

November 2021



Ingham County Bar Association

# BRIEFS



*In Tribute*  
*Thank You Veterans*

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Meet the Judges  
**January 20, 2022**

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

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Barrister's Dinner  
**March 10, 2022**

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

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



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## ICBA Logo and Letterhead Policy

The ICBA has adopted a policy regarding the use of the ICBA logo and letterhead. If you are currently using or are planning to use the ICBA logo, we ask that you become familiar with and abide by the revised policy. You can read the full policy [here](#).

# About ICBA

Founded in 1895, the Ingham County Bar Association continues its longstanding tradition of service to the legal profession and the greater Lansing community, bringing lawyers together to join in a strong organization that works to achieve objectives that transcend the individual.



## INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 66  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
[www.inghambar.org](http://www.inghambar.org)

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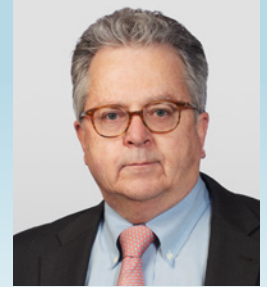
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Madelyne Lawry  
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# President's Message

*"If you want happiness for an hour – take a nap. If you want happiness for a day – go fishing. If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime – help someone else."—Chinese proverb*



Charles Lawler,  
ICBA President  
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When I first read this quote, it really made me think. Reflecting on my own life and how each phrase seems to ask the lifelong question of "What is happiness to me?" After a moment, I found myself coming back to the last one. Isn't the giving of oneself what really makes us all happy? I believe that service and helping others is what will aid in our happiness and furthermore, is what we are charged to do in life.

We as attorneys and participants in the legal field have many opportunities to help others. Do we take these opportunities provided for us and serve? Should we? Is there really any good reason why we shouldn't?

As we are approaching the holidays and the end of the year, this is always a time to reflect. Have we done all we can in the last year to help others? What opportunities to help others did we miss? What opportunities to mentor those around us or lend a helping hand to a

neighbor, a co-worker, a family member, or stranger, did we miss?

I firmly believe that we who have been blessed with a legal education and/or work in the legal community have an obligation to help those less fortunate. We have an obligation to serve. Often times when serving, we believe or tell ourselves it's because someone needs a helping hand, however, more times than not, it's the giver who benefits the greatest from the experience.

We are all surrounded by examples of selfless service and for me I don't have to look very far to see a shining example in my wife, Karen. She has dedicated her life to serving others. She has served her family and friends for years. She is always the first to bring a meal to someone whether they need it or not. It is not me whom the kids call when they have a problem, it is momma bear. Some would say that she has not accomplished a great deal because she

has never made a lot of money nor had a big job, more importantly, she has served others her entire life. She took care of all of our family issues so I could attend law school. Would she have rather been the one out furthering her education? Maybe. But she has always put others first. This is what a life of service looks like. It is not hard once you get started. All you need is effort and a giving heart.

I am not suggesting that we should all abandon our jobs and responsibilities, rather, I am simply asking that all of us act upon the opportunities that we are presented with to help others and embrace the changes they will bring to your life.

Trust me, if we all did this on a regular basis our communities would be better places. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the Ingham County Bar Association.



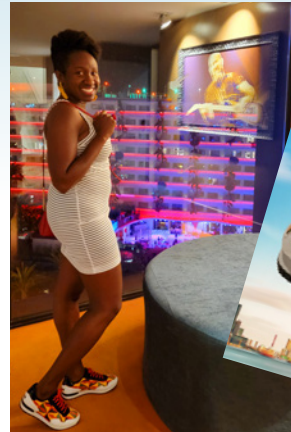


# Major Andrene Alexander

Major Andrene A. Alexander, who is currently serving in the United States Army, has 23 combined years of federal service; 21 years of active federal service, seven of which were enlisted. She has also had three very separate and distinct career tracks throughout her tenure. Major Alexander who was born in Jamaica, first enlisted in Miami, Florida as a Nuclear Biological Chemical Specialist at the age of 17. After completing seven years of active service, she returned to Miami where she completed her Bachelor's degree from Florida International University while simultaneously serving in the Florida National Guard and later the Air Force Reserve. Upon graduation, at the time, SGT Alexander, made the decision to return to active duty where she graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning Georgia, and went on to serve as a Human Resources Lieutenant. As a Captain, she was later assessed and selected to serve as an Acquisitions Officer.

Major Alexander has had a very exciting career which enabled her to see different parts of the globe, appreciate diverse cultures and most importantly meet dynamic people from all over the world. With each assignment, Major Alexander was able to travel extensively and cultivate other personal endeavors. She was constantly inspired by the different aesthetic of each culture, the business acumen of locals throughout parts of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. As an Acquisitions Officer, Major Alexander further recognized the robust business markets that span across different socioeconomic classes and admired their resilience, ambition and passion of being business owners.

Forged by countless cultures and experiences, Major Alexander is an “orchestrator of her own destiny” who has created the brand “FYAH”. While “FYAH” is a slang term for fire, she has further characterized her social brand as multicultural, diverse, vibrant, effervescent, quirky, exotic, outlandish and fun. Simply put, “it’s me”. Her brand is two dimensional, it’s a conglomerate of exciting travel excursions, apparel and shoes. Her Instagram handle FYAHdestinations currently showcases some of the



places that she has visited, with plans to include future coordinated trips for others once she retires. Her shoes embody these same characteristics, inspired by her eccentric flare, experiences and zest for life. She has already had her first prototype designed, manufactured and delivered. Featured here is MAJ Alexander sporting her “FYAH” shoes while travelling. Her future plans include marketing and working with retailers to have her shoes sold in stores. Major Alexander also plans to start her own Airbnb once she retires in 2023 and make new friends who can join her on “FYAHdestinations”.





# Major Rasheed Rhodes

Out of the 332,859,449 million people in this country, just a little over 2.4 million serve in either an Active or Reserve status within the U.S. Armed Forces (BINGHAM, 2011). That is less than 1% of our total population. This does not include the 11-14% who drop out of basic training (Powers, 2019). A Department of Defense (DoD) study in 2013 showed that only 29% of eligible individuals between 17-24 could even qualify for service (Jordan, 2014). This means 71% of our young adults do not meet the minimum conditions necessary for military service. These conditions can include height and weight standards, existing mental or physical health conditions, failure to meet minimum educational requirements or criminal convictions.

It has been from this 29% that our Armed Services has carved out its less than 1%. This makes the Armed Services one of our most exclusive organizations in the country. When I joined in 2008, I was a full-time graduate student with three kids and struggling to make tuition payments, when a classmate suggested I join the Army to help pay for school. After raising my right hand and pledging to ‘...defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic...,’ I am keeping that oath thirteen years later. I can honestly say that this has been one of the best decisions I have ever made.

I have travelled throughout the United States and overseas, doing my part to protect this community and this Nation. This journey has led my family and I to our Nation’s Capital at the National Guard Bureau (NGB), where I am privileged to serve as Chief Medical Information Technology Officer and responsible for managing the Medical Readiness applications for the Army National Guard (ARNG), U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) and Air National Guard (ANG).

I joined for college money, but what I received in return has been much more valuable than tuition. I became part of a very exclusive community. A community that not only embraced me but my entire family and has become family. A community rich in history, pride, and tradition. A community that like most families, is not perfect but constantly striving for perfection with each mission. A community made up of some of our nation’s most physically and mentally tough individuals, but also with the most vulnerable, courageous, selfless, intelligent, and inspirational people I have ever met. Every step of my journey I have been guided with people eager to help me be a better Soldier, Leader, Officer and most importantly a better man. What I obtained is truly priceless. I received the money for my tuition, but I also acquired new experiences, mentors, champions, friends, and an amazing family. I became part of the less than 1%.

*“ We lend our moral support to the one percent. We cheer the veterans when their names are announced at ball games. Maybe we even have ribbons of various colors on our car. We say the obligatory “thank you for your service,” and I believe we mean it. But we don’t really understand what that service really means for these members of the military.” - Henry Schuster*

On Veteran’s Day, I reflect on the journey of those who came before me, who helped build this community I call home. I remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for this great country. The cost of our Freedom, and the price I readily accepted when I took that oath. The unseen cost of this profession carried by the permanent scars of our Wounded Warriors, those dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), the cost it inflicts on families and the thousands of Veterans who this year alone have taken their own lives. This community is exclusive not because of a high cost of entry, but because of the high cost required to maintain membership.





The late General Colin Powell said, ‘*Giving back involves a certain amount of giving up.*’ From a man who gave up so much for this country his words and his example continue to set the standard, a standard not just for the less than 1% but for the entire one hundred percent.

MAJ Rasheed Rhodes

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# POW MIA

## Veteran Amber Alert

Speech given to VFW September 2021

by LTC Leonard Rusher (retired)

Last year I talked to most of you about Amber alerts and how they work. You all understand how they are emergency messages issued when a law enforcement agency determines that a child has been abducted and is in imminent danger. This kind of alert instantly galvanizes communities to assist in the search and rescue of an abducted child. You have probably seen overpass marquees displaying these alerts, including the child's name, a possible vehicle description and license plate number. You have received text message warnings that a child is missing and to be on the lookout. Every available means is called to action to aide in the recovery efforts of a missing child.

We talked about how America is still missing over 80,000 of her sons and daughters from the battlefields of war.

Today I want to send out an Amber alert to our community. I want to send out an Amber alert that our Veterans are missing in action. Yes - America has lost 83,000 sons and daughters as POW or MIA and none of us should be able to rest or be at ease knowing they are unaccounted for.

America has over nineteen million veterans. Nine million have enrolled or received some sort of support from the Veterans Administration. We have

another ten million missing in action. If we have ten million veterans missing in action - how many spouses do we have missing in action? How many dependents do we have missing in action? We live in the greatest nation on Earth. Our resources are unlimited, but America's reach is limited.

America is having great difficulties in reaching her homeless Veterans. She is struggling to grasp our unemployed Veterans. It has become challenging for her to assist her student Veterans. She is having great difficulty reaching her disabled Veterans. America is having great difficulty reaching the survivors of her deceased Veterans. There are a number of reasons why this is so. I will be the first to admit that America has its shortcomings in assisting her veterans. Mainly due to the lack of education or awareness, red tape, politics, bureaucracy, and personalities.

Another reason is a lack of awareness and knowledge and pride on our part. When I see a vet, I say Thank you for your service. Then I follow-up with a question. "Are you getting your VA benefits?" Some say yes, some say no. When I ask why not, some say they tried, but it was unsuccessful. And that is understandable. Others say, "There is nothing wrong with me." But how do

you know? Others will say "They won't give them to me because I won't qualify. I did not deploy, or I served during peace time. I don't deserve those benefits, only those who saw action deserve those benefits." We can't control red tape, politics, bureaucracy, or personalities.

- If you received an honorable discharge, these are your benefits
- If you left home as teenagers or in your 20's for an unknown adventure
- If you loved your country enough to defend it and protect it with your own life
- If you said goodbye to friends and family for an unending time and never said hello again
- If you sacrificed of all your comforts for this nation
- If you missed out on key life events
- If you grew up fast, and yet somehow, never grew up at all
- If you fought for our freedom
- If you dealt with physical and psychological warfare

You are eligible. We can control our ability to inform our veterans what is out there for them.



We can control how we can reach out to our neighboring veterans. They are our relatives. I called my uncle out of the blue when I found out that if you had one day in Vietnam you are eligible for a benefit. He said I don't have cancer. I said take your DD214 to your local DAV. Six months later he called said he is receiving 30%. So, you see my uncle was missing in action. His wife was missing in action. Because of that 30% there is an extra \$100. His 17-year son was missing in action because he was 30%. His son was eligible for a \$5,000.00 scholarship. Who are the veterans we need to assist? They are our friends, our co-workers, our church members, sometimes the stranger on the street.

I leave you with these words: When you see a Vet - Thank him or her and ask, are if they are getting their benefits. If not, then point them in the right direction. Thank You



# Post-military service, some fights are worth continuing

by Major Matthew Sawyer

Today's veterans, like their predecessors, are just as prone to dwelling on an insult or fixating on their mistakes as any civilian. They know that criticisms often have more impact than compliments, and that bad news tends to draw more attention than good. They know all of this from their years of service and the military culture that is demanding and steeped in a history of discipline. Yes, they respond in the manner that they do based on their military experience, but mostly they respond in that manner because they are, after all, human.

**Why do veterans and all humans respond in this manner?** This is what psychologists call the Negativity Bias, and it can have a governing effect on human behavior, human decisions, and even human connections to others. The reason that Veterans respond like this is that adverse happenings have been shown to have a greater sway on human mental ability than favorable ones. In short, the Negativity Bias is the human inclination not only to quickly catalog negative stimuli but also to fixate on negative events. It means humans are apt to pay much more attention to the bad things that happen, making those things seem much more important than they really are.

For example, a Veteran who is having a decent day at work hears a co-worker

make a nonchalant and cold comment that the Veteran finds irksome. That Veteran might fixate on that comment for the rest of the day. Then when the Veteran gets home from work and is asked how their day was, the Veteran might say that it was a horrible day—despite the fact that it was actually a good day notwithstanding that one negative comment.

Research shows that people tend to center more on the negative as they try to make sense of the world around them. They tend to decide things based on negative information more than positive data; draw lessons learned more from negative outcomes and experiences; give more credence to negative events than positive ones. It is the “bad stuff” that grabs people's attention, sticks in their recollections, and often weighs the heaviest in their decision-making.

Additional research indicates that negative news is more likely to be held as truthful. Since negative information receives more consideration, it appears to be perceived as having higher validity. Might this even explain why bad news receives more attention? Some studies also explain why some people—especially Veterans—tend to place value on tradition and security while other people are more open to change or uncertainty.

It might be helpful to further grasp the origin of the Negativity Bias. The propensity to focus more on bad things and overlook or dismiss good things is likely related to our development from early humans. Historically, paying keen attention to bad, dangerous, and negative threats was absolutely a life and death matter. The humans who paid heed to a bad thing in their surroundings would be the ones more prone to surviving. The conclusion would be that the survivors were more likely to pass down the genes that led them to paying attention to dangerous things. Put simply, this inclination to focus more on the negative was a way for our early human brains to find a “safe place.”

While nowadays humans may no longer need to be as vigilantly on guard as our early human ancestors in order to survive, the Negativity Bias still plays prominently in how the human brain operates in the modern world. According to research the Negativity Bias can adversely affect how people think, react, and feel. Some of the everyday areas where Veterans might feel the results of the Negativity Bias are in their relationships, in their decision-making, and in their perception of others.

### **So how does a Veteran overcome the Negativity Bias?**

Like most things in life, and as most Veterans learned during their service time, making changes takes time and nearly nothing happens overnight. Beginning with a few tangible choices to begin putting into a Veteran’s daily life are things like re-framing situations, choosing specific self-talk, and instituting new patterns for themselves

**What does it mean to re-frame the situation?** This is not intended to suggest that Veterans ignore potential dangers or wear blinders—it simply means refocusing so that they give rational and equal weight to positive events. How a Veteran talks to themselves about people, events, and happenings registers greatly in shaping how they construe events. When they discover themselves construing something in a negative way, or only focusing on the bad part of the thing, they should look for ways to re-frame the events in a more positive or constructive manner.

**What does it mean to choose specific self-talk?** This begins with starting to pay attention to the thoughts that run through the Veteran’s head. If a post-event thought is more focused on what the Veteran should have done (example: “I shouldn’t have done that.”), then the thoughts are focused on mistakes, which are now in the past and therefore cannot be changed. A more productive way of thinking would be to think instead of what lesson was learned and how that could be useful in the future.

**What does it mean to institute new patterns for themselves?** If a Veteran finds themselves dwelling on things, they can try to find an inspiring or moving activity to help pull themselves out of their negative mindset. If the Veteran is reflecting an unpleasant experience or an unpleasant outcome, they should deliberately try to re-direct their attention somewhere else to get involved in something that brings them happiness. Some ideas that the Veteran could consider to get their mind away from negative thoughts are: listening to upbeat music, reading a good book, or even going for a walk.

Knowing that it takes more for the positive experiences to stay at the forefront of the human mind, it is paramount to pay extra attention to good things that occur. Negative things seem to be so easily remembered and stockpiled into the vault of human long-term memory. To counter it, Veterans should make more of an effort to get the same effects from happy moments. When something good or great happens, Veterans should deliberately take a moment to truly focus on it, then replay it several times in their memory with purposeful focus on the superb feelings the memory conjures.

If there are not enough motivators to actively try to counter the Negativity Bias, then it may be prudent to point out that the Negativity Bias can cause people to be unable to maintain an optimistic view of their surroundings, destroy interpersonal relationships, and lead to dwelling on dark thoughts. Spending mental energy on the negative can take a grim toll, so taking steps to counter this bias can be a powerful skill toward increasing mental health.

The Negativity Bias can have a controlling impact on behavior but being aware of it means that Veterans can take steps to implement a more positive outlook on life. Taking a more measured method that includes being aware of one’s own penchant toward negativity and intentionally bringing more productive thoughts to the forefront of one’s mind, is probably the best way to deliberately fight the Negativity Bias.



# Captain Arnold Williams

I served in the Michigan Army National Guard for 26 years. I retired after several deployments and numerous training and job assignments. I was able to serve my country and pursue my civilian endeavors. I truly enjoyed being a citizen Soldier, having the best of both worlds.

I joined the Michigan Army National Guard in 1989. I was a college student, and I did not want to disrupt my education by going active duty. The National Guard gave me the option to serve while I was in college. After college, I entered the workforce and discovered how valuable my military experience was to employers. I also learned how well my military training and experiences prepared me to enter the workforce.

The Army indoctrinates you into a world of honor and duty. When looking at the Army Values, living them as a Soldier, you become a better person. I recall memorizing the Army Values and using the mnemonic device that aided in that memorization, “L[ea]DRSHIP” (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage). I find it striking that we would use leadership as a way to memorize the Army Values. The Army Values are sought-after characteristics that employers look for in their employees. Employers also look for leaders. The Army makes leaders. During my period

of service, I learned how to lead and how to follow. I had both good and bad examples. I learned my more important lessons in being a leader from those who were the worst at it.

The military also taught me the importance of teamwork. I have had the opportunity to see how a team of Soldiers working together can overcome any obstacle. I also learned the importance of planning. Good planning involves many steps and is never truly complete until that task or mission is done. All of the lessons I learned in the Army have translated into some success in my civilian endeavors.

I have had numerous civilian jobs. My longest and current job has been with the City of Detroit, as a Detroit police officer. I have been with the police department for over 23 years.

I have had the opportunity and privilege to move up through the ranks. My current rank is commander, and my current assignment is as a precinct commander. I have been able to lead both sworn and civilian members of the police department.

While working for the police department, I followed orders from superiors and acted with a high degree of autonomy. I used my military experience to support those who supervised me. I knew it was my job to execute and

support the overall plan of the day. As a member of the police department, I had a duty to uphold the Constitution of the United States, to enforce the laws of the State of Michigan and the regulations and ordinances of the City of Detroit. I respected my superiors, my peers, my subordinates, and all members of the community regardless of their station in society. I am committed to providing the citizens of Detroit with the best selfless-service I can provide. I exercise a high degree of integrity every day through all of my interactions.

I understand that being able to lead people and serve them is a privilege. The privilege should not be used for self-gain but should be used with humility and respect. Throughout my career, I have had many moments of great success. I have also had failures. I never tried to cover up my failures; I have always accepted them, having personal courage to know and admit when I am wrong. I have had a great career, and I look to learning something new every day. I work to teach my subordinates what I know so that one day they can replace me. The continuity of command and care for the community is paramount to my duty as a police officer.

The Army has instilled those values, experiences, and training that have helped me be a good servant leader in the Detroit Police Department.



# Reflecting on the ICBA-YLS Lunch & Learn Series

By: Marisa Vinsky



**Marisa Vinsky**  
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Ingham County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section wanted to thank and honor all of the judges who participated in our "Lunch & Learn Series" during the last year. To kick off the series, Honorable Shauna Dunnings discussed Probate Law and gave us her "Top Ten Tips" for attorneys. At the next session, Administrative Law Judge Carmen Fahie explained her role as an ALJ, discussing the intersection and differences of administrative, circuit, and district court cases. Following that series, Honorable Stacia Buchanan presented on how to correctly apply the Michigan Rules of Evidence and Michigan Court Rules, as well as provided tips on preparing clients for virtual court. To wrap up the year, Honorable Donald Allen gave

insight on the various treatment courts offered in Ingham County, specifically Sobriety Court.

This series was a huge success, and we could not have done it without the help of our local judges. We look forward to providing more educational events this upcoming year for all attorneys. Look out for two more Zoom "Lunch & Learn Series" coming soon. The first will take place on October 20 from noon to one, focusing on Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The second will take place on November 17 from noon to one and will discuss no-fault cases from both the plaintiff and defense perspectives. We cannot wait to see you there!



Hon. Shauna Dunnings  
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Hon. Carmen Fahie, ALJ



Hon. Donald Allen  
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Hon. Stacia Buchanan  
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ICBA SECTION NEWS

ICBA-YLS

## Featured Young Lawyer:

*Lauren Kissell*



**Lauren Kissell**

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**Where do you work and what do you do there?** I am an attorney with the Sinas Dramis Law Firm. I focus on personal injury cases including car accidents, Michigan no-fault claims, bicycle accidents, and sexual assault

**Where did you go to school?** I went to law school at Michigan State University, and undergrad at the University of Michigan.

**When were you admitted to practice in Michigan?** November 2018

**Why did you go into the legal field?**

My mom always told me that I would make a good attorney because I liked to argue with her when I was younger. On a more serious note, I have always enjoyed reading and writing. History and English were my favorite subjects growing up. I feel like law is a good combination of the two. I studied environmental science in undergrad and originally planned to go into environmental law, but then I started working at Sinas Dramis as a law clerk after my second year of law school and the rest is history!

**What advice do you have for those considering law school?** Law school is hard at first but it gets easier the more you learn. Also, grades don't mean everything. I know plenty of people who did not graduate the top of their class and went on to have successful careers. This will probably be your last chance to sleep in and have Fridays off before you start working full time so you should enjoy it as much as you can!

**If you weren't a lawyer, what would you do?** I would love to do something like environmental engineering or urban planning. Unfortunately, I was never any good at math so engineering was a no go for me.

**Where did you grow up?** I was born in Royal Oak. When I was about 2 my family moved to Buffalo, New York. Then we moved back to the Metro Detroit area when I was about 12.

**What do you do in your free time?** Read, go on walks with my dog and take her to the dog park, watch tv with my fiancé. Lately we have been very into Criminal Minds. We like shows with a lot of seasons - so it takes a while to get through and we don't have to constantly be deciding on a new show.

**Do you have any pets? If so, tell us about them.** I have a puppy who is almost a year old named Piper. She is a charcoal gray pit bull/border collie/German shepherd mix. My fiancé and I got her from a rescue back in April and we love her so much!



ICBA SECTION NEWS

ICBA-YLS

# Featured Young Lawyer:

*Hilary Stafford*



**Hilary Stafford**

[hstafford@fosterswift.com](mailto:hstafford@fosterswift.com)

**Where do you work and what do you do there?** Foster Swift Collins & Smith as a litigation Associate

**Where did you go to school?**

University of Michigan for undergrad and Michigan State College of Law for Law School

**When were you admitted to practice in Michigan?** 2017

**Why did you go into the legal field?**

My father is an attorney, so I grew up  
**Hon. Shauna Dunnings**  
[shaunad@ingham.org](mailto:shaunad@ingham.org)

with an understanding that the law is a powerful tool to help people and better communities.

**What advice do you have for those considering law school?** Make sure you really want it. Law School can be rigorous, but it is equally as rewarding.

**If you weren't a lawyer, what would you do?** I would be a Walt Disney World tour guide and vacation planner.

**Where did you grow up?** East Lansing, Michigan.

**Who is your biggest role model and why?** My parents. They taught me to work hard but still make time for having fun, to always have integrity, and the importance of spending time with family.

**What do you do in your free time?** I enjoy reading or listening to a good book, trying new restaurants with my husband, and traveling, especially to Northern Michigan and Disney World.

**Do you have any pets? If so, tell us about them.** I wish! I love dogs. I grew up with rescue border collies—they were incredible.

Hilary is an associate attorney at Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC. She is a member of the firm's General & Commercial Litigation practice group. Hilary's practice concentrates on employment discrimination defense, personal injury litigation, and third-party no-fault disputes. One of Hilary's favorite parts of practicing law is helping her clients navigate through litigation and making the process a little less stressful for them.

Hilary graduated from the University of Michigan with a double major in political science and psychology in 2014. Hilary returned to her hometown of East Lansing for law school where she graduated from the Michigan State University College of Law summa cum laude.

Hilary and her husband live in Birmingham, Michigan, but maintain strong ties to mid-Michigan.



# Lawyer Referral Application

Please take note that the Ingham County Bar Association does not do Lawyer Referrals. If you need to use this service provided by the State Bar of Michigan, please call them at [\(800\) 968-0738](tel:800-968-0738) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to speak with a lawyer referral representative or you can use the links below.

- [Lawyer Referral and Information Service Registration Form](#)
- [LRIS Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Become a Lawyer Referral Service Panel Member](#)



## 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](#).



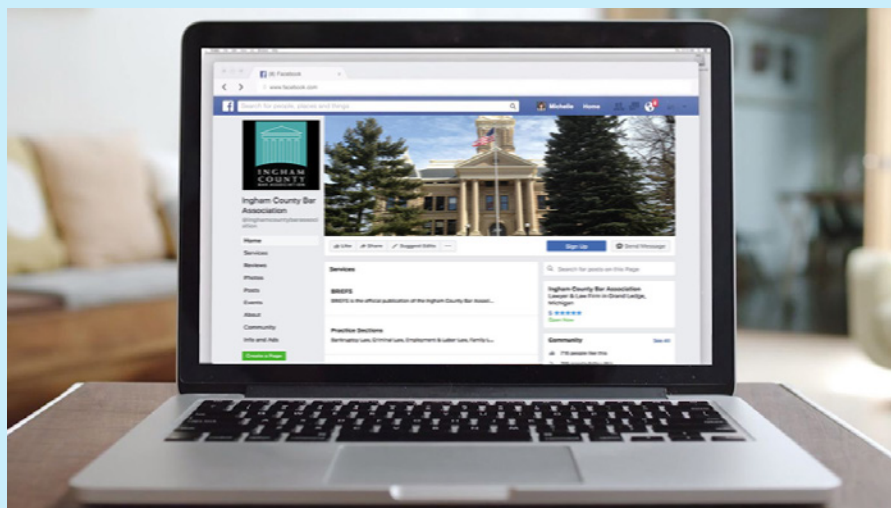
# ICBA Sponsorship Opportunities

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](mailto:cwickman@nicholslaw.net).

## Employment and Labor Law Section

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

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

Stay tuned for an updated schedule of events.

Upcoming Meetings: TBA

If you have questions about Section meetings, please email John at [jmaise@whiteschneider.com](mailto:jmaise@whiteschneider.com).

## Family Law Section

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

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

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

## Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

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

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the Section, contact Elizabeth at [lizzy@cndefenders.com](mailto:lizzy@cndefenders.com).



## Probate and Trust Section

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

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

Join The Section's Facebook Page

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

Lunch Sponsors

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

## Real Estate Section

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

Section Co-Chairs are Bill Tomblin and Christopher Patterson.

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

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

## Bankruptcy Law Section

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

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

To RSVP for meetings, contact Patricia Scott at [pscott@fosterswift.com](mailto:pscott@fosterswift.com).

# BRIEFS Author Guidelines & Policies

## IN GENERAL

### Publication Schedule

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

### Copy Deadline

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

### BRIEFS Committee Meetings

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

### Author and Article Pictures

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

### Article Length and Format

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

### Raising the Bar

**announcements:** 100-200 words

**Local legal events notices:** 100-150 words

**Columns:** 300-500 words

**Articles:** 700-1,000 words

Submit articles in a Word .doc/.docx

### Article Ideas

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

### Opinion Articles

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

### Author Information

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

## MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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

## ADVERTISING

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

## ARCHIVED ISSUES

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

## BRIEFS Advertising Contract, Rates & Policies



# *Thanks* for reading **BRIEFS**

*We're stepping  
into Winter!*

Feedback?

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

**Next issue:**

**January 2022**

**dedicated to our Class  
Actions/Fair Debt Act**



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