

October 2022



Ingham County Bar Association

# BRIEFS

## ICBA Leaders

**President's Message**

Page 4

**Meet our ICBA Leaders**

Page 5

**Ingham Circuit Court to Open...**

Page 20



# Contents

President’s Message ..... 4

Meet our ICBA Leaders ..... 5

Featured Young Lawyer ..... 15

ICBF Golf Outing ..... 16

Words to Consider..... 18

Press Releases ..... 20



Ask a Lawyer  
**Thursday, October 20, 2022**

128th Annual Dinner  
**Thursday, November 10, 2022**

Meet the Judges  
**Thursday, January 12, 2023**

14th Annual Barristers  
**Thursday, March 9, 2023**

Annual Meeting and Shrimp Dinner  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2023**



@inghamcountybarassociation



@inghambar



@ICBALawyers



[linkedin.com/company/ingham-county-bar-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ingham-county-bar-association)



## 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)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **President**

Pamela Amato  
Mallory Lapka Scott & Selin, PLLC

### **President-Elect**

Steve Sinas  
Sinas Dramis Law Firm

### **Vice President**

Lindsay Dangel  
Murphy & Spagnuolo PC

### **Treasurer**

Alexander Rusek  
White Law PLLC

### **Secretary**

Jessica Zimbelman  
State Appellate Defender Office

### **Immediate Past President**

Charles A. Lawler  
Clark Hill, PLC

Ernsie Augustin  
Nigg & Augustin, PLC

Brendon Basiga  
Basiga Law Firm PC

Alexander Rusek  
White Law PLLC

Mary Bowen  
City of Lansing, Office of the City Attorney

Nolan Erickson  
Grewel Law PLLC

Emily Jefferson,  
Auto Owners Insurance

Marisa Vinsky  
Chartier & Nyamfukudza PLC

Chris Wickman  
The Nichols Law Firm PLLC

## SECTION CHAIRS

### **Bankruptcy Law**

Norman Witte  
Witte Law Offices, PLLC

### **Criminal Defense Law**

Marisa Vinsky  
Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC

Chris Wickman  
Nichols Law Firm, PLLC

Takura Nyamfukudza  
Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC

### **Employment & Labor Law**

John A. Maisie  
White Schneider, PC

Chad Karsten  
Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes

### **Family Law**

Jennifer Martinez  
White Schneider Young & Chiodini, PC

Brooke Elise Van Buren-Hay, PhD  
Private Practitioner

Erica Terranova  
Bailey & Terranova

### **Probate & Trust Law**

Joann M. Schofield, BA, AAS Paralegal  
Tri-Star Trust

April Alleman  
Crenshaw Peterson & Associates, PC

### **Real Estate Law**

William D. Tomblin  
William D. Tomblin & Associates

Christopher Patterson  
Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, PLC

### **Young Lawyers**

Ernsie Augustin  
Nigg & Augustin, PLC

### **Paralegal/Legal Assistant**

Elizabeth Cary  
Chartier & Nyamfukudza, PLC

Heidi Pierce  
Fraser Trebilcock

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### **Annual Dinner**

Steve Sinas

### **Annual Meeting**

Steve Sinas

### **Ask A Lawyer:**

Raymond Harris / Brandon Schumacher / Emily Jefferson

### **Awards:**

Ernsie Augustin / Nolan Erickson

### **Barristers:**

Ernsie Augustin / Marisa Vinsky

### **BRIEFS:**

Mary Bowen

### **List Serve:** Staff

### **Meet the Judges:**

Brendon Basiga / Alexander Rusek / Pamela Amato

### **Education:**

Chris Wickman

### **Membership:**

Emily Jefferson / Nolan Erickson

### **Social Deliberations:**

Steve Sinas

### **Nominating Committee:**

Charles A. Lawler

### **Past Presidents:**

Charles A. Lawler

### **Section Chair Liason:**

Chris Wickman / Patricia Scott

### **Shrimp Dinner:**

Robert Refior / Elias Kafantaris

### **Social Media:**

Steve Sinas / Staff

### **Sponsors:**

Alexander Rusek / Lindsay Dangel

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:**

Jessica Zimbelman / Kristina Bilowus

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Madelyne Lawry  
517-627-3938

# President's Message

## Kindness

"You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Pam Amato, ICBA President  
pamato@mclpc.com

As I start my year as President of the Ingham County Bar Association ("ICBA") I am honored to be of service. Since being elected to serve on the Board, I have been privileged to work with other members of the Board who give their time and dedication to the ICBA. Serving on the Board has also given me the opportunity to work with members of the ICBA who are involved and supportive of the ICBA. We are so fortunate to have justices, judges, attorneys, and other members of the legal community who support the ICBA and contribute to advancing the ICBA every day. Thank you so very much. Your support and involvement are extremely important and always appreciated.

Over the past few months, before my term started, I was thinking about my duties as President and what I hoped to accomplish. I was looking forward to serving as President of the ICBA except for one thing; writing the President's Message for BRIEFS. I recalled many of the wonderful President's Messages I had read over the years and thought, "Pam, you are doomed!" Since this was one of my duties as President and the only one that I looked upon with trepidation, it would keep me awake at night trying to write the message in my head. I would think of something, then discard it just as quickly. What could I possibly write about that would have any message of importance? I would tell myself usually about 3:00 am, you

write pleadings, motions, briefs and memoranda for clients, how hard can this be, just choose a topic and write. As the deadline loomed, yes loomed over me, I continued to agonize. What could I say to our membership that really matters? Then it happened, an opportunity provided my first President's Message, "kindness."

I was in a meeting with clients, and they were telling me about their family situation and why they were coming to me for help. What they were telling me was difficult for them. Our meeting had gone longer than I expected and had scheduled for, but I knew they needed this extra time in order to tell me what was so important and difficult for them. My assistant knocked on the door and reminded me I had to get ready for a hearing in about 30 minutes. A few minutes later, she knocked on the door and told me that my colleague who knew the other case would step in and cover for me. After I finished with my clients, I learned my colleague and my assistant had resolved the matter and the draft order was on my desk. When I went to thank my colleague, she had already left the office. I thanked my assistant and learned my colleague had delayed the start of her vacation to help me. While I was meeting with my clients, I was also receiving a kindness I did not ask for and did not even know was happening.

There it was my first President's message, kindness! I thought about the many times family, friends and even strangers have been kind to me and the many times I have been given the opportunity to be kind to family, friends, and strangers. Because I also serve on the Capital Area Humane Society Board and love animals, I am going to include "kindness" to and from animals as well. Think about how you feel when someone is kind to you especially when you need it most, when it is unexpected, or the kindness is even more than you hoped. Then think about how you feel when you are given the opportunity to be kind to someone when they need it the most, when it is unexpected and is even more than they hoped. Feel free to think about your pets in this context as well.

It is not always easy to be kind. Too often it is easy to be unkind and it happens so quickly especially when we are stressed and in a hurry. We live our lives by deadlines; some imposed upon us and others self-imposed and we may react negatively and unkind. I have typically regretted those times when I have been unkind but, do not recall a time when I regretted being kind.

As we go about our day, both professionally and personally you may wish to think about the words of *Ralph Waldo Emerson*, "You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." These words might even help you sleep better at night.



**ICBA**

# Get to Know Your Leaders

*This issue has been dedicated to the leaders and staff of the ICBA. They have given their time throughout this last year, an invaluable commodity, and we wish to thank them and acknowledge their dedication and hard work. Thank you all!*

## *Not pictured*

Charles A. Lawler, Immediate Past President  
Ernsie Augustin, Board Member  
Marisa Vinsky, Board Member  
John A. Maise, Co-Chair - Employment & Labor Law  
Chad Karsten, Co-Chair - Employment & Labor Law  
Jennipher Martinez, Co-Chair - Family Law  
Brooke Elise Van Buren-Hay, Co-Chair - Family Law  
Erica Terranova, Co-Chair - Family Law  
Joann M. Schofield, Co-Chair - Probate & Trust Law  
April Alleman, Co-Chair - Probate & Trust Law  
William D. Tomblin, Co-Chair - Real Estate Law  
Christopher Patterson, Co-Chair - Real Estate Law  
Elizabeth Cary, Co-Chair - Paralegal/Legal Assistant  
Heidi Pierce, Co-Chair - Paralegal/Legal Assistant



**Pam Amato**  
**President**  
[pamato@mcipc.com](mailto:pamato@mcipc.com)

## **What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

My funniest Zoom moment has been after the Zoom moment. It was soon after we all started using Zoom. I had a hearing in front of Judge McCormick and I could see Judge McCormick and opposing counsel, but I could not hear them. What I did not realize was that they could see AND hear me. As I struggled with my ill-performing technology, my language was a bit colorful. After a few moments I looked up and saw opposing counsel waving her hand under her chin which is when I realized that my unfiltered diatribe against my computer was heard by the Judge, her staff and opposing counsel.

In retrospect that was a funny moment, but for me the funniest moments are when I see Judge McCormick at events, and we laugh about that hearing and what I refer to as “Pam unplugged.”

## **If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

In one of the towns in Cinque Terre, Italy. These are five small towns in Italy that overlook the Mediterranean Sea. I biked through each of these towns a few years ago and can't wait to get back. The views are transcendent. The people are kind and enjoy life. It is Italy, so the food and wine are phenomenal.

## **Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

Two of my guilty pleasures are power washing and experimenting on my friends and co-workers with new recipes.

I have a Generac power washer and if something can be power washed, I will power wash it. I have even tried power washing some things that should not be and the results were mixed -some good, some not so good. I have thought about upgrading to a professional model, but I think not.

I love to cook and bake so, why have friends and co-workers if you can't experiment on them with new recipes. It works out beautifully, I try a new recipe, I get honest reviews, I get to do what I love, and my friends and co-workers eat good food (most of the time!).



**Brendon Basiga**  
**Board Member**  
[brendon@basigalawfirm.com](mailto:brendon@basigalawfirm.com)

**What is the best book you have ever read?**

Dune by Frank Herbert. I read the (original) series as a teenager and I've been a fan of this book, in particular, ever since.

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

Ptolemy, the ancient Greek mathematician and Astronomer, would be my answer. His calculations and mathematical discoveries laid the foundation for our modern age of Technology. If not Ptolemy, then the guy who invented BACON. I love bacon 😊.

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

I appreciate a person's wit and intelligence above all other characteristics.

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

I wanted to be Maverick from Top Gun. I wanted to be (and still want to be) a fighter jet pilot.

**Do you collect anything and if so, what?**

I seem to have amassed a collection of cigar cutters and lighters. Besides, bacon, I also love cigars 😊.



**Mary Bowen**  
**Board Member**  
[marybowenesq@att.net](mailto:marybowenesq@att.net)

**What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

My current recreational activities include writing about animals I encounter during my evening walks. Some of the encounters are quite hilarious, especially the ones with the rabbits! Another recreational activity for me is cooking. I love trying out new recipes and adding my own personal touch to classic dishes passed down in my family.

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

If could live anywhere, I would live somewhere warm like Aruba or Barbados. I love the pretty Caribbean water and rays of sunshine. Paradise!

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

Guilty Pleasure 1 - Even though I have seen all the episodes multiple times, I love binge watching "A Different World."

Guilty Pleasure 2 - Sitting on my balcony watching the sunset.

Guilty Pleasure 3 - Sharing corny jokes on Facebook.



**Lindsay Dangl**  
**Vice President**  
[ldangl@mbspclaw.com](mailto:ldangl@mbspclaw.com)

**What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

I do a lot of running, biking, and attending my kids' sporting events.

**What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

Ask a lot of questions. Other attorneys and the judges are usually willing to help you learn.

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

Crumbl Cookies.



**Nolan Erickson**  
**Board Member**  
nerickson@4grewal.com

**What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

Running and cycling. Between September 18 and 23, I will be running with a group from Aspen to Red Cliff in Colorado.

**What is the weirdest thing(s) in your home or office desk?**

I keep a chart of the NATO phonetic alphabet in my desk drawer to help clarify spelling during phone calls. Plus, a half dozen cords and spare change that I am certain will come in handy someday, even though they haven't been used for years.

**What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

Never stop learning.

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

I wouldn't trade our current neighborhood in DeWitt for anywhere else.

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

I can't say no to pizza or donuts.



**Emily Jefferson**  
**Board Member**  
jefferson.emily@aoins.com

**What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

I appeared at a Zoom hearing last fall. The judge must have been working from home that day, because during his opening remarks, his cat jumped up on the desk, and paraded in front of the camera, walking back and forth a few times before the judge shooed it away. To his credit, the judge did not break cadence and finished his comments with barely the hint of a smile.

**What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

Gardening and going out on my SUP (standup paddle board). Among the usual tomatoes and cucumbers, I also have habanero peppers, muskmelons, and pineapple sage.

**What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

Read *The Articulate Advocate* by Brian K. Johnson. Knowing how to stand and what to do with your hands can make a big difference in your (perceived or actual) confidence during your initial appearances. And making it habit means one less thing for you to think about while you're in front of a judge or jury (or interview panel, etc.).



**Alexander Rusek**  
**Treasurer**  
alexrusek@gmail.com

**What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

The last two years have certainly provided numerous laughs on Zoom, but, watching an attorney (a non-ICBA member who shall remain nameless) argue a case while sitting in bed with his children in the frame comes to mind as one of the most outlandish!

**What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

I grew up golfing and still love the game to this day, even if I am not able to play as often as I would like. I also enjoy reading, collecting watches and, more recently, ink pens. I am very much looking forward to more international travel in the future as we begin to exit the pandemic.

**What is the weirdest thing(s) in your home or office desk?**

I have a number of mementos from my travels and cases on my desk, from a 120-year-old Double Eagle from a mentor, to a challenge coin from a state senator for my work on legislation amending the civil and criminal statutes of limitation for sexual abuse survivors in 2018. However, the most unique is a framed note given to me by my client before the start of my first life-offense criminal trial that simply says, "Hebrews

Alexander Rusek continued

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, The evidence of things not seen.” It is always a reminder of the confidence that our clients place in us as their representatives.

### **What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

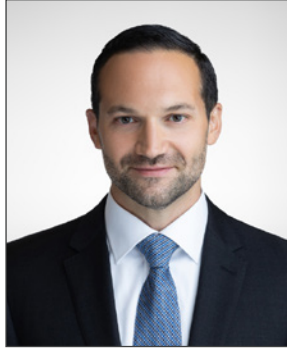
Always be prepared; remember that you are representing people during one of the most difficult times of their lives; and assume that your opponent is acting in good faith until they conclusively prove otherwise.

### **If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

I would still choose to live in Michigan, but with the ability to work remotely, spending a significant amount of time somewhere warmer during winter is certainly appealing!

### **Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

Over the course of the pandemic, I have come to enjoy some bad reality TV, especially if it includes travel abroad. Don't tell anyone!



**Steve Sinas**  
**President-Elect**  
[stevesinas@sinasdramis.com](mailto:stevesinas@sinasdramis.com)

### **What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

Ugh... I would be lying if I didn't say it was when, during a very important trial court hearing regarding a constitutional challenge to the 2019 no-fault amendments, some exotic dancers of sorts zoombombed the hearing. It was a complete offense to the sanctity of the court, but the ridiculousness of it all was undeniably funny, especially during those strange times of 2020.

### **What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

Being a Dad. Having fun with my spouse, Heidi. Physical fitness. Reading. Music. Trying to channel my creative and artistic energies when and where I can.

### **What is the weirdest thing(s) in your home or office desk?**

Bottle of sriracha sauce.

### **What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

Always treat your own physical health and well-being as a non-negotiable issue in your life no matter how busy you get. You definitely will make mistakes as a lawyer. Give yourself grace and learn from them. They are never as bad as they seem in the moment.

### **If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

Wherever is safest for my family in our future with climate change. Michigan is not looking too bad...

### **Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

Eating excessive amounts of blueberries. Enjoying various condiments and spices by the spoonful.



**Christopher Wickman**  
**Board Member**  
[cwickman@nicholslaw.net](mailto:cwickman@nicholslaw.net)

### **What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

During the pandemic, the ICBA Board had a tough decision to make with regards to the 2021 ICBA Shrimp Dinner. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we ended up deciding on a Shrimp Dinner Alternative via Zoom and someone suggested finding a bartender to do a drink-making demonstration for a different and fun Zoom experience. I was licensed as a bartender during law school after a 64-hour in-person class and multiple exams (the bar exam before the bar exam) so I volunteered. A class I attended over 10 years ago because I thought it would be fun ended up being a skill I was now relying on in a professional capacity. I designed (modified) an existing alcoholic drink for the bar association and prepared a non-alcoholic drink and designed a demonstration for local judges, attorneys, and law students. Answering tough questions from judges (about making an alcoholic drink) while decked out in a Hawaiian shirt (opposed to my preferred 3-piece) while pouring alcoholic drinks is definitely an experience that I never anticipated

broadcasting to the internet. When the advertising first went out with me in a tight Hawaiian-themed tank top, I got a panicked text message from another board member that our team had sent out the wrong picture with the event - but they hadn't. Madelyne and her team knew that the picture would get attention for the event and boy did it! It turned out to be a wonderful event, but definitely a situation that I never expected.

### **What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

My top 3 hobbies include cooking, musicals, and watching MSU Sports. I cook on almost a daily basis for my partner Kristina and I, and my favorite meals that I cook include garlic butter sauteed steaks, stuffed peppers, and (unfortunately) gluten-free lasagna. I am a bit of a perfectionist and definitely a big eater and I love trying to continually improve my cooking to satisfy my friends and family. I have seen 52 different musicals live (many at the wonderful Wharton Center) and frequently will listen to musicals while driving in the car or working from my home office. I appreciate genuine human stories and emotions and the tie between a story and beautiful singing makes for a wonderful experience. Finally, I'm a big MSU Sports fan. Combined with cooking for my friends, I frequently will host watch parties for MSU football or basketball. I may get a little too into the games and am extremely superstitious (I assume normal people don't think it's appropriate to change shirts during a game to change luck), but I am a huge supporter of my undergrad alma mater.

### **What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

My first piece of advice is to prepare for your hearings and do your best, but also understand you won't be perfect. It is called the practice of law because you will never walk out of a contested hearing thinking that there was not a single thing you could have done better. "I should have said (this)," "I should have put more emphasis on (this)," or "I wish I had said (this) first, then (that)," are all common thoughts even on a hearing that went very well. I've only had one contested hearing that I have ever done perfect, and it was because the relief was granted before I was required to speak. When the judge asked if I had anything to say, I resisted the urge to speak and simply said, "No, your Honor," thereby preserving my perfect hearing. The other piece of advice is that it's completely normal to be nervous before a big hearing - and I readily admit this to clients if they ever ask if I'm nervous. Every time I advocate at the same hearing, I'm 10% less nervous than I was the time before, but if you're not at least a little nervous before going into a hearing, that means you no longer care about the outcome. When you don't care about the outcome for yourself and your client (who is often tremendously impacted by the result), you shouldn't be practicing anymore.



**Jessica Zimbelman**  
**Secretary**  
[jzimbelman@sado.org](mailto:jzimbelman@sado.org)

### **What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

I love to read novels. I love historical fiction, romance, cozy mysteries, epic sagas, sci fi, you name it! I also love listening to audio books on long drives to court, client visits, and SADO's Detroit office.

### **What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

Seek mentors, always strive to be a better writer, trust your gut, take vacations, and remove notifications from your phone.

### **If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

A cottage on Lake Michigan or a house on a tropical beach where there was sunshine all year.

## **ICBA** **Section Leaders**



**Mary Chartier**  
[mary@cndefenders.com](mailto:mary@cndefenders.com)

### **What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

I fell out of my chair during a hearing. Not figuratively. I literally fell out of my chair. My battery was getting low on my computer, so I was trying to discreetly lean over and plug in the power cord. I leaned too far and over I fell. The only person who noticed was the lawyer representing a co-defendant who texted me asking if I was okay. I was. My only bruise was to my ego!

### **What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?**

A lot. I love my Peloton! I started teaching myself how to play the piano during the pandemic quarantine. I can play a few songs! I love gardening, cooking, going for walks, everything!

### **What is the weirdest thing(s) in your home or office desk?**

A Pez dispenser—I collect them, and I have a lot. It all started with Tweety. And a fortune from a cookie that I ate with Takura before we started the law firm—you will begin a successful adventure with a friend—and I did!

### **What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

Surround yourself with positive people in your life who will support you and encourage you to be your best.

### **If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

Right where I'm living. I love our home and fabulous neighbors! But I'd be happy to have another home in Italy, one of my favorite places in the world and where my mother is from.

### **Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

None of my pleasures are guilty—if it makes me happy, then there's no guilt.



**Takura Nyamfukudza**  
Co-Chair Criminal Defense Law  
takura@cndefenders.com

### What is your funniest Zoom moment?

Hmm, can I only pick one? If so, it would have to be the time I watched someone who was accused of driving on a suspended license Zoom into his pretrial conference while he was driving.

If I may share another, it was a moment that is funny only in hindsight. It came during a jury trial. I was almost done with the direct examination of a very animated witness. I asked him a question and he gave the one answer he knew, but clearly forgot or ignored, to steer clear of. The room started to spin, my knees buckled, and my heart began to race. I started talking over him and that only made him repeat the answer with greater fervor. In the end, it all worked out. We were ultimately able to delve into some areas that actually endeared our client to the jurors. We won the trial!

### What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?

I recently bought my first set of golf clubs. No, I didn't get them from Fisher Price. Tiger Woods has nothing to worry about.

I own a couple of Traxxas Remote Control cars. They are not designed – or priced – for children. They bring out the kid in me, though.

I've long been a cyclist. Actually, I was a triathlete until a little thing called COVID-19 changed the world. Unfortunately, it's been years since I last swam.

Recently, I started reading recreationally. Law school turned me off to reading for fun. Now, I am enjoying it again.

### What is the weirdest thing(s) in your home or office desk?

I am going to exercise my right against self-incrimination.

### What advice do you have for new lawyers?

Get a mentor! Don't take shortcuts. Remember that your primary obligation is to your client. Also, be yourself and recognize that you should never want to stop learning or honing your craft. That's why it's called the *practice* of law. It's time to quit the instant you start to believe that you know it all.

### If you could live anywhere, where would you live?

I'm going to give a lawyerly response. I haven't visited all of the places on my bucket list just yet. So, I cannot yet say which place I would select to the exclusion of all other. However, I can say that it would be a tropical location with year-round and quick access to a beach. Also, it'd be a place where it doesn't snow – ever!

### Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.

Mr. Leslie's Cheesecakes are without peer. When they aren't sold out, one can pick up these tasty treats from Meijer's Capital City Market in Lansing. The turtle and strawberry cheesecake varieties are my personal favorites. Be sure to have a light main course because you won't be able to eat just a little bit of any of Marcus Leslie's creations.



**Elizabeth Sailor**  
Co-Chair Paralegal/Legal Assistant  
enlaw@cndefenders.com

### What is the weirdest thing(s) in your home or office desk?

Not in my desk, but on top of my desk - I have a cactus in a planter shaped like a t-rex. His name is Saul.

### What advice do you have for new lawyers?

Treat your paralegals and support staff well. You'll have hardworking and loyal staff if you respect and invest in them.

### Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.

Any of those reality type shows on Netflix. Like Blown Away, the glass blowing reality show. I can't get enough of those!



**Norm Witte**  
**Co-Chair Bankruptcy Law**  
[ncwitte@wittelaw.com](mailto:ncwitte@wittelaw.com)

### What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?

I collect and restore old cars (no surprise to most of you); collect vintage audio gear (currently processing a collection of about 3,000 CDs and a stack of really cool equipment); I read books (mostly sci-fi, about 120 a year); photography; host a group on Facebook for Domestic Full Size Cars 1960-1973 (please join us); and I try to keep up with the lawn mowing.



### What is the weirdest thing(s) in your home or office desk?

If we were talking about the entire office, identifying a single item might take some time (there's some pretty bizarre stuff in here), but in my desk, that's not too hard. I have a Saginaw Steering Gear Division Ball Bearing Screw Assembly Demonstration Unit, Part No. 2725706. It was my dad's and I like it. I have \$3.48 that says that no other member of ICBA has one in *their* desk.

### If you could live anywhere, where would you live?

Right where I do now. There are lots of places that might be better than Lansing, but this is my home. It's where my family is, my clients are, and my business is, and so the reality of my life is that I will never move. Since it's my belief that you should learn to love, if at all possible, the things about your life that you can't change, I love living here. The people are the best, I probably couldn't afford to live in the house we have anywhere else, and the roads are... hey, we have roads! Go Lansing!

# ICBA Staff Members



**Madelyne Lawry**  
**Executive Director**  
[mlawry@inghambar.org](mailto:mlawry@inghambar.org)

### What are your current recreational activities/hobbies?

Gardening, farmers markets, garage sales.

### If you could live anywhere, where would you live?

Any place that has mountains.

### Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.

A fine chardonnay.



**Madison Ashley**

---

**What do you do for recreation/hobbies?**

I enjoy painting and try to do it anytime I have free time. I also enjoy visiting lakes around Michigan and trying to find remarkable rocks.

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

I would no doubt want to live in a warm place. Living somewhere tropical, like Bora Bora or the Bahamas, would be amazing.

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

My guilty pleasure is napping, and binge-watching shows in one sitting.



**Tara Christensen**  
[tara@sharedresources.us](mailto:tara@sharedresources.us)

---

**What do you do for recreation/hobbies?**  
Crafting

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**  
Cattle Ranch

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**  
Romance Novels



**Owen Curtis**

---

**What do you do for recreation/hobbies?**  
I like to play lacrosse with my sister and work on my mom's flower farm.

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**  
I want to live in a small house on a lake.

**What is the weirdest thing in your home or office desk?**  
An eraser that is super destroyed.



**Bernie Geahan**

---

**What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

There is nothing funny about ZOOM!

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

Having lived in several different places, I choose Grand Ledge.

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

No, I'm not weird; I LOVE scalloped potatoes.



**Matthew Hinkle**  
**Sr. Staff Tech. Support**  
[support4@sharedresources.us](mailto:support4@sharedresources.us)

---

**What do you do for recreation/hobbies?**

Right now, I've been expanding my home library as I have gotten back into reading, as well as chess. I used to play but stopped a while ago because no one I know wanted to play with me, but with online chess, I've found a whole community I'm excited to be a part of!

**If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

A tough question, but I would probably have to pick Colorado! The mountains and cities are beautiful, and they have a lot of fun things to do.

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

A Wendy's frosty. Every summer, I get a few throughout, despite all the other options for a cool treat. Something about their Frosties is just irresistible.



**Valerie Sowulewski**  
**Sr. Staff Administrator Assistant**  
[valeries@inghambar.org](mailto:valeries@inghambar.org)

---

**What is your funniest Zoom moment?**

I am trying to turn on the speaker for the first time.

**What advice do you have for new lawyers?**

Read that email twice before you ask a question.

**Name one or more of your guilty pleasures.**

Sitting for hours sipping coffee with French Vanilla creamer, catching up on Housewife's episodes.



## ICBA-YLS

# Featured Young Lawyer:

*Kelly McClintock*



**Kelly McClintock**  
[kmcclintock@ingham.org](mailto:kmcclintock@ingham.org)

### **Where do you work and what do you do there?**

I work for the Ingham County Probate Court and serve as a Court Officer and Law Clerk to Judge Richard Garcia. I perform legal research, prepare orders, draft opinions and prepare files for motion hearings.

### **Where did you go to school?**

I received my dual Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and law degree from Michigan State University College of Law.

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

**Why did you go into the legal field?**  
I first seriously considered law school after reading Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. I then went to study abroad in South Africa for one year during undergrad. Since then, I often think about one of his most famous quotes: "To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." I went into the legal profession because I want to actively enhance the freedoms of others. I have always worked in the public service nonprofit sectors and knew that having a law degree would allow me to more directly impact people's lives.

**What advice do you have for those considering law school?**  
Work in a law office before going, and, do anything you can to minimize your student loans!

**If you weren't a lawyer, what would you do?**  
My dream job is to be a flight attendant.

**Where did you grow up?**  
Beautiful Lansing, Michigan – born and raised.

### **Who is your biggest role model and why?**

My biggest role models are my mom and dad, Teri and Virg Bernero. They epitomize service to others, patience, forgiveness, bravery and dedication to family. They have been public servants my whole life and have helped countless people in our community. While leading extremely successful careers, they always prioritized family time with my sister and me, and our extended family, as well. I hope to be able to model the same type of love with my own family.

**What do you do in your free time?**  
I love spending time outdoors and traveling to new and favorite places.

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

No pets – it's a feat just caring for myself, my husband and my 21-month-old son!

# Thanks

FOR A GREAT DAY!

## Ingham County Bar Foundation

### 17TH

ANNUAL  
MEMORIAL

# GOLF CLASSIC

Proceeds benefited the

**ICVTC**  
Friends of Ingham County  
Veterans' Treatment Court

**First Flight Championship Team**

- Carrie Huff's Team

**Closest to the Pin**

- Jon Caterino's Team - James Cleland

**Men's Longest Drive**

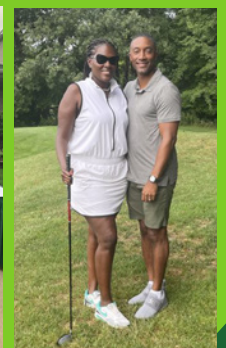
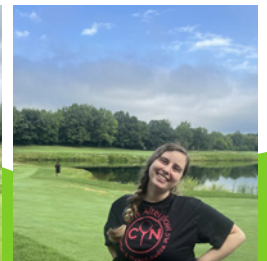
- Thomas Blasen's Team - Peter VanSprecken

**Women's Longest Drive**

- Thomas Blasen's Team - Kylie Blasen

**Skins Winners**

- Matt Bailey's Team
- Carrie Huff's Team



# A HOLE IN ONE!



*Save the Date* for next years outing. Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at Hawk Hollow Golf Course 9am – 3pm

Photo credit: Nicole Evans and Mark Kellogg

# Words to Consider

## Bringing Your Soul to Work

By William Frank Diedrich



William Frank Diedrich

What does it mean to bring your soul to work? It's not about religion. We all have different belief systems and that is fine. We don't want to promote or argue doctrine or theology. What about spirituality? Spirituality is about relationship. It's about your relationship to whatever or whomever you consider to be the source of your inspiration. For most people it is their higher power, however they may define it to be. It's also about your relationship with yourself. That is, are you being authentically you or are you becoming someone or something different at work? Are you bringing your soul to work or are you faking it?

The problem with not being yourself at work is that it's painful. The price of faking it, or of not living your values and not being who you are is high. The cost is borne by your body and your emotional state. Stress is the gap between how you see it and how you want it. You, your soul, want to just be you—to think, feel, speak, and act in alignment with who you are. When you are out of alignment there

is stress. Stress produces a fight or flight reaction in your body. Over time your body is weakened and made more susceptible to disease. Stress leads to negative emotions including anger, hurt, resentment, guilt, shame, and more. Repressed, these emotions settle in your physiology, causing pain and disease. Dumped on other people, these emotions hurt and often destroy your relationships with others and damage your professional credibility.

What is the answer? Bring your soul to work. Take a deep breath, hold a second, and exhale slowly. Ask the question: "Who am I?" Or, you may ask, "Who do I want to be when I am here?" Listen. Let your intuition speak. Pay attention to what comes to you. The biggest barrier here is our resistance to knowing the answer. We are so used to operating a certain way that our mind and body resist any effort toward change.

Be patient and persistent. Think about this: How many public leaders, people we see in the media, are actually reflective? How many know who they are? I think you'll agree that very few seem to be reflective. Perhaps that is why the world is in such mess!

I didn't forget about the higher power. Your higher power is whomever, wherever, or whatever is your source of inspiration. What is your source of inspiration? Whatever it is, ask for insight. Ask for the ability to see yourself clearly. Ask for wisdom in your decision-making. Many people pray

for things. Pray instead for wisdom and insight and the things you need will more likely come to you. Whether you belong to a religious path or you are agnostic, and even if you call yourself an atheist, you can still go within and ask for insight. You don't have to know who you are asking. Just ask and listen. If you do have a strong faith in a higher power, then utilize that relationship. There is no law against praying at work or any other place. Just do it and keep it to yourself. Showing other people how prayerful you are with public performances gets in the way of this very intimate and private practice of making contact with your higher power.

Taking time to pray, meditate, or contemplate every day will strengthen you no matter what is going on in your life and work. A daily habit of quiet self reflection helps to center you. You want to be centered in your self—your authentic self. If you know who you are it is less likely others can shake you up. Just like in martial arts, being centered in who you are helps you to deflect and defend against any attack. For most of us those attacks are verbal. If you know who you are then verbal attacks hold less meaning. They become less personal even if the other person meant them as personal.

Who are you and what are your values? Sit quietly, ask, and listen. Take notes. As you determine who you are and what are your values become the nonjudgmental observer of your self. Ask: "Where am I in alignment with

who and what I am, and where am I out of alignment?” If you find yourself lying, cheating, gossiping, criticizing people, backstabbing, drinking too much, or other destructive behaviors, you’re probably out of alignment. And, you’re paying a price for that.

Share your thoughts with a trusted friend, mentor, spouse, partner, therapist, spiritual counselor, or another who is willing to offer support. It’s tough to do this alone. Find books and programs

that can be helpful. Decide carefully about who you will share your thoughts and feelings with, and about what you might read or listen to. This is your journey, not someone else’s. Don’t allow anyone to guilt you into taking a path that doesn’t feel right for you. This is your soul, your life, and it needs to be nurtured and yes, to be loved, by you.

This article is part one of a series that offers insights and practical ideas.

William Frank Diedrich is a speaker, executive coach, and the author of ten books. He works with individuals and teams to achieve greater effectiveness. He offers workshops on emotional intelligence, being an adult at work, effective meetings, spiritual intelligence, assessment and goal setting. Bill lives in East Lansing, Michigan. His work may be seen at his website:

<http://.humanadulthood.com>

SINCE **S** 1951

**SINAS DRAMIS**  
PERSONAL INJURY LAW

**70+ YEARS** OF PERSONAL INJURY EXCELLENCE

**REFERRAL FEES ALWAYS HONORED**

**SINASDRAMIS.COM**

INTAKE@SINASDRAMIS.COM • 866-758-0031

Lansing - Grand Rapids - Kalamazoo - Metro Detroit

# Press Release

## Ingham Circuit Court to Open

### Visiting Judge Annex, Hold Open House

In an effort to reduce a large backlog of criminal cases created by the COVID pandemic, the 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court will open a courthouse annex in downtown Lansing in mid-September. The retrofitted building, located at 426 S. Walnut Street, has recently been rechristened the 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Annex. The Annex sits across Walnut Street from the Veterans Memorial Courthouse (VMC), the Circuit Court and Probate Court courthouse in Lansing. The new court facility will provide a courtroom, jury assembly room, and staff offices for a visiting judge to assist in handling some of the Circuit Court's hundreds of pending felony matters.

#### Criminal Trial Backlog

During the worst of the COVID pandemic, in-person jury trials were not allowed, either in Michigan or elsewhere in the country. Since trials by jury, or the demand for such, end up resolving the vast majority of Circuit Court criminal cases, the COVID moratorium on jury trials left criminal cases pending while new criminal filings added to the backlog. For the past year, the 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit judges have been concentrating on reducing the backlog by scheduling the maximum number of jury trials each week. With these best efforts, the backlog has been reduced but still remains persistently high. There are still almost 900 open criminal matters.

Languishing criminal cases create a host of ills. Individuals charged with crimes must sometimes remain incarcerated pending trial. Prolonged pre-trial incarceration puts pressure on our jail and denies those who are innocent until proven guilty their day in court. The plight of crime victims, who must await their day in court, is equally concerning. Last, the delay in trying a case impacts witnesses, either for the prosecution or for the defense, since recollections tend to get fuzzier as time elapses.

#### The Genesis of a Solution

With these concerns in mind, 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court leadership committed to a solution – bring in a visiting judge on a long-term temporary basis to assist with the criminal case backlog. Discussion of the idea coincided with the county's award of federal American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to combat the problems the COVID pandemic caused, and this led to the novel idea of leveraging ARPA funds to create a court annex with the single-minded focus of employing a long-term temporary visiting judge to address open criminal cases.



The former Community Mental Health Association office at 426 S. Walnut Street in Lansing is now the 30th Circuit Court Annex. It is located across the street from the Veterans Memorial Courthouse.

As the Hon. Joyce Draganchuk, Chief Judge of the 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court said, "We are committed to solving the problem COVID created and giving everyone their day in court. It has not been easy essentially creating a whole new courthouse, but it will pay dividends in results for our community and those who are or become involved in the criminal justice system in our county. We could not have accomplished this monumental task without the support and cooperation of the many stakeholders in this project and we are grateful for their help."

## 426 S. Walnut Street

The building at 426 S. Walnut Street which houses the court annex is owned by the Community Mental Health Association (CMHA) of Michigan. With CMHA, Ingham County entered into a three-year lease for use of the building, effective June 1 of 2022. CMHA has since relocated to 507 S. Grand Street in Lansing.

The Annex is ideally situated to provide a home to the visiting judge project. First, its proximity to the VMC will allow for any regular courthouse staff, whether it be a deputy court clerk, Circuit Court Administration, or Sheriff's deputies, to be there in a matter of minutes. Second, its three floors provide the space necessary to house an entire courthouse operation: the courtroom and judge's office will be on the top floor, staff offices and public lobby on the middle floor, and the space for jury assembly and jury deliberation on the bottom floor. Steps have been taken to ensure that crime victims have private and separate waiting areas and defense attorneys have adequate space for confidential consultation with their clients.

## A Building Transformed

Since June, the Circuit Court has been overseeing the transformation of 426 S. Walnut Street into a courthouse. Partnering with the Circuit Court, the County's Facilities Department has worked diligently to retrofit the physical space, including painting, delivery of repurposed County furniture, addition of security enhancements, and most importantly actual construction of courtroom furnishings to reflect the gravity of the court's business. Facilities has also worked with vendors regarding a variety of specialized enhancements.

Smart Homes/Smart Offices, of Mason, as contracted with by the County, has provided the necessary technological updates to ensure that not only parties can appear remotely when necessary, but also evidence can be electronically shared with parties and the jury, the court recorder can make an official record of any proceedings, Zoom and projection systems can link prospective jurors in the Jury Assembly Room with the courtroom, and the entire space is suitably linked by microphones. Additionally, the County Information Technology Department has worked to set up the building's technology infrastructure, security, and user endpoints.

## Project Funding

In putting together its visiting judge project, the Circuit Court has relied solely on funds outside of the County's General Fund. First, the Court secured more than \$100,000 from the Michigan State Police (MSP) to be used toward 2022 project expenses. The funds came from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplement Fund grant, managed by the MSP, and are earmarked for expenses connected with personnel and internet connectivity.

By far the largest financial support for the Annex initiative has come from Ingham County's allocation of federal ARPA funds. In April of 2022, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved a strategic investment of \$2.7 million in ARPA funds toward the multi-year visiting judge project. These funds ensure the project will go forward and have support for the duration of the Annex lease.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," stressed Bryan Crenshaw, Chairperson



The finishing touches are being put on the courtroom in the 30th Circuit Court Annex. As pictured, the judge's bench, witness stand, and jury area have been constructed and new juror chairs just delivered.

of the County Board. "The visiting judge project is a unique and effective step toward resolving criminal matters that have remained pending because of court operation delays due to COVID-19. Resolving these matters is important for defendants, victims, and society."

## A Fully Functioning Courthouse

Amazingly, in a matter of a few months a normal office building is being transformed into a fully functioning courthouse. The Annex will have security screening just as one sees at the entrances in other county courthouses. There will also be a Sheriff's deputy presence for security in the courtroom and throughout the building.

When a jury trial is called prospective jurors will be ordered to report directly to the Annex; this change required

the Court to enhance its automated summons programming through its jury system vendor. Additionally, a dedicated Judicial Assistant, Court Recorder, and law clerk services will be housed at the building.

Jury trials at the Annex will be limited to those where the defendant is not jailed; the cases initially transferred to the visiting judge have all been those where the defendant was not in custody. In those cases where a defendant is later taken into custody but before the trial, perhaps due to a violation of pretrial release conditions, the visiting judge will temporarily relocate to the VMC to conduct the trial.

It is expected that there will be defendants remanded to jail after

the conclusion of trial or sentencing. Provisions have been made for Sheriff's deputies to escort the defendants out of the Annex to the Sheriff's Department transport van via a safe and private route.

### September 12 and Judge Jordon

Proceedings are scheduled to begin at the Annex the week of September 12. The Hon. David Jordon, retired Judge from 54B District Court in East Lansing, will be the Judge at the Annex, at least for the first several months. Judge Jordon served East Lansing for 17 years, and since retirement has done visiting judge work in Circuit, District, and Probate matters. "I am looking forward to serving the people of Ingham County in this new role," Judge Jordon said.

Contact: George Strander, Court Administrator, 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court

Email: [gstrander@ingham.org](mailto:gstrander@ingham.org)

Phone: 517-483-6506 (office)  
517-740-8216 (cell)

## FOSTER SWIFT

FOSTER SWIFT COLLINS & SMITH PC || ATTORNEYS

For 120 years, Foster Swift Collins & Smith has provided outstanding client service and legal excellence, providing comprehensive services for businesses, organizations, municipalities, families and individuals across Michigan, the nation and beyond.

**517.371.8100**

**FOSTERSWIFT.COM**

LANSING / DETROIT / SOUTHFIELD  
GRAND RAPIDS / HOLLAND / ST. JOSEPH



# Press Release

## Fraser Trebilcock Welcomes

**Jennifer L. Hansen and Sean P. Gallagher to the Firm**



**Jennifer L. Hansen**  
[jhansen@fraserlawfirm.com](mailto:jhansen@fraserlawfirm.com)



**Sean R. Gallagher**  
[sgallagher@fraserlawfirm.com](mailto:sgallagher@fraserlawfirm.com)

**Lansing, MI** – Fraser Trebilcock is pleased to announce the hiring of attorney Jennifer L. Hansen who will work primarily in the firm's Lansing office.

Jennifer joins Fraser Trebilcock in the litigation practice group focusing on litigation, general business law, and real estate law. Jennifer's experience includes handling various litigation matters and transactional work with subpoenas in the real estate practice area.

While in law school, Jennifer worked at the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic creating recommendations for local

government to implement ways to offset costs for residents and wrote an official comment suggesting improvements on the Triennial Assessment of Progress on Great Lakes Water Quality. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys reading, trail running, painting, and spending time with her Newfoundland.

"We are excited to have Jennifer join the firm and are confident that she will continue the mission of providing excellent legal services to our clients," said Michael H. Perry, President of Fraser Trebilcock.

**Lansing, MI** – Fraser Trebilcock is pleased to announce the hiring of attorney Sean P. Gallagher who will work primarily in the firm's Lansing office. Sean joins Fraser Trebilcock as a regulatory attorney whose experience includes serving as an advisor, advocate, counselor, and strategist, with a focus on highly regulated areas of law, including energy regulation and procurement matters involving industrial and other businesses, cannabis and industrial hemp, and municipal public employee pension funds.

Sean has assisted in protecting the interests of public pension participants, retirees, and their beneficiaries in both investment and benefits-side related litigation and advising on governmental transparency and statutory report regulatory compliance matters, serving as legal counsel to the Retirement Systems of the City of Detroit before, during, and after the City of Detroit's Chapter 9 bankruptcy proceedings.

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

### About Fraser Trebilcock:

Fraser Trebilcock is one of Michigan's longest-established full-service law firms. Since 1883, Fraser Trebilcock has been providing preeminent legal services and representation to small and large businesses, individuals, governmental entities, and associations. Through its association with SCG Legal, Fraser Trebilcock has access to a global network of independent law firms. More information is available at [fraserlawfirm.com](http://fraserlawfirm.com) | [scglegal.com](http://scglegal.com).

**Fraser Trebilcock**  
LAWYERS

124 W. Allegan St. Suite 1000 Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 482-5800	One Woodward Ave. Suite 1550 Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 237-7300	125 Ottawa Ave NW Suite 153 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 301-0800
---	--	--

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

# Press Release



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

is pleased to announce the addition of  
*Brandon W. Waddell to their firm.*



*Brandon W. Waddell*

**Mr. Waddell** has earned his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and is licensed in the State of Michigan and Texas. He has been practicing law for 9 years and specializes in Business and Corporate Litigation, General litigation, and Family Law.

## INGHAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

# Top 5 Under 35

### Prior Award Recipients

#### 2010

Stacia Buchanan  
Pamela C. Dausman  
Matthew D. Drake  
Jodi M. Latuszek  
G. Alan Wallace

#### 2012

James F. Anderton, V  
Ross K. Bower, II  
Lindsay A. Elya  
Brian P. Lick  
Donald Rencher  
Joshua K. Richardson  
Edwar Zeineh

#### 2014

Sean P. Gallagher  
Erin M. Hopper  
Loukas P. Kalliantasis  
Amanda G. Pollard  
Nicole E. Stratton

#### 2016

Catherine E. Tucker  
Lindsay Dangl  
Alexander S. Rusek  
Nicholas M. Oertel  
Christopher B. Wickman

#### 2018

Katherine J. Bennett  
Theodora Eisenhut  
John W. Fraser  
Aylysh Gallagher  
Fredric G. Heidemann

#### 2020

Ernschie Augustin  
Justin Babbitt  
Morgan Cole  
Taylor Gast  
Jessica Shah

#### 2022

Jennifer Alberts  
Kristina A. Bilowus  
Jessica Ellen McNamara  
Brittany M. Nichol  
Molly P. Petitjean

[Click here to nominate a young lawyer](#)



**ICBF Grant Committee is  
accepting applications.**

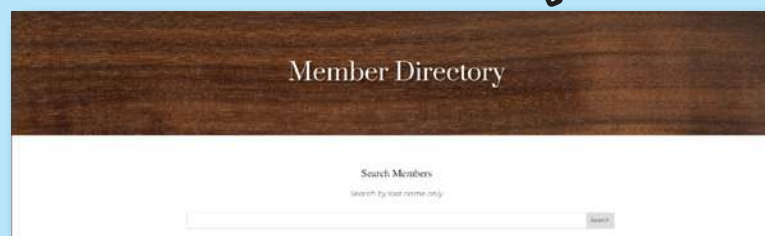
Deadline is

**December 31, 2022**

<https://www.inghambar.org/icbf-home-page/icbf-who-we-are/>

## ICBA MEMBER DIRECTORY

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





## 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. If you have suggestions for future topics, please

contact Section Co-Chairs Marisa Vinsky, Takura Nyamfukudza or Christopher Wickman.

Upcoming Meetings: March 19th from 12:00 - 1:00pm via Zoom 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month but will vary at times followed by The meetings/presentations will start at 9:15 and location – 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 fourth Tuesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. Location TBD. Lunch is provided.

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

Upcoming Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (no meetings June, July, August) at Noon, Location – Zoom

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, virtual.

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

Upcoming Meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Noon, Location – Zoom

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 second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend St, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section Co-Chairs are Joann M. Schofield 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 Joann M. Schofield at 517-827-0045 or email [joann.schofield@tristartrust.com](mailto:joann.schofield@tristartrust.com).

## Real Estate Section

The Real Estate Section holds its meetings at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month. Location TBD. 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 (Quarterly – September, December, May) at Noon, Location: Zoom.

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 Norm Witte at [ncwitte@wittelaw.com](mailto:ncwitte@wittelaw.com).

## Local Legal Events

### Ask a Lawyer

Location: Capital Area District Library  
401 S. Capital Ave., Lansing, MI 48933  
October 20, 2022, 5:00pm to 7:00pm

### 128th Annual Dinner

Location: University Club  
3435 Forest Road Lansing, MI 48910  
November 10, 2022,  
6:00pm Reception, 6:30pm Dinner, 7:00pm Program



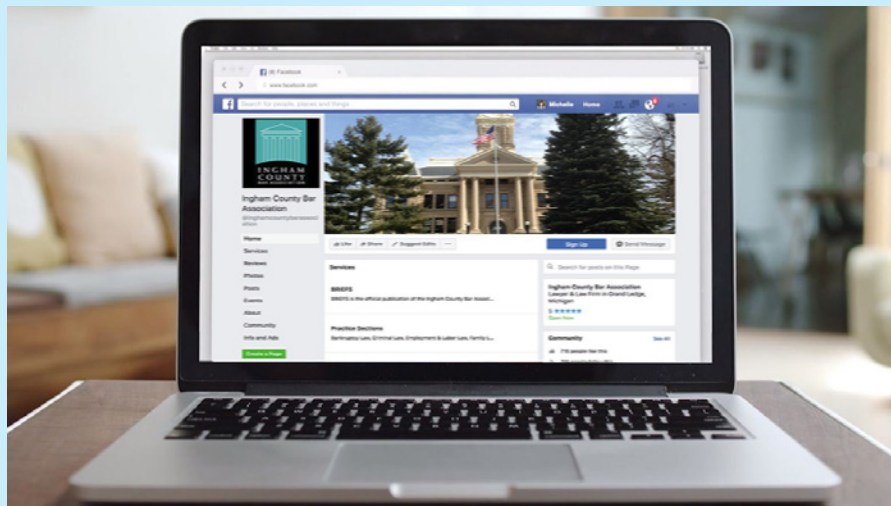
# ICBA Sponsorship Opportunities

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.



**2022-2023 Firm/Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities**  
**2022-2023 Vendor Sponsorship Opportunities**



## ICBA Membership Scholarship Application

The Ingham County Bar Association may offer scholarships to prospective members who are experiencing a hardship and cannot pay the standard rates to be an active member of the bar.

Scholarship recipients remain anonymous. It is the discretion of the ICBA President to grant any scholarships. Scholarships can only be approved on an annual basis (i.e., the scholarship does not automatically renew year-to-year).

The scholarship application can be accessed [here](#).

## Lawyer Referral Application

Please take note that the Ingham County Bar Association does not do Lawyer Referrals. If you need to use this service provided by the State Bar of Michigan, please call them at **(800) 968-0738** 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](#)



Thanks for reading

# BRIEFS



## Here Comes Fall!

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

**Next issue: November 2022 dedicated to the ICBA Veterans**



[@inghambar](https://www.instagram.com/inghambar)



[@inghamcountybarassociation](https://www.facebook.com/inghamcountybarassociation)



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



[linkedin.com/company/ingham-county-bar-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ingham-county-bar-association)