

2022 Ingham County Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference

March 19, 2022

Veterans Memorial Courthouse

313 W. Kalamazoo

*Casual attire recommended

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. Joyce Draganchuk, Chief Judge, 30th Circuit Court and
Lindsay Dangel, Murphy & Spagnuolo PC

8:40 – 9:40 a.m.

Breakout Sessions I

1. No Fault Update (Chief Judge Draganchuk Courtroom #8, 3rd floor)

Speakers: Hon. Wanda Stokes, 30th Circuit Court and Stephen Sinas, Sinas
Dramis Law Firm

Description: Confused about what is going with the Michigan Auto No-Fault Law following the 2019 changes? This session will try to make sense of the current state of the law and what it means for litigants in both first-party PIP cases and auto negligence cases.

2. Family/Probate Law (Hon. Canady Courtroom #6, 3rd floor)

Speakers: Hon. Shauna Dunnings, 30th Circuit Court, Chief Probate and
Chief Circuit Judge Pro Tempore
Morgan Cole, Referee, Probate Register/Court Administrator
Ingham County Probate Court

Larissa Zubac, Attorney Referee, Ingham County Friend of the Court and Robert
Hotchkiss, Assistant Friend of the Court, Ingham County Friend of the Court

Description: Update on numerous issues facing practitioners in the family and probate courts including new Ingham County Probate Court processing and procedures, new proposed legislation about guardianships/conservatorships, court rule changes regarding Protecting Personally Identifying Information, and issues with UIFSA and the UCCJEA.

3. Criminal Law Update – (Hon. Jamo Courtroom #7, 3rd floor)

Speakers: Hon. Molly Hennessey Greenwalt, 54B District Court
Hon. Stacia Buchanan, 54A District Court
Hon. Rosemarie Aquilina, 30th Circuit Court
Hon. Donald Allen, Jr., 55th District Court

Description: 2021 brought the implementation of multiple important criminal law reforms that were passed by the Michigan legislature in 2020. Hear from district court judges from each district court and a circuit court judge discuss how these changes have changed their view from the bench and what information they consider in making their decisions.

9:50 – 10:50 a.m. *Breakout Sessions II*

1. Civil/Business Law Update (Chief Judge. Draganchuk Courtroom #8, 3rd floor)

Speakers: Hon. Joyce Draganchuk, Chief Judge, 30th Circuit Court,
Kevin Roragen, Clark Hill PLC
Brandon Schumacher, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC

Description: Don't Let Yourself Be Muted: New Zoom Court Rules. Speakers will provide advice on the use of Zoom for court proceedings —The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly.

2. Appellate Law Session (Hon. Canady Courtroom #6 3rd floor)

Speakers: Hon. Michelle Rick, Michigan Court of Appeals - District 4
Hon. Michael Gadola, Michigan Court of Appeals - District 4
Jessica Zimbelman, State Appellate Defender Office

Description: Judges will cover the “Do’s and Don’ts of Appellate Law.”

11:00 – 11:40 a.m. *Mental Health and Wellness Session (Jury Assembly Room)*

Speakers: Eneziah Walters, Clinical Social Work/Therapist, LMSW and Thomas Grden.

Description: Since our last Bench Bar Conference on February 1, 2020, the world has been shaped by a global pandemic. With our professional and personal lives turned upside down, many individuals have faced increased strain to our mental health. This session will talk about ways that individuals in the legal field can successfully manage work and other obligations in life in a healthy manner and discuss resources that the State Bar of Michigan has for helping to manage our mental health.

11:40 – 12:30 p.m.

Ask the Judges (Jury Assembly Room)

Moderators: Jessica Zimbelman, State Appellate Defender Office and
Heather Sumner, Office of the Lansing City Attorney

Panelists: Hon. Rosemaire Aquilina, 30th Circuit Court
Hon. Stacia Buchanan, 54-A District Court
Chief Judge Joyce Draganchuk, Ingham County 30th Circuit Court
Chief Judge Shauna Dunning, Ingham County Probate Court,
Hon. Michael Gadola, Michigan Court of Appeals
Hon. Molly Hennessey Greenwalt, 54-B District Court,
Hon. Richard Hillman, 55th District Court
Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Michigan Court of Appeals
Hon. Wanda Stokes, 30th Circuit Court
Hon. Michelle Rick, Michigan Court of Appeals - District 4
Hon. Cynthia Ward, 54-A District Court

Description: Panel of judges and lawyers will identify positive aspects of the bench-bar relationship and discuss how to avoid discord. Questions may include expert evidence, sanctions, discovery abuses, courthouse security, Zoom court, civility, and other issues.