

# 2024 Ingham County Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference

February 3, 2024  
Veterans Memorial Courthouse  
313 W. Kalamazoo

\*Casual attire recommended

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**8:00 – 8:15 a.m.**                      **Meet the Judges Continental Breakfast**

**8:15 – 8:30 a.m.**                      **Welcome and Opening Remarks** (*Jury Assembly Room*)  
Hon. Shauna L. Dunnings, *Ingham County Probate Court*  
and Mary A. Bowen, *Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission*

**8:40 – 9:40 a.m.**                      **Breakout Sessions I**

**1. General Civil/Injury/No-Fault** (*Hon. Cole Courtroom #6 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*)

**Speakers:** Stephen H. Sinas, *Sinas Dramis Law Firm*  
Eric Conn, *Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC*

**Description:** Auto No-Fault Update  
Non-Compete Agreements

**2. Criminal Law Update –** (*Hon. Jamo Courtroom #7, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*)

**Speakers:** Hon. James S. Jamo, *30th Circuit Court*  
Hon. Richard L. Hillman, *55th District Court*  
Hon. Kristen D. Simmons, *54A District Court*  
Hon. Lisa L. Babcock, *54B District Court*

**Moderator:** Christopher B. Wickman, *Nichols Law Firm*

**Description:** The last few years have brought about systemic changes in the criminal justice system. Hear from a panel of the bench in district and court courts on their views on how these changes have affected their current views on bond, presumptions against incarceration or probation, and the use of marijuana while on bond/probation. Panelists will also be asked for any advice they have with regards to sentencing preparation and presentation as well as for general advice for criminal law practitioners appearing before them.

**9:50 – 10:50 a.m.**

**Breakout Sessions II**

**1. Public Interest/Non-Profit Session** (*Hon. Cole Courtroom #6 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*)

**Speakers:** Stephen Milks, *Ingham County Public Defender's Office*

Elaine Barr, *Legal Services of South Central Michigan*

Nicole Matusko, *Ingham County Prosecutor's Office*

**Moderator:** Nolan Erickson, *Grewal Law PLLC*

**Description:** The Value of Public Service Work

**2. Family/Probate Law** (*Hon. Jamo Courtroom #7, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*)

**Speaker:** Referee Barbara B. Herdus, *Ingham County Friend of the Court*

Robert J. Hotchkiss, *Ingham County Friend of the Court*

**Description:** The Intersection Between N/A Cases And Domestic Relations Cases  
FOC DO's and DON'T's

**11:00 – 11:40 a.m.**

**Mental Health and Wellness Session** (*Jury Assembly Room*)

**Speakers:** Julie Dillon, *Be Balanced Wellness Studio*

**Description:** Movement and breathing exercises to reduce stress

**11:40 – 12:30 p.m.**

**Ask the Judges** (*Jury Assembly Room*)

**Panelists:** Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina, *30th Circuit Court*

Hon. Lisa L. Babcock, *54B District Court*

Hon. Stacia Buchanan, *54A District Court*

Hon. Shauna L. Dunnings, *Ingham County Probate court*

Hon. Anthony Flores, *54A District Court*

Hon. Molly Hennessey Greenwalt, *54B District Court*

Hon. Richard L. Hillman, *55th District Court*

Hon. James S. Jamo, *30th Circuit Court*

Hon. Lisa K. McCormick, *30th Circuit Court*

Hon. Kristen D. Simmons, *54A District Court*

**Moderator:** Heather Sumner, *Rosati Schultz Joppich Amtsbuechler*

**Description:** Practice Tips and Helpful Hints for Practitioners