they write a lot of their own work or edit the work of other lawyers—the judge is someone who has succeeded in the profession and really knows how to analyze and craft arguments. The feedback you get from that judge when you give them a draft can be a little deflating to your ego when it comes back marked up, but it is valuable feedback and experience. But the other major advantage is just learning how judges think. There is a particular way that judges approach issues and you get a better understanding of how their minds work, which is invaluable.

Were there any unanticipated or unexpected benefits that you found in clerking? The friendships you develop with court staff—some of my best friends are the JAs and law clerks who I worked with. Those friendships have been some of the most long-lasting ones.

You were kind of “should-ed” into clerking and it was not something you anticipated doing. Do you think you would have taken the same career path had you not clerked?

Absolutely not. I would not be where I am today if I had not clerked. My guess is that I would have gone to grad school and languished there for 7 years before I finished my doctorate,

but maybe I would have had a fantastic career teaching—I don't know. But I do know that working for Judges McKeague and Pepe showed me that litigation and judicial work can be as intellectually stimulating as teaching, if not more—and I didn't think that before I clerked. Basically, I just thought people went into court, yelled at each other, a decision was made, and that was it. The whole process didn't sound very intellectually interesting—and I could not have been more wrong. Once you get into clerking, you realize that you have to help the judge make a decision based on the existing facts and law, but you can't change the question, you can't modify the evidence or the data. In academia, if you do the research or run the experiment and you don't like the results, you can adjust the question that you want to answer, you can re-run the experiment, you can do lots of things to make the problem different in some way—within appropriate ethical boundaries, of course. In a court case, however, you have to deal with the facts and law in front of you, and you have to come to some kind of resolution, and as a new law clerk, that can be terrifying—trust me. But you learn and become more comfortable as you get more experience, and if you have a good judge you are working for, the judge will help guide you through that process. Litigation is a very interesting subject matter, and I do know that as a law student, I never guessed that litigation work could be so intellectually satisfying.

Are there any down sides to clerking? I can't think of any. There is no doubt that maybe there are some mismatches in terms of personalities on occasion, but even then, it's just a year or 2. You

can deal with the personality conflict for a year and still gain all of these other benefits. In addition, I think what you learn in clerking far outweighs any brief delay you might experience in developing your practice. I don't think that outside of clerking, you can learn what you do when you are clerking. The insight you gain from learning at the elbow of a judge is not something you can get from the outside. And that "lost year" will look like a blip in terms of your practice in year 10, 11, or 12. I tell students to be patient and take a year or 2, because clerking is so valuable. Plus, hopefully, you get a really good recommendation coming out of it. I know having Judge McKeague and Judge Pepe give me references throughout the years has been a huge boost to my career—having that network is invaluable.

Statistically it would be impossible for every law student to clerk—do you think this unique experience you gain clerking, there is a parallel experience you can get if not clerking?

Absolutely. I think an attorney would gain different knowledge, but it would be equally as valuable by working in other areas of the public sector. I believe strongly in public service—I have kind of gone back and forth between the private and public sectors, but even if a young lawyer's goal is to be the greatest private antitrust lawyer in the country, working for the government would be a huge boost because that lawyer would see first-hand how officials determine enforcement actions, for example, or if the lawyer wants to be the greatest criminal defense attorney, working for the Attorney General or a prosecutor's office for a couple of years would give that lawyer a huge boost because it will

give the lawyer a much broader network of colleagues, and the lawyer would see the practical considerations that prosecutors think about when deciding what charges to bring.

My own personal experience, when I went from Honigman to the Michigan House of Representatives, I wanted to have a Lansing-based practice, so I talked to some friends and mentors, and they suggested working for state government for a while, and I was lucky enough to get hired by the House of Representatives as a lawyer. My plan was to go back to Honigman or perhaps join a different law firm at the end of 2016, and I was simply lucky that the judicial position on the Michigan Court of Appeals opened up when I was getting ready to leave the House. If the position had not opened up, I would be in private practice right now, probably focusing on litigation and government relations. And you know, you can choose to work for the government to get experience to do something else later on, or you can work for the government because it is great work and you believe in the mission. If you are lucky, working for the government is both great work you believe in and something that can further your career down the line. So, while working for the Treasury or Attorney General is not the same as working for the Judiciary, a lawyer can gain a similar experience in the sense of learning how decisions get made in those departments, learning how to be part of a team to advance the public good, and the like.

How do you think your clerking and career experiences overall impact your experience as a Judge? Clerking was a vital experience to what I do now on the bench. When I ran for the

Michigan Supreme Court last year, one theme I stressed was that our Judiciary must be nonpartisan. The Judiciary is the one branch where politics must not be allowed to influence the outcome of decisions.

Out of the nearly twenty-three years of my legal career, I worked in the political arena for only three and a half years when I was in the House. When I clerked, I was covered under the Hatch Act and couldn't participate in politics, and when I was in private practice, I simply didn't have the time. And I was never officially involved in politics when I was an undergraduate or in law school, although like most people I had my own views about policy and politics and liked to argue with friends over a beer. My experience in the House was, frankly, pretty foreign to me in terms of the politics, although the legal aspects were familiar. This is all to say that working in the House was really fun, but it was also really stressful. Luckily, I worked with great leaders and great staff, especially the lawyers we had on staff.

Because of my clerking experience, when I was appointed to my current judicial position, the work and environment felt very natural, like I was coming back to a familiar place, even though it was a totally different judicial system. I took the bench and started listening to oral arguments, reading briefs, writing opinions, and researching the law. This was more like a return to what I had done before—it was my time at the House that was different. The clerking, especially working for Judge McKeague at the federal Court of Appeals, gave me a big leg up when I started here. I already knew what appellate arguments are and how they are different from the trial-court level,

how we look at things versus how a trial court would look at them, so I think it gave me a good starting point in a certain respect. But so did working for the Legislature—I learned how statutes get made in the real world, and that is a big help when we have to construe a statute. It is fun because all of the Court of Appeals judges bring different skills and backgrounds to the bench. Nobody here has a background like mine, but I don't have one like theirs either—but clerking definitely give me an advantage when I got to the court.

As an aside, in comparing the Judiciary and the other branches, one interesting aspect about being in the Judiciary is that we have to explain the reasoning behind our decisions, whereas working in the Legislature, for example, a member either votes “aye” or “nay” on a bill—the member doesn't have to explain anything. In judicial opinions, we have to explain ourselves in pretty exhaustive detail, and we have two other colleagues who may disagree with us. I like the fact that we have to put ourselves out there—in this sense, I think that the Judiciary is the most transparent of the branches. Our reasoning is out there for the public to read and evaluate for themselves, and I think that is helpful and good and helps guard against inappropriate partisanship in the Judiciary.

Do you notice a difference from working on the State bench as opposed to the Federal bench? Yes, Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction, so there were just things

we didn't handle. For the most part, we didn't handle many murder cases outside of habeas matters, and the percentage of civil/commercial matters was higher in federal court than state court, at least based on my own anecdotal view. In state court, unlike federal court, we have a lot of family and parental-rights cases.

With that said, even though the subject matter might be different, the process is essential the same. For example, I had to get used to calling summary disposition a “C10” matter instead of a “Rule 56” matter, but the analysis is quite similar. Some of it is just translation—it's mostly the same rules, with some important differences, of course.

Did you have any misperceptions about clerking before you experienced it? I had almost no perceptions, whether “mis-“or not. I know that I didn't think I would enjoy the job as much as I did—I thought I had to do it because it was nice and good for my resume, but I really ended up loving being a clerk.

Your career has distinct seasons to it, between clerking, litigation, government work, and the Judiciary. What season is next? I think every 4 years I have had a different job up until now, but I am really happy being a judge. As long as the voters are willing to have me, I will keep doing the work.

Judge Brock A. Swartzle was appointed to the Court in 2017. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Swartzle was Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, as well as General Counsel for the House, where

he worked on numerous legal and policy issues, including the Detroit bankruptcy settlement package. Judge Swartzle was previously a litigation partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, where he practiced in antitrust, healthcare fraud, white-collar crime, securities, and other areas. Judge Swartzle had extensive experience in federal court prior to joining the Michigan Court of Appeals, clerking for three years in both the Eastern District of Michigan and the Western District of Michigan, as well as four years with the Hon. David W. McKeague on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Swartzle currently sits on the editorial board of the American Bar Association's Appellate Practice Journal, a publication for which he was Co-Editor-in-Chief for several years, as well as on the George Mason Law & Economics Center's Judicial Education Advisory Board. He has authored numerous legal articles as well as co-authored a chapter in the practitioner treatise, *Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts* (West). Judge Swartzle received his B.S. with distinction from the University of Michigan and his J.D. with honors from George Mason University School of Law, where he served on the George Mason Law Review Board of Editors.

Judge Swartzle is married with three children. He volunteers with the U of M Club of Greater Lansing and is a member of the Williamston United Methodist Church.

MSU Chapter of the American Inns of Court

By James F. Mauro



Over 300 Inns of Court have been established in legal communities throughout the United States. We are fortunate here, in mid-Michigan, to have the

Michigan State University College of Law Chapter ("MSU Inn") to provide local attorneys at all stages of their career, as well as law students, with the opportunity to improve themselves and the quality of the legal profession through education, mentoring, and networking.

I am the incoming President of the MSU Inn and would like to invite you to learn more about our Inn and consider joining. We meet monthly during each academic year, in a social setting at the MSU College of Law or virtually via ZOOM, depending upon the health-related restrictions at the time of such meeting. Members are made up of Masters (attorneys with 15 years or more of legal experience), Barristers (6 to 14 years), Associates (1 to 5 years), and Pupils (our law student members).

Our meetings, from September to April with no meeting in December, are generally the second Wednesday of each month unless altered by a conflict that may push us up or back one week. We start at 5:30pm to socialize, eat, and drink (when meeting in person). At approximately 6:00pm we begin our program of the day, ending no later than 7:30pm.

Our September meeting is traditionally a presentation by a Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court - this year being Justice Elizabeth M. Welch. Each month thereafter will involve a program by a member team on a topic of their choice. Member teams are led by a Master and made up of a mix of Masters, Barristers, Associates, and Pupils.

In addition to the monthly meetings, we also provide an excellent mentoring program under the leadership of our Mentoring Chair Charles (Chuck) Barbieri. This program was started after a survey confirmed that members were interested in taking mentoring beyond what inherently occurs through the general meetings and team presentations. The mentoring program begins each year with an orientation of anyone interested in being a mentor or a mentee. Next, there are one-on-one mentoring sessions scheduled where each mentee contacts their chosen mentor and arranges for a mentoring format that works best for them. Finally, a courtroom visit and chamber chat is arranged, where mentees may visit the courtrooms of member judges. Mentoring is a key component of our Inn and this program enhances such opportunities for all who choose to participate.

THE INN LEADERSHIP THIS YEAR INCLUDES:

President: James F. Mauro of the Dickinson Wright Law Firm

Past-President: Honorable Joyce Draganchuk of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court in Ingham County

Counselor (President-Elect): Honorable Carmen G. Fahie, ALJ for the Department of Health and Human Services

Program Chair: Honorable Thomas S. Eveland, retired Chief Judge for the 56th Circuit Court in Eaton County

Mentoring Chair: Charles E. Barbieri of the Foster Swift Law Firm

Law School Liaison: Maria Stein, MSU College of Law

MSU Inn Administrator: Marie Gordon, MSU College of Law

If you are interested in learning more about the Inn, I encourage you to check out our website, reach out to our leaders, or contact any of our members. To join, simply contact Marie Gordon at the MSU College of Law (mgordon@law.msu.edu) for an application.

Ingham Academy *Celebrates* Graduation

On July 28 before an overflow crowd on the grounds of the Ingham County Family Center, the Ingham Academy, the day treatment program for the 30th Circuit Court's Juvenile Division, celebrated the graduation of four of its students. Alexander Jackson, Imani Kenny, Mikhaiyla Moon, and Ronald Seaton were each awarded high school diplomas for their successful efforts. In addition, Moon was awarded the Panther of the Year Award – given to the graduating student judged to be an exceptional role model and inspiration to other students – and Seaton earned the Worker of the Year Award – meant to recognize that graduating student with an excellent work ethic in the vocational aspect of the program.

The Ingham Academy is designed for youth who have been found responsible for the commission of one or more offenses through the Court's juvenile delinquency jurisdiction and are found suitable to avail of the program's goals of promoting academic progress and behavioral stabilization in students who

are not successful in a traditional school setting. Judge-approved referrals to the Academy come originally from the Court's Juvenile Court Officers who oversee delinquency caseloads, including those associated with school truancy.

Ingham Academy promotes positive youth development to help adolescents succeed in their home community through a consistent individual, strength-based treatment process in a cooperative and therapeutic environment. Quality care is provided through a collaboration with three partner agencies – Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD), Highfields, Inc. and Peckham, Inc. IISD provides the educational component of the program, while Highfields delivers the behavior treatment and support to the program and Peckham runs a comprehensive program called Youth Career Academy which offers vocational training and work experience.

Through the combined efforts of all partner agencies, the program addresses and provides intervention for the mental health, substance abuse, and behavioral issues that are identified through the youth's risk assessments. The treatment focus is to enhance appropriate social skills, emotional regulation and responsible behavior in youth, while increasing academic



This year's Ingham Academy graduating class. From left, Ronald Seaton, Mikhaiyla Moon, Imani Kenny, and Alexander Jackson.

success such that youth earn a high school diploma. There are four main objectives for completing the program: (1) obtain a high school diploma; (2) gain a year of work experience (through the collaboration with Peckham); (3) pay off court fines and fees; and (4) obtain the life skills necessary to be successful. These objectives help realize the overall goal of the program – which is to reduce the likelihood participants will commit new offenses and come back within the court's jurisdiction.

The idea for the Ingham Academy – a unique educational treatment program unlike any other across the state – began some 15 years ago with the formation of a local planning task force. Judge Richard J. Garcia, now Chief Judge of both the 30th Circuit Court and the Ingham County Probate Court, chaired the yearlong body. Task force members included Juvenile Division staff and several community partners.



Ingham Academy alumna Marissa Cole addresses this year's graduating students and other attendees.

The Academy officially opened its doors in September of 2007, temporarily taking over a small amount of unused space in the downtown Lansing courthouse to start up classes. With the Court's purchase and renovation of the Ingham County Family Center on West Holmes Street in the summer of 2008, the program began to operate from its now permanent location in September of that year and has grown to be able to serve 80 youth at any given time.

Data indicates the Academy model has been a success. Over 83% of youth who participate in the Ingham Academy – regardless of how they exit the program – do not commit a new offense within the first year of being dismissed from the program. Since the establishment of the Ingham Academy (and other community-based programming at the Ingham County Family Center), enrollment in long-term, out-of-home programs has fallen by over 80%. Short-term detentions have also fallen almost 25% since their peak in 2010.



Ingham Academy graduates Imani Kenny, Mikhaiyla Moon, and Ronald Seaton, listen to the graduation program.

The Ingham Academy, as well as other programs at the Ingham County Family Center, are supported by the County's Juvenile Justice Millage. The millage is up for renewal next year. "We are grateful to the voters of Ingham County for supporting a program that helps youth

get an education and gives back to the community," said Chief Judge Garcia. "When a youth succeeds at the Ingham Academy everyone succeeds."

Wednesday's four honorees join a long line of those over the last 14 years who have successfully completed the Ingham Academy's graduation requirements. One of those earlier graduates – Marissa Cole from the Class of 2019 – addressed the audience at the graduation ceremony. Cole provided living proof of someone who, partly through success in the Academy, now has a stable job and housing and is looking forward to life's opportunities.

Contact: George M. Strander,
Court Administrator, 30th Circuit Court
gstrander@ingham.org; 517-483-6506

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Adrienne Mertens
Ingham County Circuit Court
517-483-6506

Press Release

2022 Sinas Dramis

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Bryan J. Waldman

Five Sinas Dramis Attorneys Included in 2022 Best Lawyers in America Publication, Waldman Named Lansing's "Lawyer of the Year" for Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs

MICHIGAN – Five Sinas Dramis Law Firm attorneys have been recognized in the 2022 publication of *Best Lawyers in America*. This distinction included firm President Bryan Waldman, who was also recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in the Lansing metro area for representing plaintiffs in personal injury litigation.

Attorneys George Sinas (Lansing), Jim Graves (Lansing), Brian McKenna (Saint Clair Shores), and Steve Weston (Kalamazoo) were also listed in *Best Lawyers* for 2022 in Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs.

Best Lawyers publishes their list of distinguished attorneys based on a peer-reviewed survey each year. The lawyer with the highest overall peer-feedback within each practice area and geographic region is additionally honored as "Lawyer of the Year."

Waldman has been honored by *Best Lawyers* as Lansing's Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiff's "Lawyer of the Year" in 2015, 2017, 2020, and now again in 2022. His outstanding career has repeatedly demonstrated his dedication and skill in representing the rights of those who have been injured in Michigan. While Waldman has handled a wide variety of personal injury cases, his practice focuses on representing people injured in auto collisions, semi-truck collisions, bicycle crashes, and motorcycle crashes.

Waldman is a dedicated Lansing community member. He is an adjunct professor at Michigan State University College of Law and has served as a guest lecturer on litigation topics at multiple universities. He also appears on a weekly news segment on WLNS 6 called "The Legal Edge" where he answers questions about a variety of legal topics. Waldman is an active member in various legal organizations including the Michigan Association for Justice, the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the ACLU of Michigan.

Sinas Dramis Law Firm represents a wide range of plaintiff's personal injury cases and serves the entire state of Michigan.

Press Release

Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting P.C.

is happy to announce that the Best Lawyers in America has recognized the following Loomis attorneys in their practice areas **for 2022**.

Lansing, MI



James F. Anderton V (2018) [5]

- Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)
- Closely Held Companies and Family Business Law



Mikhail Murshak (2021)

- Litigation - Intellectual Property



Michael H. Rhodes (2009) [10]

- Corporate Law
- Health Care Law
- Oil and Gas Law
- Real Estate Law



Jeffrey L. Green (2009) [10]

- Real Estate Law



James R. Neal (1997) [25]

- Energy Law
- Natural Resources Law
- Oil and Gas Law



Kevin J. Roragen (2011) [10]

- Commercial Litigation
- Municipal Law



Paula K Manis (2008) [15]

- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Oil and Gas Law



Michael G. Olivia (2012) [10]

- Administrative / Regulatory Law
- Energy Law



Jeffrey S. Theuer (2011) [10]

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law

Press Release

Attorney John W. Fraser Joins Dykema as Michigan Team Leader of the Firm's Cannabis Group

DyKEMA

Contact: Timothy Trunzo, Dykema, 313-568-5333, ttrunzo@dykema.com



John W. Fraser

Lansing – August 23, 2021 – Dykema, a leading national law firm, today announced the addition of John W. Fraser to its Government Policy & Practice Group in the firm's Lansing office. Fraser, who will serve as Michigan Team Leader of the firm's Cannabis Group, joins Dykema after establishing and leading the cannabis practice at Grewal Law in Okemos, Mich.

In his practice, Fraser focuses on cannabis law, business law, general litigation, and appellate law. He primarily counsels cannabis entrepreneurs and investors, municipal

governments, and other attorneys on matters of cannabis law. Fraser also has experience litigating cases in trial courts throughout the State of Michigan and has argued cases before the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court.

In concurrence with his practice, Fraser serves as the Chairperson of the Cannabis Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. He is also an adjunct professor of law at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School where he teaches a course on Medical Marijuana and the Law. He also regularly lectures and presents on cannabis law topics to attorneys and the community.

In his young career, Fraser has already been recognized by the Ingham County Bar Association as a Top 5 Lawyer Under 35 and by the State Bar of Michigan's Marijuana Law Section as a Pioneer for his efforts in the published Michigan Court of Appeals opinion in *People v. Manuel*. He's also been named a Rising Star by Michigan Super Lawyers for each of the past two years.

"We couldn't be more excited to have John join the Dykema team in a leadership role," said Lance Boldrey, leader of Dykema's Cannabis Law Practice. "He has a proven record of success in the cannabis space, and bringing him on board is a great help as we continue to expand this practice."

Fraser earned a J.D., *summa cum laude*, from the Michigan State University College of Law and a B.S. in both Philosophy and Political Science, *cum laude*, along with a minor in English from Central Michigan University.

About Dykema

Dykema has played a central role in the developing cannabis industry, providing a full range of services to a large number and wide range of industry participants. Dykema serves business entities worldwide on a wide range of complex legal issues. Dykema lawyers and other professionals in 13 U.S. offices work in close partnership with clients – from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies – to deliver outstanding results, unparalleled service and exceptional value in every engagement.

Press Release



Media Contact: Kelly Durso, Public Relations Senior Manager,
313-223-3085, kdurso@dickinsonwright.com

Three Dickinson Wright Attorneys Named

2021 Michigan Super Lawyers, One Named Rising Star

LANSING, Mich., – Dickinson Wright PLLC is pleased to announce that three of the firm’s attorneys in Lansing have been named *2021 Michigan Super Lawyers* and one attorney has been named a *2021 Michigan Super Lawyers “Rising Star”*.

Super Lawyers is a listing of outstanding attorneys from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. *Rising Stars* are the top up-and-coming attorneys in the state – those who are 40 years old or younger, or who

have been practicing law for 10 years or less. Only five percent of the lawyers in the state are named *Super Lawyers*, while only two and a half percent are named *Rising Stars*.

MICHIGAN SUPER LAWYERS



Peter H. Ellsworth
Administrative Law



Kester K. So
Government Finance



Jeffery V. Stuckey
Appellate

MICHIGAN SUPER LAWYERS RISING STARS



Nolan J. Moody
Business Litigation

About Dickinson Wright PLLC

Dickinson Wright PLLC is a general practice business law firm with more than 475 attorneys among more than 40 practice areas and 16 industry groups. The firm has 19 offices, including six in Michigan (Detroit, Troy, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw) and 12 other domestic offices in Austin and El Paso, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Lexington, Ky.; Nashville, Tenn.; Las Vegas and Reno, Nev.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Silicon Valley, Calif.; and Washington, D.C. The firm’s Canadian office is located in Toronto. Dickinson Wright offers our clients a distinctive combination of superb client service, exceptional quality, value for fees, industry expertise, and business acumen. As one of the few law firms with ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certification and one of the only firms with ISO/IEC 27701:2019 certification, Dickinson Wright has built state-of-the-art, independently-verified risk management procedures, security controls and privacy processes for our commercial transactions. Dickinson Wright lawyers are known for delivering commercially-oriented advice on sophisticated transactions and have a remarkable record of wins in high-stakes litigation. Dickinson Wright lawyers are regularly cited for their expertise and experience by Chambers, Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers, and other leading independent law firm evaluating organizations.

Press Release

Nolan Moody Ranked in Best Lawyers in America®

"Ones to Watch" 2022 Edition



Media Contact: Kelly Durso, Public Relations Senior Manager,
313-223-3085, kdurso@dickinsonwright.com



Nolan J. Moody
Commercial Litigation

LANSING, Mich. – Dickinson Wright PLLC is pleased to announce that Nolan Moody of the firm's Lansing office has been included in *Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" 2022 edition.

Since it was first published in 1983, *Best Lawyers*® has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. *Best Lawyers* lists are compiled based on an exhaustive peer-review evaluation. Almost 87,000 industry leading lawyers are eligible to

vote (from around the world), and over 10 million evaluations are received on the legal abilities of other lawyers based on their specific practice areas around the world. For the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 7.8 million votes were analyzed, which resulted in almost 60,000 leading lawyers being included in the new edition. To learn more about *Best Lawyers in America*®, please visit <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/32b285b0/Wn9ssLOO-0akmsgW1IWlw?u=http://www.bestlawyers.com/>.

About Dickinson Wright PLLC

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Press Release

Kester So Named

Best Lawyers in America® 2022 “Lawyer of the Year”



Media Contact: Kelly Durso, Public Relations Senior Manager,
313-223-3085, kdurso@dickinsonwright.com



Kester K. So
Municipal Law

LANSING, Mich., – Dickinson Wright PLLC is pleased to announce that Kester K. So has been identified as the leading practitioner in his practice area as a *Best Lawyers in America*® 2022 “Lawyer of the Year”. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is being honored as the “Lawyer of the Year”.

Since it was first published in 1983, *Best Lawyers*® has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. *Best Lawyers* lists are compiled based on an exhaustive

peer-review evaluation. Almost 87,000 industry leading lawyers are eligible to vote (from around the world), and over 10 million evaluations are received on the legal abilities of other lawyers based on their specific practice areas around the world. The lawyers being honored as *Best Lawyers in America*® 2022 “Lawyer of the Year” have received particularly high ratings by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism and integrity.

About Dickinson Wright PLLC

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Press Release

Seven Dickinson Wright Attorneys

Ranked in Best Lawyers in America® 2022 Edition



Media Contact: Kelly Durso, Public Relations Senior Manager,
313-223-3085, kdurso@dickinsonwright.com

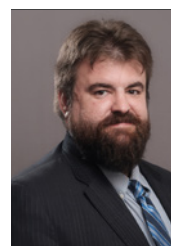
LANSING, Mich. – Dickinson Wright PLLC is pleased to announce that seven of the firm's attorneys in Lansing have been included in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2022 edition.

Since it was first published in 1983, *Best Lawyers*® has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. *Best Lawyers* lists are compiled based on an exhaustive peer-review evaluation. Almost 87,000 industry leading lawyers are eligible to vote (from around the world), and over 10 million evaluations are received on the legal abilities of other lawyers based on their specific practice areas around the world. For the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 7.8 million votes were analyzed, which resulted in almost 60,000 leading lawyers being included in the new edition. To learn more about *Best Lawyers in America*®, please visit <https://link.edgепilot.com/s/t90b8823/q8nF1b-4B0WvpNYM-5tuzg?u=http://www.bestlawyers.com/>.



Peter H. Ellsworth

Administrative/Regulatory Law, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Gaming Law, Government Relations Practice



Ryan M. Shannon

Insurance Law



Scott R. Knapp

Administrative/Regulatory Law, Commercial Litigation



Kester K. So

Energy Law, Municipal Law, Public Finance Law



James F. Mauro

Corporate Law, Real Estate Law



Jeffery V. Stuckey

Administrative/Regulatory Law, Appellate Practice, Energy Law



Peter J. Kulick

International Mergers and Acquisitions Law

About Dickinson Wright PLLC

Dickinson Wright PLLC is a general practice business law firm with more than 475 attorneys among more than 40 practice areas and 16 industry groups. The firm has 19 offices, including six in Michigan (Detroit, Troy, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw) and 12 other domestic offices in Austin and El Paso, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Lexington, Ky.; Nashville, Tenn.; Las Vegas and Reno, Nev.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Silicon Valley, Calif.; and Washington, D.C. The firm's Canadian office is located in Toronto. Dickinson Wright offers our clients a distinctive combination of superb client service, exceptional quality, value for fees, industry expertise, and business acumen. As one of the few law firms with ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certification and one of the only firms with ISO/IEC 27701:2019 certification, Dickinson Wright has built state-of-the-art, independently-verified risk management procedures, security controls and privacy processes for our commercial transactions. Dickinson Wright lawyers are known for delivering commercially-oriented advice on sophisticated transactions and have a remarkable record of wins in high-stakes litigation. Dickinson Wright lawyers are regularly cited for their expertise and experience by Chambers, Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers, and other leading independent law firm evaluating organizations.

Press Release

Ten Sinas Dramis Attorneys

Named in 2021 Michigan Super Lawyers Publication

George Sinas Included in "Top 100 Lawyers in Michigan" List



**SINAS DRAMIS
LAW FIRM**

Since 1951

Laura Zemaitis, Marketing Assistant,
517-394-7500, laurazemaitis@sinasdramis.com



George Sinas

LANSING, MICHIGAN – The Sinas Dramis Law Firm proudly announces the inclusion of ten of its attorneys in this year's Michigan Super Lawyers list, as well as firm Managing Partner, George Sinas' recognition as the only Lansing personal injury attorney named in the publication's 2021 "Top 100 Lawyers in Michigan" list, the fifth year in a row he has been so honored. In its 70th year of representing injured people, these distinctions confirm the Sinas Dramis Law Firm's longstanding history of excellence in the practice of personal injury law throughout the state of Michigan.

Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters, is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer rec-

ognition and professional achievement. Super Lawyers selects only the top 5 percent of lawyers in Michigan for inclusion in its annual list utilizing a patented multiphase process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates, and peer reviews by practice area. The result is a credible, comprehensive, and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys.

The ten Sinas Dramis attorneys recognized in this year's Super Lawyers lists in plaintiffs' personal injury law include Managing Partner George Sinas (Lansing); Partner Jim Graves (Lansing); Partner Bryan Waldman (Lansing); Partner Stephen Sinas (Lansing); Partner Thomas Sinas (Grand Rapids); Partner Brian McKenna (Metro-Detroit); Steven Weston (Kalamazoo); and Kevin Komar (Lansing). Additionally, Partner Catherine Tucker (Lansing) and attorney Joel Finnell (Lansing) were recognized in Super Lawyers' 2021 "Rising Stars" list.

For the fifth year in a row, George Sinas is the only Lansing personal injury attorney included in the Michigan Super Lawyers' "Top 100 Lawyers in Michigan" list, and one of only six greater-Lansing area attorneys (including Okemos and East Lansing) to be included in the Top

100 list. To be listed in the Michigan "Top 100 Lawyers" list," an attorney must receive the highest points during the nomination, research, and blue-ribbon review process. The "Top 100 Lawyers" list comprises attorneys from all practice areas across the entire state of Michigan. George's distinction as a "Top 100 Lawyer" in Michigan reflects a distinguished career dedicated to serving his clients, as well as his deep commitment to protecting the rights of injured people throughout the state of Michigan. Sinas has focused his practice in the areas of personal injury law, auto no-fault law, and wrongful death cases throughout Michigan. Currently, he acts as Managing Partner at Sinas Dramis Law Firm, headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, and with four additional offices in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Metro-Detroit, and Chicago.

Recognitions such as inclusion in the annual Super Lawyers list continue to set Sinas Dramis Law Firm apart. These distinctions provide injured people seeking legal representation further clarity when considering which law firm to hire to handle their particular case. The Sinas Dramis Law Firm is one of Michigan's oldest personal injury law firms representing injured people, having served Michigan citizens for 70 years.

Press Release

Foster Swift's Lansing office welcomes the arrival of family law attorney Jackie Dupler

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—September 1, 2021

FOSTER SWIFT
FOSTER SWIFT COLLINS & SMITH PC || ATTORNEYS

Contact: Jacob W. Leuvoy | Marketing Communications Coordinator
13 South Washington Square | Lansing, MI 48933-2193
Phone: 517.371.8125 | Fax: 517.371.8200
jleuvoy@fosterswift.com



Jackie Dupler

LANSING, Mich. – Foster Swift Collins & Smith welcomes attorney Jacquelyn A. Dupler to the firm's Lansing office as a member of the firm's Family Law Practice Group.

Jackie practices predominately in domestic relations including custody, divorce and support.

Jackie handles a wide range of family law matters, from straightforward divorce cases to difficult family situations involving substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health, co-parenting and financial difficulties. She also handles complex asset and debt issues, such as business ownership, self-employment, and complicated retirement accounts and pensions.

Jackie received both her law and undergrad degrees from Michigan State University. In addition to her practice, Jackie stays heavily involved in other community roles:

- In 2020, she was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan Board of Accountancy which is responsible for the certification, licensure, and regulation of certified public accountants and public accounting firms.

- She is currently on the fundraising committee and a board member of the Mid – Michigan Treatment Court Foundation. The Foundation was developed to support local sobriety courts in meeting the needs of its participants. Treatment Courts partner with local treatment agencies and other community resources to provide participants with intensive treatment and holistic services to achieve and maintain sobriety.
- Since 2019, she has been a board member of the Michigan Advocacy Program. The program's mission is to advance the safety, independence, and economic stability of those most affected by poverty, racism, and other structurally oppressive systems by increasing access to justice and working for systemic solutions.



**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Lansing Branch**

Dale Copedge, President

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 22, 2021**

**Contact: Curtis O'Neil, Legal Redress Chair
Phone: (720) 938-4986**

**Lansing NAACP Contributes \$50,000 to Legal Advocacy
Group to Help Eliminate Eligible Convictions**

Contribution helps pay for fees and services associated with expungement

LANSING – The Lansing Branch NAACP has partnered with the Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) and allocated \$50,000 to the group to help clients living in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties seeking expungement of eligible convictions.

Expungement is critical because it breaks down the barriers that would otherwise prevent a person from being approved for a loan, returning to school, purchasing a home, or obtaining a better employment opportunity. The expungement process generally takes 8 to 10 weeks or more if a person has the necessary resources, such as an attorney. However, members of the black and brown community are disproportionately impacted and tend to have limited access to an attorney and other resources necessary to begin the expungement process.

“People are in need of many resources to help with their expungement process,” said Curtis O’Neil, Lansing Branch Legal Redress Chair. “Imagine the frustration people feel when they have filled out the paperwork but can’t afford the attorney fees to move the process along. We want to provide a means through our partnership to expedite the expungement process.”

The funding will be used to pay for Michigan State Police background check fees. It will also be used to pay a \$500 stipend to recruit and incentivize pro bono attorneys affiliated with LSSCM to represent clients with pending expungement cases. The stipend would be paid upon proof of court-ordered expungement.

According to the University of Michigan, only 6.5% of residents who qualify for expungement obtain it within five years of eligibility. When the state’s Clean Slate Law went into effect in April, an estimated 1 million residents became eligible for expungement. Under the new law, people are eligible to remove up to three felonies, an unlimited number of misdemeanors, most traffic offenses, and misdemeanor marijuana convictions.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation.

###

Membership is Power! No Membership, No Power: Join the NAACP Today”

Lansing Branch NAACP 3105 S. MLK Jr. BLVD #141, Lansing, MI 48910 – (517) 484-9171 www.naacplansing.org



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Okemos, MI 48864

www.cndefenders.com

P: 517.885.3305
F: 517.885.3363

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](#).



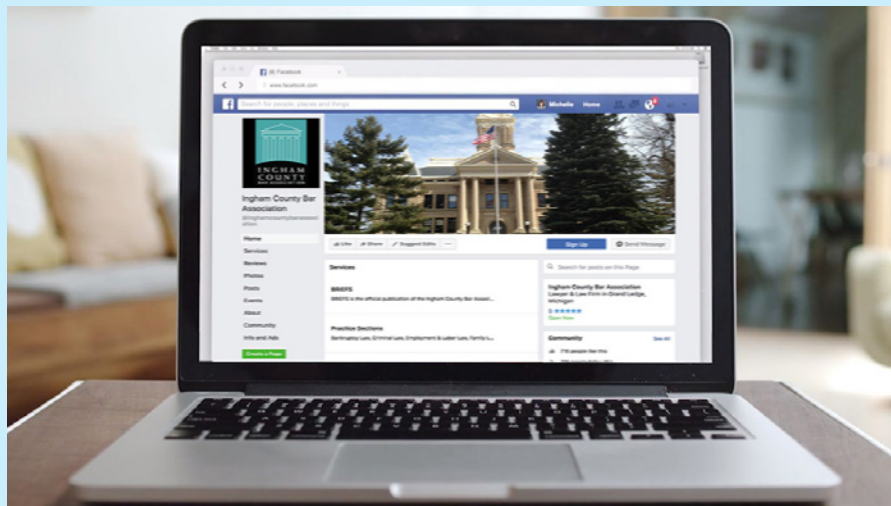
ICBA Sponsorship Opportunities

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.

Employment and Labor Law Section

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

Section Co-Chair is John Maise. Contact John if you have ideas for topics and speakers.

Stay tuned for an updated schedule of events.

Upcoming Meetings: TBA

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

Family Law Section

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

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

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

Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

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

Section Co-Chairs are Elizabeth Cary, a Paralegal at Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC, and Heidi Pierce, a Paralegal at Fraser Trebilcock.

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

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

Probate and Trust Section

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

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

Join The Section's Facebook Page

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

Lunch Sponsors

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

Real Estate Section

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

Section Co-Chairs are Bill Tomblin and Christopher Patterson.

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

Lunch is served at meetings. Upcoming speakers and topics will be announced. Member input is always appreciated. If you plan to attend a meeting, please RSVP to Bill Tomblin at Wdtomblaw@aol.com.

Bankruptcy Law Section

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

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

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

BRIEFS Author Guidelines & Policies

IN GENERAL

Publication Schedule

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

Copy Deadline

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

BRIEFS Committee Meetings

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

Author and Article Pictures

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

Article Length and Format

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

Raising the Bar

announcements: 100-200 words

Local legal events notices: 100-150 words

Columns: 300-500 words

Articles: 700-1,000 words

Submit articles in a Word .doc/.docx

Article Ideas

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

Opinion Articles

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

Author Information

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

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING

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

ARCHIVED ISSUES

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

BRIEFS Advertising Contract, Rates & Policies



Thanks for reading
BRIEFS

Enjoy your Fall!

Feedback?
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