

Ingham County Bar Association

# BRIEFS



July 2023



## **Davis Dunnings Bar Association**

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**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**August 3, 2023**  
ICBF 18th Annual Memorial Golf Classic

**October 12, 2023**  
Ask a Lawyer

**November 8, 2023**  
129th ICBA Annual Dinner

**February 3, 2024**  
ICBA Bench Bar



@inghamcountybarassociation



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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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### Annual Meeting

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Chris Wickman

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Jessica Zimbelman / Kristina Bilowus

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Madelyne Lawry  
517-627-3938

# President's Message



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

*"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues,  
but the parent of all others." —Cicero*

Today is the last day of my term as President of the Ingham County Bar Association (ICBA) and my last President's Message. I wanted my last message to be reflective because that is what I have been feeling for the last few days as June 30th was approaching and my term will end. I remember last year when I was setting my calendar, assigning committees and doing all of the things to prepare for the coming year. At that time, I was looking forward to doing the things I had watched the Presidents before me do, running the meetings, attending events, and generally doing what needed to be done for the organization. I was even a little nervous about doing some of those things.

I remember the first Board meeting, I practically memorized the agenda and

made so many notes on what I needed to do that I had to print a clean copy of the agenda so I could read it. I attended every event, helped at the registration desk when needed, gave opening remarks, and volunteered for clean-up duty when needed. As President, I was involved in many of the decisions regarding the events so I was able to see how much work is involved in making sure the events are well-run and enjoyed by the attendees. During the year, I addressed the matters of the organization and surprisingly as President there were always matters that needed to be addressed and on some occasions addressed rather urgently.

What I realized during the year and even more now as I reflect on this past year was what a wonderful year long experience being President of the

ICBA was. As President, I was able to experience first-hand how truly remarkable the ICBA is and the people who support the ICBA. I had a front row seat to learn how every member of the ICBA makes the organization what it is and how important everyone who supports the ICBA is to the organization. I am sincerely grateful to the ICBA for giving me the opportunity to serve as President and serve with each dedicated member of the ICBA Board and work with such a unfailing support staff this past year. I saw this quote and I think it sums up what I have been feeling these last few days and my last President's Message perfectly.

*"Thank you for being an important part of my story." —Anonymous*

## Mandated Succession Planning

# Rule 21: Law Practice Succession Planning

By April Alleman, Succession Planning Program Counsel, State Bar of Michigan

*New requirements for Michigan private practice attorneys effective September 1, 2023. Read the Supreme Court Order [here](#). Required information will be collected during license renewal beginning the 2023-2024 Bar Year. Although not required until September, starting this summer, attorneys will be able to nominate their designated interim attorney through the State Bar of Michigan's online Member Area.*



April Alleman  
[aalleman@michbar.org](mailto:aalleman@michbar.org)

### What is a person with knowledge?

A person with knowledge is someone who knows the location of the attorney's professional paper and electronic files and other security protocols required to access the attorney's professional records and files. This person can be the same individual designated to serve as interim administrator. However, the person with knowledge does not have to be a licensed attorney in Michigan; the designated interim administrator does.

Tip: A staff member could be the right person to be named as the person with knowledge.

### Contact Info:

Email: [IAP@michbar.org](mailto:IAP@michbar.org)

517-346-6355

[www.michbar.org/Rule21](http://www.michbar.org/Rule21)



**Clinton County Sheriff Sean Dush**, has thoughtfully agreed to provide security for the Judges Retirement Banquet including members of his Mounted Patrol. Detective Lieutenant Steve Brush is the providing liaison to the Foundation on behalf of Sheriff Dush and has also designed the security arrangements.

*Thank you* Clinton County Sheriff's on behalf of the Ingham County Bar Foundation.





# History of Davis Dunning Bar Association

By Ernschie Augustin  
augustin@augustinlawoffices.com

The Davis-Dunning Bar Association (DDBA) was founded in 1981 as the Lansing Black Lawyers Association. Led by the Honorable Clinton Canady III and the Honorable Hugh B. Clarke, Jr., along with several other African American attorneys in the Lansing area, the Association developed its first bylaws. The DDBA was formally incorporated in 1983. Recognized as a Special Purpose Bar Association by the State Bar of Michigan, the DDBA was formed to support African American attorneys in mid-Michigan by providing them networking and professional development opportunities. When the DDBA was formed, it was the only local bar association outside of Detroit addressing the needs of African American attorneys. The DDBA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that strives to provide an array of programs and services that meet the needs of its members and non-member minority law students and attorneys, as well as the underrepresented and underserved members of the greater Lansing community. It is also dedicated to representing and serving the local community while upholding the honor and integrity of the legal profession.

## Get your affairs together - The nuts & bolts

The DDBA hosted the “Get your affairs together” event on February 4, 2023 at the Hannah Community Center. It was a free event to educate the community on various topics such as the Probate Court’s perspective, estate planning, estate and trust administration, and Medicaid planning. We were pleased to hear from the following experts: Judge Shauna Dunning, Ernschie Augustin, Doug Chalgian, Mark DeLuca, Melvin McWilliams, and Janet McDuffey. The event was well attended and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentations.







DAVIS DUNNING BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

**GET YOUR AFFAIRS TOGETHER  
THE NUTS & BOLTS**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023 AT THE EAST LANSING  
HANNAH COMMUNITY CENTER (1ST FLOOR BANQUET HALL)  
819 ABBOTT ROAD, EAST LANSING, MI 48823  
\*9:00AM (BREAKFAST/NETWORKING)  
\*9:30AM-1:30PM (PRESENTATIONS)  
\*FREE TO ATTEND & NO RSVP REQUIRED!

**HEAR FROM EXPERTS ON THE FOLLOWING  
TOPICS:**

THE PROBATE COURT'S VIEW  
ESTATE PLANNING  
PROBATE LITIGATION  
ESTATE & TRUST ADMINISTRATION  
MEDIACAID PLANNING  
Q&A SESSION

 INGHAM COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE SHAUNA DUNNING	 MODERATOR ERNSCHIE AUGUSTIN AUGUSTIN LAW OFFICES	 DOUGLAS CHALGIAN CHALGIAN & TRIPP, LAW OFFICES
 MARK DELUCA FORBES SMITH, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C.	 MELVIN MCWILLIAMS MELVIN MCWILLIAMS P.C.	 JANET MCKUFFEY MCKUFFEY LAW, P.L.L.C.



## DDBA's Otis Smith Awards & Scholarship Banquet

The Davis-Dunnings Bar Association's Otis M. Smith Awards & Scholarship Banquet is a celebration of diversity in the law and community service.

The banquet provides an opportunity for the DDBA, its members and supporters to recognize our praiseworthy awardees and scholarship recipients. However, most importantly, it supports a great cause because proceeds from the banquet help fund the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association's programs and scholarships. The DDBA strives to provide its members with resources, professional development opportunities and support needed to encourage personal and professional success. Membership is open to law students, law school graduates and individuals admitted to the State Bar of Michigan who embrace and are committed to promoting the special interests of minority law students and under-served members of the Greater Lansing Area. Although the event did not occur this year, we thank everyone for their past support and look forward to our next scholarship banquet.

## Events

### Fall Mixer

The DDBA hosted its fall mixer in Fall 2022 in honor of Judge Clinton, Canady, III. Judge Canady has contributed significantly to DDBA and has been an inspiration to many of us. Many gathered to celebrate Judge Canady with DDBA on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at Gregory's Soul Food.



## Davis-Dunnings Bar Mixer 2023

To see more of the event,

[CLICK HERE](#)



# CHILD AND PARENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION

## MENTORING PROGRAM

### MENTOR

- As requested by Mentor and approved by the Chief Attorney/Referee
- An individual who has five or more years of experience with neglect cases and is currently serving on the Court appointed panel
- Willing to share knowledge and have a mentoring spirit
- Preferably an individual with a broad range of legal experience

### REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 40 hours commitment with Mentee over the course of one year
- Will include appearances with the Mentee at each stage of a "NA" case
- Availability to conference and work through case issues with the Mentee
- Time is invoiced to the Court at least quarterly at \$100/hour with a cap of \$5,000

### MENTEE

- As requested by Mentee and approved by the Chief Attorney/Referee
- Expectation is to regularly accept appointments from the Court, maintain legal admission to the Bar in good standing, comply with ethical standards
- Mentee shall intend the continued commitment to panel assignments at the conclusion
- Compensation is \$1,000 at the start and \$1,500 at the successful conclusion of the year
- Successful conclusion is determined by the Mentor in conference with the Chief Attorney/Referee



## Fall Mixer

September 16, 2021

### Contact Info

Rod Porter

Chief Attorney/Referee

517.483.6359

[rporter@ingham.org](mailto:rporter@ingham.org)

The Court is seeking to expand the panel with new attorneys paired with seasoned practitioners who are willing to share their knowledge and be in a mentoring position.

The Court is also seeking to pair newer or less experienced panel attorneys with seasoned practitioners who are willing to share their knowledge and be in a mentoring position.

INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT – FAMILY DIVISION

303 W. KALAMAZOO STREET, 2R | LANSING, MI 48933





# Credential Crimes:

## Are you committing password misconduct?

By Lizzy Sailor  
[cnlaw@cndefenders.com](mailto:cnlaw@cndefenders.com)

If you're like me, you think passwords are the bane of your existence - especially when you are forced to change them so often. Between bank accounts, social media accounts, and email, it probably feels like you must change and remember a new password each week. Plus, you need to come up with something creative that nobody can guess.

In 2018, researchers at Virginia Tech gathered 6.1 million anonymized passwords from across the web and had Dashlane, a tech company, analyze them.<sup>1</sup> To their dismay, they found very troubling patterns. Aside from using the same password across numerous accounts, the most common password faux pas that the researchers came across was "password walking." "Password walking" is when a password is created that contains a combination of numbers, letters, and symbols that are adjacent to one another on the keyboard, such as "qwerty" or "12345." Other common themes found were passwords that contained aggressive and/or vulgar language, popular sports teams, or pop

culture references. All of these themes leave users vulnerable to hackers who can easily guess their login information. If one or all of your passwords is currently "IloveStarWars," you should probably stop reading this and go change that immediately.

Luckily, there are plenty of programs out there that can help us keep track of the numerous, strong passwords that we should have. My personal favorite is LastPass. After importing all your login and password information into your encrypted LastPass "vault," you only need to remember one master password. Every morning, I log into LastPass with my master password. From that point on, LastPass will automatically enter the password for me every time I visit a website that requires me to login. Aside from keeping track of your passwords, LastPass will also generate strong passwords for you. Think your passwords are strong enough the way they are? Take the LastPass security challenge to find out how secure they *really* are. It will analyze the passwords for all your accounts, then take you

step-by-step through improving your passwords. There are multiple other great features to LastPass, such as credit monitoring, two-factor authentications, and a mobile app. But, the best part of LastPass is that it is free! Other great password management programs include Dashlane, 1Password, Roboform, and StickyPassword - all with different features. Browse their websites and see which one would work best for you.

While everyone hates trying to remember multiple passwords, it should bring you some comfort knowing there are numerous programs out there that can do the hard work for you, all while keeping your information safe from hackers. So, the next time you are faced with the annoying task of changing your password, try using a program like LastPass to generate and save a safe, strong password - rather than typing in *Thisreallysucks123*.

### Endnotes

1. Wang, et. al, 2018, The Next Domino to Fall: Empirical Analysis of User Passwords across Online Services.



# Another Great Paper Chase 5k!

By Marisa Vinsky  
[marisa@cndefenders.com](mailto:marisa@cndefenders.com)

The Ingham County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Paper Chase 5k on June 4, 2023. Everyone had a great time connecting with others in the community and kick starting their endorphins during their run or walk. The top three men and the top three women with the fastest times all received medals.

Coming in first for the men was **Brian Jackson**, coming in second was **Aaron Usher**, and coming in third was **Lewis Hoffman**. Coming in first for the women was **Christina Clemet**, coming in second was **Jordan Courtney**, and coming in third was the Honorable **Lisa McCormick**.

Murphy & Spagnuolo, PC won a trophy for most team participation and the Ingham County Public Defender's Office team, Run the Prelim, won a trophy for the best team race time.

We want to thank all of our generous sponsors this year. We could not have done this event without you all!

## PLATINUM SPONSOR:

Abood Law Firm

## GOLD SPONSOR:

Sinas Dramis

## SILVER SPONSORS:

Speaker Law Firm  
Chartier & Nyamfukudza, P.L.C.  
White Law PLLC

## BRONZE SPONSORS:

Murphy & Spagnuolo, PC  
Honorable Lisa McCormick  
Honorable James S. Jamo  
The Gallagher Law Firm, PLC  
Augustin Law Offices, PLLC  
The Kronzek Firm, PLC

ICBA-YLS was also delighted to work with **Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region** this year, which facilitates and supports meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and youth ("Littles"). Half of the proceeds from the race will be donated to this organization.

We are excited for next year to be bigger and better than ever, so we look forward to all of your participation! See you there!

## DDBA Paper Chase 2023

To see more of the event

CLICK HERE



# Cannabis Law Update:

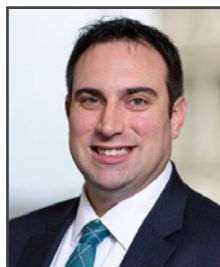
## Second [Amendment] Edition

By Alexander S. Rusek and John Fraser



Alexander S. Rusek  
[arusek@fosterswift.com](mailto:arusek@fosterswift.com)

More than half of Americans now have access to legal recreational cannabis in their state. As of the date of this article, 23 states have legalized cannabis for adult recreational use and 40 states have legalized cannabis for medical use.<sup>1</sup> Cannabis occupies an incredibly tenuous position in our nation’s federal system, as states continue to serve as “laboratories of democracy” on this issue—despite cannabis’s persisting illegality under federal law. The state-federal conflicts surrounding the topic of cannabis create an ever-increasing number of issues for practitioners to navigate. In particular, significant confusion surrounds the interplay of constitutional principles, federal laws, and state laws when it comes to cannabis use and the purchase and possession of firearms. On May 30, 2023, the St. Paul Field Division of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (“ATF”) attempted to clarify any ambiguity in these overlapping and intertwined laws by issuing a statement<sup>2</sup> setting forth that “Regardless of the recent changes in Minnesota law

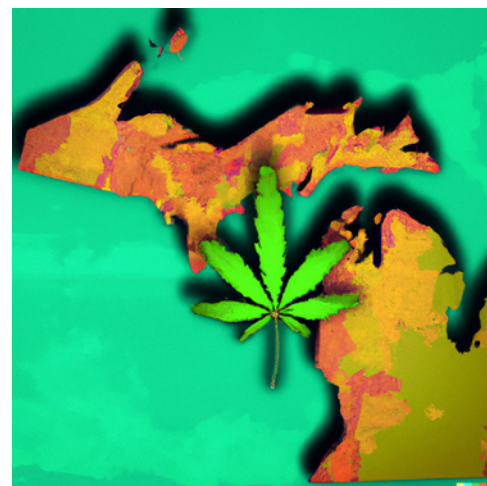


John Fraser  
[jwfraser@dykema.com](mailto:jwfraser@dykema.com)

related to the legalization of marijuana, an individual who is a current user of marijuana is still federally defined as an ‘unlawful user’ of a controlled substance and therefore is prohibited from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing firearms or ammunition.”<sup>3</sup> This position is not a new one for the ATF.<sup>4</sup> It is also important to note that this prohibition is not limited to only persons who actively use cannabis before or during their use of firearms (which should never be done). This article will explore the historical underpinnings of Michigan’s cannabis laws, the Second Amendment, and the future of both.

### America’s Historical Love of Guns and Cannabis

America has a long history with and affliction for firearms of all kinds. As noted by the Supreme Court of the United States in *Heller*, “By the time of the founding, the right to have arms had become fundamental for English subjects.”<sup>5</sup> Enshrined in the Bill of Rights, “[t]he Second Amendment provides: ‘A well regulated Militia,



being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”<sup>6</sup>

The *Heller* Court held that “There seems to us no doubt, on the basis of both text and history, that the Second Amendment conferred an individual right to keep and bear arms. Of course the right was not unlimited, just as the First Amendment’s right of free speech was not, see, e.g., *United States v. Williams*, 553 U.S. 285, 128 S.Ct. 1830, 170 L.Ed.2d 650 (2008).”<sup>7</sup> The Court further stated that “Although we do not undertake an exhaustive historical analysis today of the full scope of the Second Amendment, nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions



and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.”<sup>8</sup>

That fundamental right is still exercised today by a large portion of Americans. According to a June 2021 Pew Research Center survey, four-in-ten adults in the United States reported living in a household with a firearm, with 30% reporting that they personally own a firearm.<sup>9</sup> A 2019 Gallup poll found that firearm owners were most likely to cite personal safety or protection as the primary reason they owned a firearm.<sup>10</sup> In 2023 so far, there have been more than 200 mass murders committed with firearms in America (wherein a mass shooting is defined as an event where four or more people are injured or killed).<sup>11</sup> Not surprisingly, about half of Americans report seeing gun violence as a very big problem in the country.<sup>12</sup>

Cannabis, too, has deep roots in America’s early history. The cannabis plant is one of humanity’s earliest domesticated plants with recorded uses in China, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome—dating back over 12,000 years.<sup>13</sup> The cannabis plant has been used for millennia for textiles and for its medicinal and recreational properties. Given humanity’s long and historic use of the cannabis plant—it is perhaps unsurprising that cannabis played a critical role in the founding of our country. Indeed, in 1619 colonial Jamestown, colonists were required by law to grow cannabis because of how fundamentally important cannabis was to the success of the colony as a source of textiles, medicine, and likely for recreational purposes as well.<sup>14</sup> Some colonies also offered “bounties”—financial incentives for colonists to

cultivate cannabis. Some famous colonial cannabis farmers include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison—among many other founding fathers.<sup>15</sup> Interestingly, if you make a visit to Mount Vernon today, you will find fields filled with cannabis plants, a historically accurate testament to George Washington’s home.<sup>16</sup>

### **The Evolution of the Legality of Cannabis**

It is important to highlight how recent the trend of cannabis prohibition actually is. Cannabis was legal in the United States from (and before) the founding of the country until 1937, when the Marihuana Tax Stamp Act was enacted.<sup>17</sup> Prior to the passage of the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937, cannabis extract was commonly found at drug stores and general stores across the country.<sup>18</sup> The Marihuana Tax Act has its own sordid history, as it was principally advanced at the direction of Harry Anslinger, who was the director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. Mr. Anslinger’s principal motivation in advancing the Marihuana Tax Act was not public health or good policy; instead, it was based in racial animus directed towards people who are Black and Latino with Anslinger arguing that cannabis was to blame for “satanic” jazz music among other horrible charges.<sup>19</sup>

The Marihuana Tax Act would eventually be declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in *Leary v. United States*;<sup>20</sup> however, cannabis would face prohibition again a year later with the enactment of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 (“CSA”).<sup>21</sup> While there is much more

to the story to be told, the end result following the enactment of the CSA was the classification of cannabis as a Schedule I drug, which is the schedule reserved for drugs with a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.<sup>22</sup> Despite the fact that a majority of states have flatly rejected this classification by passing laws permitting medical use of cannabis and 23 more have adopted laws to permit recreational use of cannabis by adults age 21 and up, cannabis remains a Schedule I drug to this day under federal law.<sup>23</sup>

Stateside, in the 1950s, Michigan legislators (and others across the nation) passed numerous laws imposing severe criminal penalties for the possession of cannabis.<sup>24</sup> It would not be until 1996 that a state would legalize medical cannabis use (California).<sup>25</sup>

In 2008, Michigan voters voted to amend Michigan’s Constitution through Proposal 1, which permitted medical cannabis patients to possess up to two and a half ounces of cannabis. In 2016, Michigan enacted laws creating and regulating medical cannabis dispensaries in the state, including the taxation of medical cannabis. In 2018, Michigan voters once again took to the polls and approved the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act. Under these new laws, adults over 21 years old in Michigan can possess and consume cannabis recreationally under state law.

**To see full article**

[CLICK HERE](#)







# Drunk Driving: An Overview

By Christopher Wickman  
[cwickman@nicholslaw.net](mailto:cwickman@nicholslaw.net)

On June 9, 2023, the Ingham County Bar Association Criminal Defense Law Section presented, “Drunk Driving: An Overview.” Intended as a primer for new attorneys and more seasoned criminal defense attorneys who do not practice drunk driving defense as a major part of their practice, the presentation covered a broad array of topics including: (1) the most common Drunk Driving Defenses; (2) Driver’s License Sanctions and other collateral consequences; (3) Driver’s License Restoration; and (4) Many other topics. The presentation was two hours long and held over Zoom with over 20 people in attendance. Presenting was

Chris Wickman of the Nichols Law Firm – an East Lansing firm led by Michael Nichols and Wendy Schiller-Nichols with a specialty in drunk driving defense as well as a number of other practice areas such as general criminal defense, family law, and personal injury. By all appearances, the event was a wonderful success and thank you to those who were able to attend!

This was the final ICBA-CDLS of the ICBA calendar year (July-June) with prior events this year on: (1) Presenting a trial in the annex; (2) Criminal Law Update; (3) Criminal Sexual Conduct

## Outline

1. Introduction to “Drunk Driving”
2. Most Common Defenses
3. PBT Refusal and Implied Consent Refusal
4. Mitigation
5. Potential Pleas
6. Sobriety Courts
7. Driver’s License and Other Collateral Consequences
8. Driver’s License Restoration
9. Expungement

– both Investigation through Pretrial and Trial; (4) Investigations (partnered with the Paralegal Section of the ICBA); (5) Pleas, Mitigation, and Bargaining; and (6) Hosting our newly appointed prosecutor John Dewane. Thank you to everyone who attended our events this year, and we look forward to continuing our strong engagement in the future! If you have an idea for future events, please email one or more of the ICBA-CDLS co-chairs – Chris Wickman ([cwickman@nicholslaw.net](mailto:cwickman@nicholslaw.net)), Marisa Vinsky ([marisa@cndefenders.com](mailto:marisa@cndefenders.com)), or Takura Nyamfukudza ([takura@cndefenders.com](mailto:takura@cndefenders.com)).

## ICBA MEMBER DIRECTORY

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





# ...but I'm so tired...

## Ingham County Circuit Court

By Christopher Wickman  
cwickman@nicholslaw.net

I host a weekly poker game at my home for some friends. And by weekly, I mean once every three months. It's supposed to be a weekly poker game, but most weeks I find myself just too tired to host. I often convince myself that it does more to recharge my batteries to rest mindlessly than to spend time with friends and entertain a full house. With jobs as stressful, emotionally draining, and easily all-consuming as many of our jobs are, it's easy to make this excuse – I'm just so tired. Friends and family understand as we regale them with the important stuff that we are working on. They understand our jobs are stressful and involve long hours and they believe that's just how it must be – after all, all the lawyers they know are this way. Truthfully, usually the only one who shouldn't accept this excuse (other than our loving children) is us (or well-meaning partners or spouses).

We all read about the importance of work-life balance. It's a regular topic in many presentations targeted at lawyers, but what does work-life balance really even mean? When you're working, work hard so you can enjoy the rest of life outside of work – makes sense and many of us have that down. But when you're living life – enjoy and embrace it and leave the work behind. You're not really

resting or really enjoying life when you're sitting distracted - ruminating on the work you "should be doing." You're anxious, distracted, and disengaged. We will always be flush with work needing to be done, but all you do when you sit there ruminating on it when you're supposed to be relaxing is making yourself less productive when you are actually working.

Yes – sometimes our jobs require us to work well beyond when others are spending time with their family, eating dinner, or even sleeping, but that should be the exception – not the rule. Studies have shown that well-rested employees are less likely to make errors and omissions and therefore are more productive when they're working. Poor work-life balance and less rest not only trips us up at work, but also leads to a higher risk of stroke, coronary heart disease, and mental disorders such as anxiety and depression. Poor physical and mental health often cause us to dive deep into what we do well – work – and it only worsens our work-life balance. And so the cycle continues.

I have not known a single person, who at the end of their days, who thinks, "I should have worked more." The end of our days will come for all of us – no matter our status in this community

(from the newest attorney to a royal in our legal community) or how much money we have in the bank for others to enjoy once we're gone. For all of you, I wish you the best lives – a pair of both professional and personal success. The best lives involve a healthy work-life balance where you can truly enjoy both worlds. So spend time with your family; exercise your arms, core, and quads; enjoy double dates with your partner and yourself and another pair, and indulge in healthy hobbies that make life better.

Sometimes deadlines and trials exist, and we have to temporarily forgo healthy work-life balance and that is necessary – we do important work and things come up. But for now, as I'm not in trial and there are no immediate deadlines, I'm going to go straight-en up the house to host poker. I'm so tired... but my friends will understand and it will be great to see them. If I fall asleep at the poker table on a pile of poker chips with nothing but high card stuck to my forehead, it will be with a smile on my face. And I'll work all the better and more efficient tomorrow for it.

P.S. For those who caught the poker puns, enjoy the alternative title: What Beats What: A Healthy Work-Life Balance.



# Sobriety Court

By Da'Neese Wells  
dwells@ingham.org

## Sobering Statistics

- Michigan's adult drug and sobriety programs grew from 98 programs in FY 2018 to 109 programs in FY 2022.
- Graduates of adult drug court programs were, on average, more than 3 times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to a program.
- Sobriety court graduates who used an ignition interlock device were nearly 5 times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission.

## Sobriety Courts Work

- With this ceremony, there are now 802 successful graduates of the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Court.
- According to research conducted by the Michigan Supreme Court, the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Court consistently outperforms similar programs in Michigan, with higher graduation and lower recidivism rates.
- **Problem-solving courts** focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to participants as an alternative to incarceration. The Supreme Court, through its State Court

Administrative Office, assists trial court judges in management of these courts by providing training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding.

## Take Action

- Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement. Your actions may save someone's life, and your inaction could cost a life.

Please visit  
[www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov](http://www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov)

## Welcome to the 55th Graduation of the 55th District Court Sobriety Court

June 21, 2023 | 10am  
Ingham County Justice Complex  
Judge Allen's Courtroom  
700 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854

### Hosted by

Honorable Donald L. Allen, Jr.

### Sobriety Court Staff

Taylor Casaday, Probation Officer  
Christine Sayers, Probation Officer  
Da'Neese Wells, Chief Probation Officer & Specialty Courts Coordinator

### Please join us in acknowledging the achievements of our current graduates:

Deanna	Brittany	Julius
Dennis	Amber	Jacob
Matthew		





# Jury Service Update: Background, Frequently Asked Questions, And A Timely Reminder As To Why It Is Essential To Us All

By Ted Seitz  
tseitz@dykema.com

For the past decade or more, the Michigan Supreme Court has typically designated July as “Juror Appreciation Month.” Several years ago, the Court proclaimed that “[t]he right to jury trial is one of the fundamental values of American citizenship; jury service, like voting, is a direct participation in democracy.” Nevertheless, “[f]or many people, their first thought on getting a summons for jury duty is ‘How can I get out of it?’ But that’s profoundly unfortunate,” former Chief Justice Bob Young said at the time. “Most people find jury service to be a very rewarding, interesting experience. More importantly, the people whose cases come before juries are depending on their fellow citizens’ participation.” Simply put, one of the most important actions any citizen can take to exercise his or her freedom is jury duty, yet this particular form of democratic participation all too often gets short shrift from some citizens.

Chapter 13 of the Michigan Revised Judicature Act (RJA), specifically as set forth in MCL 600.1300 et seq., authorizes two types of jury systems, which include every aspect of selecting jurors and using their services. As pointed out on the State Court Administrative Office website, “all trial courts must operate one of the authorized jury systems.” This includes for counties like Ingham County an

appointed Jury Administration Board often governs many aspects of jury service.

I’ve served on the Ingham County Jury Board for several years and am still a member (there are three of us); by statute, each county in Michigan has such a board (the number of jury board members and appointment process depends upon the population of the county). It’s a voluntary commitment to help ensure that citizens have a voice—someone to fight for them—to make sure that jury service is, as former Justice Young put it, a rewarding experience.

The Covid pandemic created unique challenges to jury service in most courts, including those in Michigan and Ingham County. Like many Michigan counties, in Ingham County, the Circuit, District, and Probate Courts rely upon an overlapping pool of jurors to serve on trials. This meant, for the past couple of years, jury trials either were not being conducted in most courts within the county, or were being conducted on an inconsistent basis—depending upon various safety protocols required by public health mandates. Ingham County did a more than admirable job of adjusting its jury practices during Covid to keep its court dockets moving, while at the same time anticipating the unavoidable backlog

of jury trials that would need to be addressed after the Covid pandemic.

One way that Ingham County proactively moved to address the inevitable jury trial backlog, was to create an Annex across the street from the 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Courthouse in Lansing, which contains a new courtroom to conduct additional jury trials—presided over by visiting judges. It has and will continue to be put to good use. It has also required a larger pool of jurors needed to serve on juries—especially for criminal cases where the backlog is the most severe. This, in turn, requires those of us within the legal system to do everything we can to promote the importance of jury service and be cognizant of the concerns that prospective jurors may have when they are called to serve on a jury. The following is a list of frequently asked questions that citizens have about jury duty. The Ingham County Circuit Court website also addresses these and other jury issues.

## JURY DUTY FAQs

### Who gets called?

U.S. citizens at least 18 years old who are residents of the court district to which they are summoned. The jury pool for each court comes from a list of licensed drivers and state ID card holders in the court’s district.



### **Are there exemptions?**

People over 70 may request an age exemption from jury service. And while you can be called for duty more than once, you cannot serve on a jury more than once in a 12-month period.

### **What's required?**

Jurors must “be able to communicate in the English language” and “be physically and mentally able to carry out the functions of a juror.”

### **•What does it pay?**

Under Michigan law, jurors receive not less than \$30 per day and \$15 per half day for the first day of service. For each day after that, jurors receive not less than \$45 per day and \$22.50 per half day. Jurors also receive mileage for their trips to and from court. If you report for duty but do not get on a jury, you are paid for the day.

### **What if I don't show up?**

You can be held in contempt of court, fined, or even jailed.

### **What about work?**

By law, an employer cannot fire, or discipline or threaten such action, against an employee who is summoned for jury duty or chosen to serve on a jury, even for a long trial. Nor can employers force a worker to go beyond

normal hours to make up for time spent on jury service. An employer who takes these actions could be guilty of a misdemeanor or held in contempt of court.

### **What's an acceptable reason to be excused from jury service?**

That's up to the court, but there are a number of grounds for excusing a person from jury service or postponing the service. “Hardship” is one, and that could include lack of transportation, excessive travel, extreme financial burden, undue risk to physical property, and being over 70. “Hardship” also includes situations where your absence from your normal routine would affect another's care or pose a risk to public health or safety. A request for a medical related exemption requires a letter from a doctor. A full-time student who believes that jury service will conflict with his or her classes typically must submit a copy of the class schedule.

### **If I serve on a jury, can I talk about the case afterwards?**

Once the judge discharges you from service, you may discuss the case with others, although you don't have to discuss it. Attorneys in the case often find it helpful to talk to the jurors afterwards. In a high-profile case, the

media will also want to talk to jurors.

We all understand that not every case is going to make a person feel the tingle of courtroom drama, as though he or she is on the set of “Law and Order.” Certainly, not everyone is going to be happy about getting called — and some cases, especially those dealing with alleged crimes, can be emotionally charged, time-consuming, and stressful to jurors. But it's vital to keep in mind that jury service is of paramount importance to the parties in the case before the court. As such, jurors should serve as though they—or a loved one—will someday have a case before the court. In fact, it's quite possible that the juror might someday be a party or a witness in a case important to them. Simply put, the willingness to faithfully serve on juries is essential to our system of justice.<sup>1</sup>

### **Endnotes**

1. The author would like to acknowledge his former colleague on the Ingham County Jury Board, attorney and Ingham County Bar Association member Matt Davis, who is deceased, but certainly not forgotten. Along with his substantial contributions to the Jury Board, Matt authored a previous article on jury service, upon which this article substantially borrows from and is based.



# Cooking Gluten-Free

By Christopher Wickman  
cwickman@nicholslaw.net

I politely turn down anyone else's cooking. If I eat out at a restaurant, I expect to be sick for 1-3 days. Such is the life for individuals with severe gluten sensitivity or Celiac's disease. I describe severe reactions to gluten as a cold, flu, concussion, hangover, and digestive issues - all at once. Generally anything baked or fried is going to contain gluten. For other things, it's surprising – did you know soy sauces, seasonings, most alcohol, and other things contain gluten? Many well-meaning friends and family have attempted to make gluten-free dishes for me, and it's oftentimes gone poorly. Below find some helpful information on how to cook gluten-free for those you love with gluten allergies and Celiac's disease:

**1. Gluten-free ingredients.** Many foods are naturally gluten-free including fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs. Some foods basically define gluten – wheat specifically. Oats, barley, and other grains are often processed with wheat and are generally considered unacceptable to those with gluten allergies. If something is marked “gluten-free” and manufactured, it's generally trustworthy – though not always. If it's not visibly marked gluten-free, look for an allergens notice: Milk, Wheat, Soy, etc. If

Wheat or Gluten is listed – not gluten free. If the ingredients don't have a notice, look for ingredients containing gluten – specifically wheat or wheat flour. When in doubt, Google the exact product and you may find answers.

The biggest challenge in cooking is avoiding contamination since it can come from a number of sources. Most of my worst experiences have been explained by contamination.

**2. Gluten-free cookware.** Do not use items that you have used with gluten-containing foods that generally absorb or cannot be thoroughly cleaned – cast-iron pans, toasters, etc.

**3. Gluten-free surfaces.** This is a big problem in restaurants. Gluten-free food is prepared on all the same surfaces (and with the same utensils) as gluten-containing food. People who eat gluten free are often so sensitive that using the same surfaces will make someone sick. So wash those utensils, plates, counters, and change your gloves (if you're wearing them) if you want to have the best chance of avoiding contamination from surfaces.

**4. Gluten-free ingredients – part two.** Many products do not contain gluten, but you may make them contain gluten accidentally. I was very sick for three days because a family member had accidentally introduced gluten into a salad containing all gluten-free ingredients. The salad was made of all gluten-free ingredients, but the dressing was homemade with mayo – mayo that the family member had previously applied to bread. How do you make a sandwich? You dip the knife in, apply it to the bread, and put the knife back into the mayo to get more mayo – and you just introduced breadcrumbs into your mayo. If you're cooking for someone gluten-free, it's highly advisable to use freshly bought ingredients – butter, other spreads, etc. where contamination could not have occurred.

I love to cook. Some of that is because I love to eat (obvious if you look at me). Some of that is because I like to take care of others. But some of that is out of self-preservation – I got stuff to do in the next 3 days! Thank you for taking the time to read this article and for the care you put into cooking for those gluten-free in your life – it means the world to them!

## Words to Consider

# Bringing Your Soul to Work: Part 6 - Letting Go

By William Frank Diedrich



William Frank Diedrich  
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Letting go means you stop holding something, that you release your attachment to something or someone. What is it that we should let go? Let go of everything that is an obstacle to being your best self, to being your soul at work. Why is it good to let go? Letting go not only allows you to be your best self—it ends suffering.

Who doesn't want to end suffering? We can't help but experience pain in life—physical, emotional, spiritual, mental. Suffering is resistance to pain. Resistance makes pain more intense. We can't help but experience frustration and disappointment in life. Resistance to people and situations increases your frustration and feelings of disappointment, your anger and resentment. Let go.

Let's start with physical pain. Several years ago I experienced Shingles for six weeks, and the pain was excruciating from my right foot up to my lower back. It felt like my insides were on fire. Nothing worked to alleviate the pain. I couldn't lie in a bed or sleep longer than a half hour (sitting up). Fortunately the pain eased up during the day, but I had very little energy. I learned to experience the pain, to dive into it, and realize that I'm still here, still alive. I did not suffer, because I accepted it. I learned from it. I went deep into my consciousness and asked what this pain had to teach me.

Finally after six weeks I was able to lie in a bed at night, and sleep without pain. I also found a deeper appreciation for myself, for who I am, and for my purpose in this world. People have said to me: "Don't you wish you had taken the vaccine?" My response was "No, Shingles was one of the most important events of my life. I learned so much from it." I learned to let go of suffering. I learned to let go of erroneous beliefs about myself. I learned to let go of physical pain itself. It's not that pain doesn't bother me. It's that I move through it now without resistance, without suffering. Life flows easier when you let go of your resistance to what is.

One of the best things you can do for yourself is to let go of your attachment to specific outcomes. Thinking everything must turn out your way causes a great deal of suffering. It's like the 1970 song by Stephen Stills:  
*Love the One You're With.*  
*Don't be angry, don't be sad*  
*Don't sit cryin' over good times you've had. . .*  
*Love the one you're with...*

Accept your losses and embrace the present moment. In truth, you don't really know what should have happened or what was the best outcome, because you don't have the big picture. You can't see into the future. Accept what is and embrace the present moment.

Feel your disappointment, your anger, your resentment, or whatever emotions arise. Feel them and accept them. Don't try to drink or drug them away. Let go of your thoughts and focus mainly on the feelings in your body. You will find that negative emotions always have an expiration date if you don't resist them, if you don't continually feed them with your stories about what happened and what should have happened.

Stories. Let go of your stories. Every negative emotion you hold has a story. This person hurt you. That person let you down. That group was unfair. Your stories are fiction. You think they are real, but you have embellished them with your assumptions and beliefs so much that you can not actually prove their validity. You don't know how that person's mind works. You don't know who they really are. Let go of your stories. Ask yourself this: "Who do I become when I tell myself this story?" Then ask: "Is this the person I want to be?" Do you want to be someone who is always angry? Do you want to be someone who is continually disappointed? Do you want to be someone who is obsessed with vengeance? Our minds are great story tellers, but our stories are often detrimental to our physical, emotional, and mental health.

You have lots of stories about the past. Let go of the past. Your failures and mistakes taught you something. Carry forward the lessons, but stop retelling your past stories. These stories create guilt and guilt is a request for punishment. Every time you run through a past story about a mistake or about your bad behavior you punish yourself. Let go. Feel the guilt, the regret, make

amends where you can, and let go. Similarly, let go of your past successes. You became CEO, or you made Partner based on your past accomplishments. Rehashing past successes may feel good to you, but let go of them and come into the present moment. No one cares about how successful you were then. Focus on being your self best now.

As professional adults we often find ourselves in the position of needing to sell ideas, services, products, or ourselves. Rather than trying to sell someone, let go. Let go of your need to close the sale and focus on the other person's needs. I have worked with the same car salesperson for fifteen years. She has never tried to sell me anything. She listens and understands what I need and what I desire. I have leased five vehicles and made one purchase in fifteen years. She doesn't need to sell. I am not a paycheck to her. She needs to be paid, but she doesn't worry about that. She always gets paid because her focus is on me, not herself.

Many people close to retirement put their efforts on cruise control and just try to get by until they can retire. This is a mistake. You have wisdom and experience to offer. Offer them. Let go of your desire for retirement and be here now. Enjoy where you are now. Let go of the future. Yes, do your planning, and be excited about your plans if you like. But, be here now, today. Live life and be present with everyone now. Futures are not guaranteed. You have this moment. Don't waste it.

If I were to discuss everything that should be let go this article would be a book. I'm already writing that book. So let's wrap this writing up with one

more thing you can let go. Accept people as they are. Let go of who and what you think they should be. Everyone has their quirks, their unique ways of being in the world. Accept. This doesn't mean that you don't have standards and expectations. Just let go of judgment. If your adult daughter is dating a guy who uses drugs, and he behaves badly in group settings you have the right to ban him from your house and your family gatherings. At the same time, accept your daughter as she is. Look for the best in her and avoid giving constant criticism—even if it's just in your thoughts. Focus on the beauty and the wisdom in her even if those qualities are difficult for you to see right now.

If you find a co-worker to be annoying, let go of your judgement. Establish reasonable boundaries, yet look for positive qualities. If you have tried to help an employee succeed but they did not perform to expectations, did not fit in your organization, let them go without judgment. Help them toward their next job if possible. Your irritation or annoyance toward other people is yours. It belongs to you. Let go of blaming other people for your thoughts and feelings, for your decisions and behaviors. You are accountable for you. No one else is. Let go of blame and your individual power will grow.

Letting go frees you. It helps you to move through the various experiences of life with grace and often with ease. Things don't go your way? You look for the best possible outcome with whatever the current state appears to be. You move forward. You don't waste time and energy stuck in disappointment, guilt, hurt, or resentment. Letting go makes you strong. If you negotiate a deal with



*Words to Consider continued*

the idea that you could walk away if the outcome would not be satisfactory, your position in the negotiation becomes stronger. If you approach any situation or any person that you want with an attitude of not trying to control them, an attitude of letting go of any attachment to an outcome, you increase your chances for success. This is not apathy. It's about trust. You trust that the best outcome will be yours whether or not your preference becomes reality.

Bringing your soul to work means letting go of attachments, letting go of needing to control outcomes, letting go of suffering, moving through pain and disappointment, knowing that whatever happens, you are still you. You are not your body. You have a body. You are not your status. You are not your profession. You are a soul having a very human experience. Each day is a new adventure, and you are the hero/heroine of your adventure.

William Frank Diedrich is a speaker, executive coach, and the author of nine books. He works with organizations and individuals to develop emotional intelligence, leadership ability, and teamwork. You may learn more about his work at his website: <http://humanadulthood.com>.



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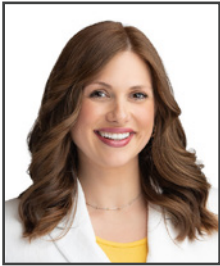
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# Sex Abuse Survivors May Get Their Day in Court

## New Law Would Re-Open Statute of Limitations for Assault Victims

By Kelly McClintock

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On April 27, 2023, a bipartisan team of Michigan legislators [announced plans to reintroduce a package of bills to overhaul sexual assault statute of limitations](#), enact a “[Survivor Bill of Rights](#),” and dismantle other laws that protect abusers and their enablers.

Currently, an adult survivor of sex assault must file a civil lawsuit within 2 years of the assault. A minor who is the victim of sex assault [has 3 years to file a civil suit, or until they reach the age of 28](#), whichever time period is longer. But for many adult survivors, it can take years to confront the trauma before talking to a lawyer or even thinking about coming forward.

[The proposed law](#) would close the loophole by allowing *any* survivor (minor or adult) to pursue a civil case [until they are 52 years of age](#). In cases where there is criminal conviction for sex assault, the new law would *eliminate the civil statute of limitations entirely*.

Importantly, [the package opens a “two-year lookback window”](#) for any person to file a civil claim against an institution

or person – regardless of the passage of time since the sexual assault. If passed, Michigan follows a growing trend across U.S. states, such as New York and California, in providing a short, one-time time period for any sex assault survivor to have their day in court.

Another important component of the [proposed law changes](#) is [eliminating governmental immunity for universities and other government agencies](#) if the institution or its employees knew, or should have known about the sexual abuse, but failed to prevent it. Currently, governmental immunity prevents state actors or agents from being sued for reasons related to sexual assault.

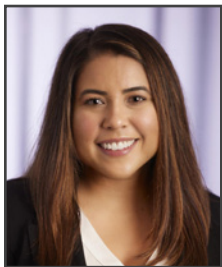
One reason Michigan State University likely settled with survivors who were assaulted by the disgraced doctor Larry Nassar was because lawmakers passed an extremely narrow, case-specific statute. [The 2018 law opened a 90-day window for survivors to file suit if they have been assaulted by a doctor](#) working for a public university or public entity. MSU settled for \$500 million with the approximately 500 survivors. While

providing a legal pathway to justice to a small sub-set of survivors, the law did nothing to assist the vast majority of sexual assault survivors seeking to pursue their claims in the state.

If the proposed bills do become law, employment attorneys on plaintiff and defendant side should prepare to prosecute and defend an influx of sexual assault-related claims. The anticipated legislation is expected to cover sexual assault claims arising in education, employment, medical facilities, churches, and other settings. State Representative Julie Brixie (D-Meridian Twp.) led the announcement and expected the bills to be introduced on the House floor within two months.

The legislative package is reported to contain nine bills. [The Survivors Bill of Rights](#) sets up funding for forensic medical exams. It establishes the survivor’s right to a counselor and attorney throughout the investigation of a criminal sexual assault. [Another bill aims to reform](#) the forensic review process; [and another addresses](#) post-forensic interview care.

# ICBA Board Election Results



**Jackie Dupler**

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Jackie Dupler is a Shareholder with Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C. in Lansing, Michigan. She practices family law, including divorce and custody matters. Ms. Dupler is passionate about helping clients through what is often the most difficult and painful situation they have endured. She is both empathetic and realistic with her clients, and encourages her clients to focus not merely on the immediate outcome, but also that how they behave during the course of litigation will impact their family and relationships in the future.

Ms. Dupler is originally from southern California, grew up in Brighton, Michigan, and attended and graduated high school from Yokohama International School in Japan. She is a double graduate from Michigan State University – earning her law degree in 2012, and previously earning her bachelor’s degree in International Studies and Political Science, with minors in Anthropology and Asian Studies.

Ms. Dupler has been actively involved in bar and affiliate organizations since 2012. Ms. Dupler served on the Board of the Ingham County Bar Association – Young Lawyers Section, including as its President in 2016-2017. Currently, she is on the Boards of Women Lawyer’s Association of Michigan, Mid-Michigan Region; MSU College of Law Alumni Association; Mid-Michigan Treatment Court Foundation; Lansing Area Safety Council; and Michigan Advocacy Program. Since 2020, Ms. Dupler has served on the Michigan Board of Accountancy, following her appointment by Governor Whitmer. Additionally, in 2022, Ms. Dupler became a fellow to the Ingham County Bar Foundation.



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Jessica Zimbelman is a Managing Attorney with the State Appellate Defender Office, where she has worked for ten years representing people statewide as they appeal their convictions and sentences. She has appeared before the Michigan Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court multiple times, as well as trial courts throughout the state.

Ms. Zimbelman actively seeks to change the criminal legal system through the legislative process. Prior to SADO, Ms. Zimbelman worked for two legislative agencies: as the Senior Analyst at the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman’s Office and as a legislative aide in the Michigan House of Representatives. She currently is Co-Chair of the Rules and Law Committee of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan and chairs SADO’s Court Rules and Legislation Committee.

Ms. Zimbelman is a member of the Representative Assembly of the State Bar of Michigan, representing Ingham County. She is also on the Board of Directors and Secretary of the Ingham County Bar Association. She lives in Lansing with her husband and two rambunctious twin daughters. You’ll often find them at Potter Park Zoo or enjoying Lake Michigan.



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Lindsay Dangl has been employed by Murphy & Spagnuolo, P.C. since January 2008 and is now the Managing Shareholder. Ms. Dangl has experience with a variety of legal issues including family law, workers' compensation, insurance defense litigation, municipal law, and civil litigation. Ms. Dangl received her undergraduate degree from James Madison College at Michigan State University and her Juris Doctor from the Michigan State University College of Law.

Ms. Dangl has obtained an AV Rating from Martindale-Hubbell and has been designated a Super Lawyers Rising Star every year since 2015. She was also awarded the ICBA Top 35 under 35 Award in 2016. Ms. Dangl currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Ingham County Bar Association. She also on the Board of the Lansing Torch Club as the Past-President and is an active volunteer with the Junior League of Lansing. Ms. Dangl was formerly a Board Member of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Mid-Michigan Region and the Ingham County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section.



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Nolan L. Erickson was born in 1980 in East Grand Rapids, Michigan. He graduated from East Grand Rapids High School in 1998 and went on to Michigan State University for his undergraduate degree, graduating May 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with cognates in Anthropology and Political Science. While a student at MSU, he helped reestablish the dormant MSU Pre-Law Society and served as its vice president.

Mr. Erickson began law school at Michigan State University College of Law part-time in August of 2005 with the help of a generous Merit Scholarship. He was active in student activities, including the American Constitution Society. Mr. Erickson served as Treasurer and Chairperson of the student chapter of ACS and took an active role in the Student Speaker Series and Moot Court Competitions. In 2007, his chapter was recognized by the national organization at its annual convention in Washington DC. He was also a regular contributor to *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, the monthly newspaper of MSU College of Law. In addition to

these school-related undertakings, he was employed throughout his law school career and began working at Church Wyble, P.C., now Grewal Law PLLC, in December of 2007 as a law clerk.

Mr. Erickson graduated summa cum laude from the MSU College of Law in December 2008. As an attorney with Grewal Law PLLC, he has developed extensive experience with all phases of trial and pre-trial resolution of personal injury matters, including major auto accidents, medical malpractice, and other serious injury cases. As a supervising attorney and firm administrator, he oversees multiple practice areas while maintaining direct involvement in clients' cases. He is a member of the American Association for Justice, the Michigan Association for Justice and the Ingham County Bar Association, where he served on the awards committee.

Mr. Erickson married his wife Sarah in 2003. They are the proud parents of two children and reside in DeWitt. The Ericksons enjoy camping, traveling, and rooting for the Spartans.

**Education**

- Michigan State University College of Law – East Lansing, Michigan
  - Juris Doctor, summa cum laude – December 2008
  - *Res Ipsa Loquitur*, contributor
- EMT-Basic, Great Lakes Emergency Medical Service Academy, 2003 (not currently licensed)
- Michigan State University – East Lansing, Michigan
  - Bachelor of Arts, History with cognates in Political Science and Anthropology, 2002



Nolan L. Erickson continued

### Accomplishments

- National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys (NAOPIA) Top 40 Under 40, 2020
- Super Lawyers® Rising Stars 2019-2020

### Professional Associations & Memberships

- State Bar of Michigan
  - Negligence Section
- Ingham County Bar Association
- American Association for Justice
- Michigan Association for Justice

### Major Cases

Represented 111 of the initial 333 Plaintiffs in the Larry Nassar/MSU Settlement

Represented 136 Plaintiffs in the USA Gymnastics Bankruptcy

Along with co-counsel, represent 212 Plaintiffs in the Robert Anderson/U of M Settlement

## Firm Sponsorship Opportunities 2023-2024

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*Honorable,* Cynthia Ward and Greg Ward will serve as the Emcees.

## 129<sup>th</sup> ICBA Annual Dinner Wednesday, November 8, 2023

University Club of MSU  
3435 Forest Road,  
Lansing, MI 48909-5111

Reception - 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:30 p.m.  
Program - 7:00 p.m.



State of Michigan  
55<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
700 Buhl Avenue • Mason, Michigan 48854  
517-676-8400  
[dc.ingham.org](http://dc.ingham.org)

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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: June 20, 2023

For Further Information Contact:

NAME: Michael J. Dillon  
TITLE: Court Administrator  
TELEPHONE: 517-676-8426

**55<sup>th</sup> District Court Celebrates 55<sup>th</sup> Sobriety Court Graduation and Surpasses 800 Graduates**

Mason, MI, June 20, 2023 – Chief Judge Donald L. Allen Jr. is pleased to announce the 55<sup>th</sup> graduation of the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court as the program also celebrates the milestone of surpassing 800 graduates.

Judge Allen presides over the program. “Our Sobriety Court continues to be a win-win situation, proving rehabilitation effectively protects the community, saves significant taxpayer money, and returns citizens to productive lives,” Judge Allen stated. “We are very proud of our program, our participants, and of the community support we consistently receive. The long term success of Sobriety Court is based upon close supervision of probationers by an interdisciplinary team dedicated to the safety of our community.”

With this ceremony, the program marks **802 successful graduates** since becoming operational in 2004. According to research conducted by the Michigan Supreme Court, these graduates will be significantly less likely to be convicted of new alcohol or drug related offenses in the future. Their research also demonstrates that the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Court consistently outperforms similar programs in Michigan, with higher graduation and lower recidivism rates.

More information can be found in the Michigan Supreme Court’s [FY 2022 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report](#), tracking the progress and highlighting the success of 207 problem-solving courts (PSCs) across Michigan from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. Ingham County is fortunate enough to have both a Sobriety Court and Mental Health Court, programs that support justice-involved individuals in our community by helping them overcome underlying issues such as substance abuse disorder and mental illness.

“Problem-solving courts exemplify how we are working to increase public trust and confidence in the judiciary through collaboration and compassion—an overarching goal of our Michigan Judicial Council,” said Justice Kyra H. Bolden, the PSC liaison for the Supreme Court. “What struck me the most about this report is that these pages are not just filled with numbers and milestones; they are filled with hope and humanity.”

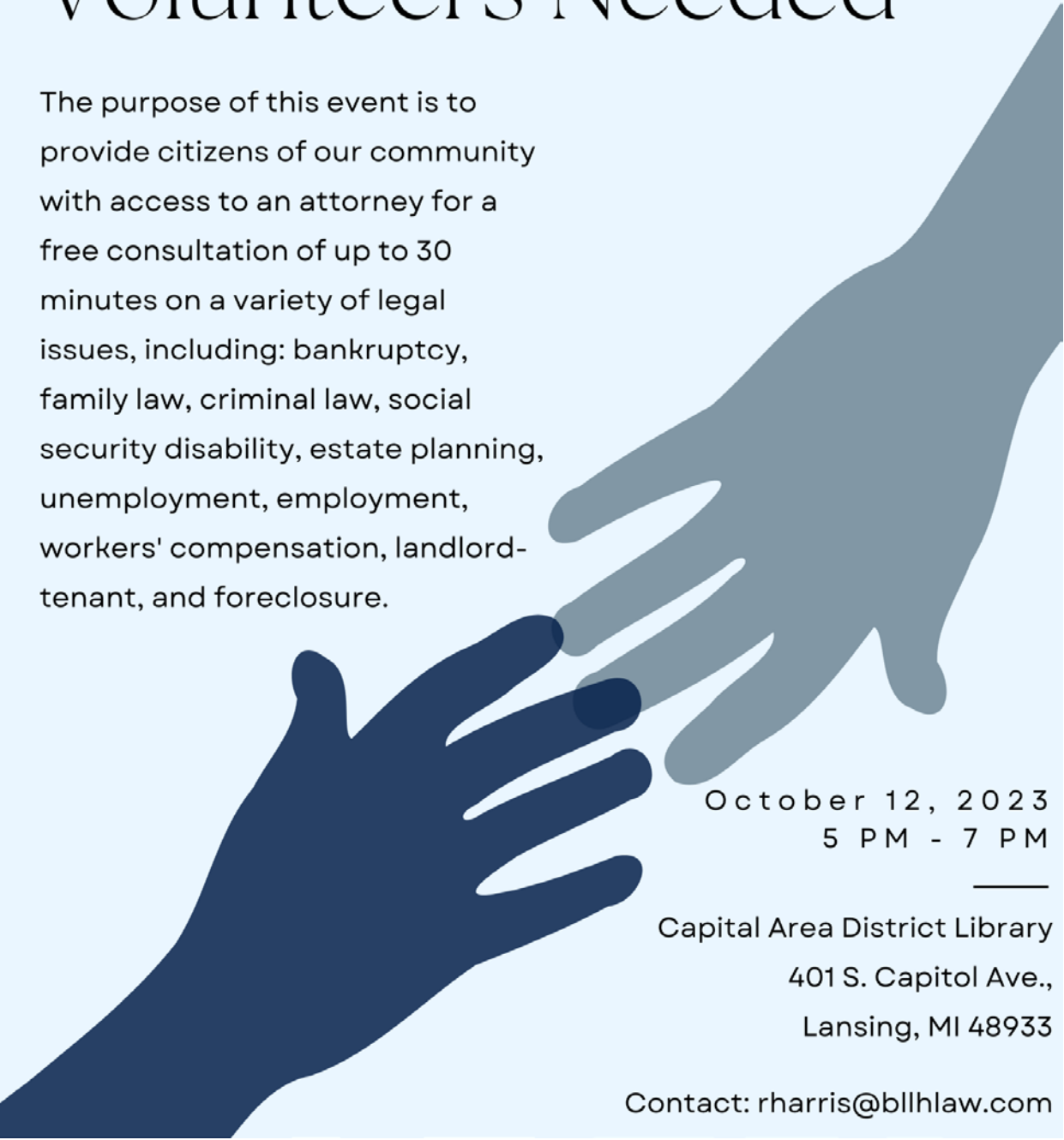
[Key report findings:](#)

- Michigan’s adult drug and sobriety programs grew from 98 programs in FY 2018 to 109 programs in FY 2022.
- Graduates of adult drug court programs were, on average, **more than 3 times less likely** to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to a program.
- Sobriety court graduates who used an ignition interlock device were **nearly 5 times less likely** to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission.
- **On average, mental health court (MHC) graduates—adult and juvenile—were nearly 2 times less likely to commit another crime within three years of admission to a program.**
- **Unemployment among adult circuit MHC graduates dropped by 81 percent.**
- Average **99 percent improvement** in mental health and 95 percent quality of life improvement.

[Problem-solving courts](#) focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to participants as an alternative to incarceration. The Supreme Court, through its State Court Administrative Office, assists trial court judges in management of these courts by providing training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding.

# Ask A Lawyer Volunteers Needed

The purpose of this event is to provide citizens of our community with access to an attorney for a free consultation of up to 30 minutes on a variety of legal issues, including: bankruptcy, family law, criminal law, social security disability, estate planning, unemployment, employment, workers' compensation, landlord-tenant, and foreclosure.



October 12, 2023  
5 PM - 7 PM

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Capital Area District Library  
401 S. Capitol Ave.,  
Lansing, MI 48933

Contact: [rharris@billhlaw.com](mailto:rharris@billhlaw.com)



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Ingham County Bar Foundation  
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**AUG. 3, 2023**

REGISTRATION

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PER PLAYER

**\*BEFORE 7/13\***

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# BRIEFS Author Guidelines & Policies

## IN GENERAL

### Publication Schedule

BRIEFS is published by the Ingham County Bar Association six times a year.

### 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](#)

# ICBA Section Chairs

## Paralegal-Legal

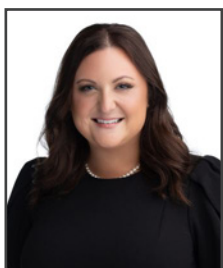


**Megan Cochrane**  
[mcochrane@loomislaw.com](mailto:mcochrane@loomislaw.com)

Megan Cochrane is a paralegal at Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting, P.C. She specializes in assisting attorneys in alternative dispute resolution, including, but not limited to matters involving medical malpractice/wrongful death, no-fault, probate matters, and employment discrimination. Ms. Cochrane also assists attorneys in the areas of estate planning, business planning, oil and gas law, and real estate matters.

Currently, Ms. Cochrane is a chairperson for the Ingham County Bar Association Paralegal Section, a member of the American Bar Association Paralegal Section, and a member of the Junior League of Lansing.

Ms. Cochrane lives in the Greater Lansing area with her family. She enjoys reading, being outdoors, and spending time at her family's cottage in northern Michigan.



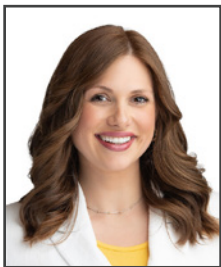
**Lizzy Sailor**  
[cnlaw@cndefenders.com](mailto:cnlaw@cndefenders.com)

Lizzy Sailor is a paralegal and licensed private investigator at Chartier & Nyamfukudza, P.L.C. and has specialized in criminal defense and trial litigation for almost a decade. She is the founder and co-chairperson of the Ingham County Bar Association Paralegal Section and Chair Elect of the State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section, where she also serves

as chairperson on multiple committees. As an expert in legal technology, she has contributed numerous articles to legal publications on technology tips and practice management. Ms. Sailor has also presented to paralegal students on how to best serve as a litigation paralegal during trial, as well as attorneys on legal technology tips and social media investigation.

# ICBA Section Chair

## Employment-Labor Law



Kelly R. McClintock  
[kmclintock@4grewal.com](mailto:kmclintock@4grewal.com)

Kelly R. McClintock joined Blanchard & Walker as an experienced advocate, with over 15 years of experience in social justice and political advocacy work. As an attorney, Ms. McClintock cut her teeth representing survivors in some of the largest sexual assault mass tort settlements in the U.S. to date. These cases include the infamous Larry Nassar scandal at Michigan State University and Robert Anderson cover-up at the University of Michigan. Ms. McClintock's work on these cases included working through the bankruptcy proceedings to finally hold USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic Committee responsible for their role in failing to protect young athletes. Ms. McClintock also brings experience from her time working for Lansing's 30<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, where she worked side by side with judges, referees, and other court staff.

Ms. McClintock earned a dual bachelor of arts from the University of Michigan. She spent one year in South Africa at the University of Cape Town as part of her history and political science studies. After returning to Michigan, she worked for the premier nonprofit community development finance institution in the Midwest, Cinnaire Corporation. At Cinnaire, Ms. McClintock advocated at state Capitols and Washington D.C.

for greater access and resources for affordable housing and economic development opportunities in the lowest income areas. She left Cinnaire as an Assistant Vice President to pursue her law degree at Michigan State University College of Law, where she graduated cum laude.

While in law school, Ms. McClintock dedicated herself to Michigan's anti-trafficking movement. She is a certified trainer and member of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, where she still works with survivors, service-providers, and law enforcement to bring traffickers to justice.

Ms. McClintock currently serves her community on the Board of Directors for mid-Michigan's Childhood Advocacy Center, SmallTalk, which conducts forensic interviews of children who have been sexually assaulted and provides therapy and other resources to families facing these difficult situations. She also serves as a board member of the Ingham County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section. She and her spouse are members of East Lansing's Peoples Church. They stay active trying to keep up with their two-year old toddler and are expecting their second son summer 2023.



# ICBA Section Chairs

## Real Estate



William Tomblin  
[wtdomblaw@aol.com](mailto:wtdomblaw@aol.com)

Since 2017, Bill Tomblin has been ICBA Real Estate Section Co-chairperson. Prior to that time, he was active in other ICBA roles, including serving on the Bench-Bar Conference Committee and the Nominating Committee. Mr. Tomblin is the Principal of William D Tomblin & Associates, with offices in East Lansing and Okemos, which he started in 1994.

While Mr. Tomblin practices in a broad range of legal disciplines, his focus is on commercial litigation in multiple state and federal trial and appellate courts, complex real estate law/real estate leasing and business transactions. Mr. Tomblin has represented numerous international, national, regional and local companies, including developers, real estate managers, conglomerates, insurance/title insurance companies and minor league professional sports franchises. He has also worked as

counsel in collaboration with or adverse to numerous large concerns. Despite his national practice, some of Mr. Tomblin's proudest and most fulfilling professional moments have come from helping to vindicate small local businesses and individuals who need, but cannot necessarily afford, aggressive and experienced counsel.

Mr. Tomblin enjoys spending time with his family (including his amazing wife, two tremendous daughters and long-martyred mom) and friends. His hobbies include golf, skiing, boating, basketball, volleyball, baseball and other sports with his kids, nieces and nephews, reading, following politics, "FoodBooking" and traveling. His favorite city is Prague. As most parents of teenagers, he spends the bulk of his free time verbally and intellectually sparring with his children - in a sometimes-successful effort to teach through the Socratic method.

Mr. Tomblin has also been active in the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (where among other positions he was Chairperson and Member of the Ambassador Committee; Chairperson of the Quarterly Business Connection/Member Mixer Subcommittee and a member of the State Ambassador Conference Committee and Legislative Analysis Committee). He has also ardently

supported the Ingham County Chapter of the American Cancer Society (where he chaired the Great American Lockup and worked on the Ingham County and State Golf Tournaments). He has also given lectures and presentations to legal and real estate professionals and students.

From 1987 to 1994, Mr. Tomblin was a senior associate at the Dickinson Wright law firm, in Lansing and Chicago, where he practiced complex commercial litigation and was also appointed a Michigan Special Assistant Attorney General in the Insurance Division of the Attorney General's office. He is a 1987 Dean's List graduate of the William Howard Taft College of Law at the University of Cincinnati, where he was Chief Prosecutor of the Student Court; and a 1984 Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude graduate, in Political Science with a Certificate in Economics, of the University of Cincinnati.

Mr. Tomblin splits his time between the Mid-Michigan region and Montana. He has also lived in Chicago and Colorado. But, as he will tell you, he will always be *from* Cincinnati and a life-long Reds, Bengals, UC and Ohio State fan.



**Ellen E. Ward**  
[eward@osklaw.com](mailto:eward@osklaw.com)

Ellen E. Ward is an associate of Oade, Stroud & Kleiman, P.C. She is a Super Lawyers Rising Star with a diverse practice, including real estate, business formation and transactions, estate planning, and landlord/tenant. Her clients include entrepreneurs to public utilities. Ms. Ward is a member of the State Bar of California and Michigan. She is also a member of the Ingham County Bar Association and admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan.

Ms. Ward is a graduate of Western State University College of Law (CA) and received her undergraduate degree from Hope College (MI) with a major

in History and dual minors in Business Administration and Political Science. Prior to law school, she worked as a compliance analyst gaining experience with federal banking and lending regulations.

Ms. Ward is active in her community, enjoys volunteering, and has served on the Home Builders Association Toys for Tots committee for eight (8) years. She is the President of Centennial Farms Homeowner's Association and a member of Professional Women in Building as well as a licensed broker. She is excited to now be serving as Co-Chair of the ICBA Real Estate Section.



**Mitchell Zolton**  
[mzolton@fsbrlaw.com](mailto:mzolton@fsbrlaw.com)

Mitchell Zolton is an associate attorney at the law firm Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC in Okemos, Michigan. He is a member of the law firm's growing Business Franchise Group. Since joining the firm in 2020, his practice has primarily focused on commercial and transactional matters, ranging from protecting and enforcing clients' intellectual property to helping clients navigate mergers and acquisitions, wage and hour compliance in the hospitality industry, and develop their franchise systems. On the real estate side, Mr. Zolton regularly advises clients on real estate transactions, reviewing commercial leases, and title issues.

In the summer, he enjoys spending time with his wife Marissa at his family's cottage on Houghton Lake and brewery

hopping in Northern Michigan. As a lifelong and diehard Detroit Lions fan, the summer is always a time of especially high excitement and optimism leading up to NFL season. He and his wife enjoy traveling as much as they can.

Originally from Saginaw, Mr. Zolton moved to East Lansing for law school in 2017 from Grand Rapids, where he lived for five years while obtaining his undergraduate degree in Legal Studies from Grand Valley State University. Mr. Zolton graduated from Michigan State University College of Law *Summa Cum Laude* in Spring, 2020. While at Michigan State, he served as a Notes Editor on the Editorial Board of the Michigan State Law Review, teaching assistant for 1L Torts, and competed on the Trademark Moot Court team.

# The ICBA Real Estate Section

The ICBA Real Estate Section meets monthly, generally on the fourth Friday at Noon, subject to adjustments for holidays (except during Summer and in December). Guest speakers discuss current trends, emerging issues, new caselaw, and practitioner tips related to real estate.

Among the topics upon which we have had recent presentations are:

**The Court-Ordered Special Assessment District – Michigan Inland Lake Levels** by Kyle O’Meara, of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, discussing establishment of normal lake levels under Part 307 of the NREPA and impact on surrounding properties

**Primer on Construction Liens in Michigan** by Aileen Leipprandt, of Hilger Hammond, reviewing the procedures and requirements of obtaining and discharging construction liens under the Michigan Construction Lien Act and the scope of construction liens under the Act

Real Estate & Zoning Challenges for Utility Scale Solar Developments in Michigan by Stephen Estey, Shareholder at Zausmer, discussing the need for and regulatory environment surrounding renewable energy projects, and the challenges facing Michigan’s energy landscape related to renewable energy projects, including land acquisition, ordinance amendments, PA116, and how to handle citizen opposition and “NIMBY” arguments

**The Pay-If-Paid Clause: What It Is, Its Enforcement, and Its Ramifications** by Michael Decker, shareholder at Butzel Long, examining what a pay-if-paid clause is, how it differs from a pay-when-paid clause, how and when it is enforced in Michigan, certain ramifications arising from this language and how to handle those ramifications

**Michigan Marijuana Industry Updates: Trends and Predictions for 2023** by John Fraser and Sam Kilberg, attorneys at Dykema Gossett PLLC, providing an update, generally, on the state of the marijuana market, regulatory updates, and related issues that real estate and transactional practitioners should be aware of in 2023, and

**Family Cottages Succession Planning** by Kellen Kiley, shareholder at Scholten Fant, to review and discuss best practices and important considerations when planning for the succession of that family cottage, with emphases on avoiding uncapping and best vehicles for ownership

For the 2023-2024 Speaker Series the Real Estate Section has tentatively secured speakers on the following issues (subject to availability and scheduling):

**Title Insurance Update for 2023** by Brent Warner, President of Diversified National Title

**Real Estate Purchase Contracts Primer** by Ellen Ward and Leigh Hansman of Oade Stroud & Kleiman, and

**Oil and Gas Update** by Kevin Schumacher, Managing Partner at Glassen Rhead McLean Campbell & Schumacher, and

**Condominium Law Topics** by James Bonfiglio, Owner of the James Bonfilio Law Office and William D Tomblin, Principal of William D Tomblin & Associates

## Emerging Topic In Real Estate

With real estate law touching and intersecting with so many other industries and practice areas, there is always a new topic or *development* (property pun) on the horizon. This ever-shifting landscape is part of what makes real estate such an engaging field of practice. One recent case has caught the Section’s eye for possible examination in the coming 2023-2024 Speaker Series. On June 9, 2023, the Michigan Supreme Court granted leave to appeal a Court of Appeals ruling from September, 2022. The case, *Schafer v. Kent County*, involves a putative class action, wherein property owners have alleged that the County illegally kept surplus proceeds from the sale of their properties following tax foreclosure sales. The issue: whether the Supreme Court’s 2020 ruling in *Rafeali LLC v. Oakland County*, applies retroactively to claims filed *after* the Rafeali decision. In *Rafeali*, the Michigan Supreme Court held that Oakland County’s retention of the “surplus proceeds” from tax foreclosure sales of the plaintiffs’ real property amounted to an unconstitutional taking. In short, the county could not “under the guise of tax collection . . . seize property valued far in excess of the

amount owed in unpaid taxes, penalties, interest, and fees and convert that surplus into a public benefit.” The Court went on to clarify that just compensation for a taking of this nature “is equal to the amount of surplus proceeds generated from the tax-foreclosure sale,” and therefore plaintiff-property owners were entitled to such surplus proceeds. In response, the Michigan Legislature amended the General Property Tax Act (“GPTA”) to provide a statutory process for persons with interests in foreclosed property to claim an interest in the surplus proceeds. In so doing, the Legislature outright stated that, with respect to foreclosure sales occurring before July 18, 2020 (the day after the *Rafaelli* decision), “[a] claim may be made only if the Michigan supreme

court orders that its decision in *Rafaelli, LLC v Oakland County*, docket no. 156849, applies retroactively.” MCL § 211.78t(1)(b)(i).

Enter the *Schafer* case. The Court’s coming decision in *Schafer* could provide persons whose properties were sold before July 18, 2020, the ability to bring claims for any surplus proceeds resulting from such sale against local governments or the State. Notably, the Court will hear arguments in *Schafer* on the same day as *Hathon v State*, also relating to the retroactive application of the *Rafaelli* decision and whether claims for surplus proceeds must be brought under the GPTA’s new statutory mechanism, rather than by class action in the Court of Claims.

## Future Plans

Recently, the Section has also been trying to request copies of all speaking materials (to the extent presenters are willing to share same), so, it can establish a library of source materials for section members. While the Sections currently has only three months of materials, the hope is to build the library every month on an ongoing basis. That way, if a member may recall a particular presentation that is relevant to a legal matter they have, they can contact the Section Co-Chairperson who is the custodian of the library (currently Bill Tomblin), to request copies of presentation slides/materials. We look forward to seeing Section members for the 2023-2024 Speaker Series.



## *Congratulations* to the new President for the Women Lawyer's Association of Michigan, **Susan Chalgian!**

Susan Chalgian is employed at Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices focusing on elder law, estate planning and special needs planning. She is a graduate of Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School and received her undergraduate degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

Ms. Chalgian is an accredited attorney with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. She is a co-author of the ICLE publication, “Advising the Older Client or Client with Disability” and a frequent speaker to both professional audiences and community groups.

In addition, Ms. Chalgian is active on several boards and committees as Treasurer for the Elder Law and Disability Rights Section of the State Bar, Council member for the Probate and Estate Planning Section of the State Bar and Member of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education’s (ICLE) Elder Law Advisory Planning Committee.

On Friday June 2nd, Ms. Chalgian was sworn in by the Board of Directors as President of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.





## 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 Megan Cochrane, a Paralegal at Loomis Law.

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

Ernschie Augustin and Joann M. Schofield are the Co-Chairs for the Probate and Trust Section. The Section holds its in person meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices, PLLC, 1019 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (ZOOM option is available for those who are unable to attend in person). If you plan to attend the meeting in person, please RSVP to Ernschie at [augustin@augustinlawoffices.com](mailto:augustin@augustinlawoffices.com).

Upcoming Meetings:

- TBA

Please join the Section's Facebook Group by searching "ICBA Probate & Trust Law Section" and connect with us on social media. As a way to streamline RSVPs and minimize emails, you can RSVP for the Section meetings via Facebook. Are you feeling generous?

Please consider sponsoring breakfast for our in person meetings. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Joann at 517-377-0894 or email [jschofield@fraserlawfirm.com](mailto:jschofield@fraserlawfirm.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 Chair Lynn Osborne for details.

To RSVP for meetings, contact Lynn Osborne at [lynnosbornepc@gmail.com](mailto:lynnosbornepc@gmail.com).



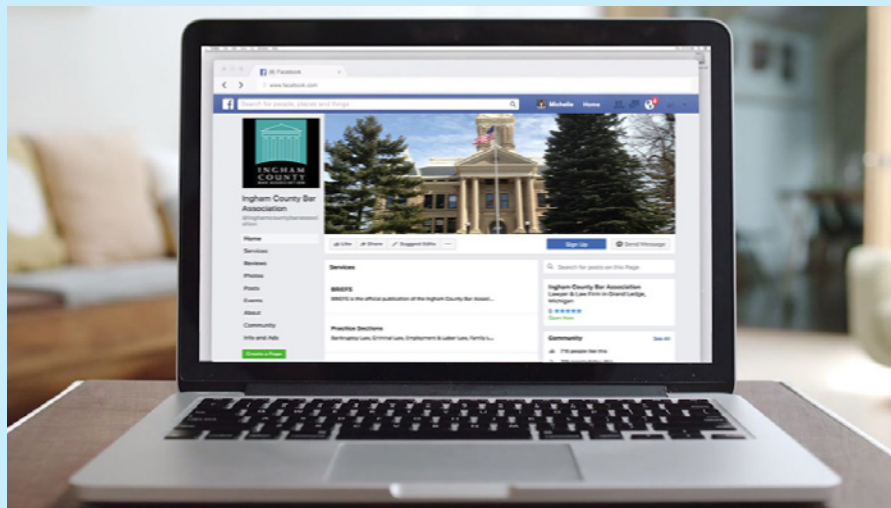
# ICBA Sponsorship Opportunities

For more than 120 years, the Ingham County Bar Association has continued its tradition of service to the legal profession and the greater Lansing community. As part of its longstanding commitment to the profession, the ICBA hosts events throughout the year that are educational and entertaining, in addition to networking opportunities for members. These events are made possible by the generous support of ICBA members.

One way for members to support the ICBA is through its annual sponsorship packages. The ICBA now offers a program that focuses on the increasing importance of social media marketing.

Law firms have the opportunity for their Facebook posts to be “shared” on the ICBA’s Facebook page. This means a law firm’s Facebook content will be seen by a larger audience, including ICBA members and those with whom ICBA has a relationship, thereby giving the law firm a greater presence throughout the legal community.

For more information on ICBA sponsorship opportunities, click the links below.



[2022-2023 Firm/Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities](#)  
[2022-2023 Vendor Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



## ICBA Membership Scholarship Application

ICBA may offer scholarships to prospective members who may be experiencing a hardship and cannot pay the standard rates to be an active member of the Bar.

Recipients will remain anonymous. It is up to the discretion of the ICBA President to grant scholarships, but it can only be approved on an annual basis (i.e. this is not a benefit that automatically renews year-to-year).

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

## Lawyer Referral Application

Please take note that the Ingham County Bar Association does not do Lawyer Referrals. If you need to use this service provided by the State Bar of Michigan, please call them at [\(800\) 968-0738](tel:8009680738) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to speak with a lawyer referral representative or you can use the links below.

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





Thanks for reading

# BRIEFS



## Welcome Summer!

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

Next issue: ICBA Leaders



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