

Foundation

Michigan State Bar Foundation

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News



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUNDATION WELCOMES 48 NEW FELLOWS AND ELECTS OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

At its 2011 Annual Meeting, the Michigan State Bar Foundation elected Officers and Trustees for 2011-2012 year:



Margaret J. Nichols was elected President of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. She is a shareholder in the Ann Arbor firm of Nichols, Sacks, Slank, Sendelbach & Buiteweg PC. Ms. Nichols is also a board member of the National Association of IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) Programs, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a charter member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Michigan. Ms. Nichols is a past recipient of the Michael Franck Award for outstanding contributions to the legal profession.



Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh of St. Joseph was elected Vice President. Judge Butzbaugh is Chief Judge of the Berrien County Trial Court. He is Chair of the Foundation's Legal Services Grants Committee which manages the Foundation's largest grant program. Judge Butzbaugh was instrumental in the creation of the Access to Justice Campaign during his 1999-2000 presidency of the State Bar of Michigan and is a past recipient of the State Bar's highest honor, the Roberts P. Hudson Award.



Lamont E. Buffington was elected as Treasurer. Of counsel to the Detroit firm of Garan, Lucow, Miller, PC., Mr. Buffington chairs the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee and is a member of its Legal Services Grants Committee. Mr. Buffington has held professional memberships in several state, national and international defense trial associations. He is a former commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan and has been a panelist for the Attorney Grievance Commission.



Stefani A. Carter was elected Secretary. Ms. Carter, of Stefani A. Carter Law, Ann Arbor, is a member of the Foundation's Finance and Audit and Legal Services Grant Committees. Ms. Carter is also past president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association. She has also been an active member of the Washtenaw County Trial Lawyers Association, Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association and the Litigation Advisory Board of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.



Linda K. Rexer was elected Foundation Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Ms. Rexer has been Executive Director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation since 1987. She is past President of the National Association of IOLTA Programs, past Trustee of the National Conference of Bar Foundations and has served on the ABA Commission on IOLTA. She is a past recipient of the State Bar's Michael Franck Award, was a founding member of the State Bar's Access to Justice Task Force and currently Co-Chairs Michigan's Solutions on Self-Help Task Force.

Other Trustees elected to three-year terms on the Board of Trustees include: **Thomas W. Cranmer**, Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC, Troy; **Peter H. Ellsworth**, Dickinson Wright PLLC, Lansing; **Julie I. Fershtman**, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, Farmington Hills; **Hon. Victoria A. Roberts**, U.S. District Judge, Federal Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit; and **Richard A. Soble**, Soble Rowe Krichbaum, Ann Arbor.

Other Foundation Trustees include: **Michael G. Harrison**, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, Lansing; **Hon. Harold Hood**, Detroit; **E. Christopher Johnson, Jr.**, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills; **Hon. William B. Murphy**, Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids; **H. Rhett Pinsky**, Pinsky Smith Fayette & Kennedy LLP, Grand Rapids and **Richard K. Rappleye**, The Kresge Foundation, Troy. Ex-Officio Trustees include **Hon. Robert P. Young, Jr.**, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court; **Bruce A. Courtade**, President-Elect, State Bar of Michigan. **Hon. Marilyn Kelly** is the Michigan Supreme Court liaison to the Foundation.

The Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation elected the following officers at their September 2011 annual meeting:



Charles R. Rutherford was elected Fellows Chairperson. Mr. Rutherford was a Founder of the Fellows Program and is a former President and Trustee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. In 2006, Mr. Rutherford received the Foundation's highest award, the Founders Award. He served as Chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Senior Lawyer's Section and was recipient of the Section's inaugural Charles R. Rutherford Award. Mr. Rutherford retired in 2010 from Dykema Gossett where he specialized in intellectual property law.



Honorable Wendy L. Potts was elected Fellows Vice-Chairperson. Judge Potts is a 6th Circuit Court judge in Oakland County where she served as Chief Judge for five years. She is a past Trustee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation and of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. She was also a Chancellor of American Inn of Court and member of Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions.



Edward H. Pappas was elected Fellows Secretary. Mr. Pappas was a former member of the State Bar's Board of Commissioners and was President of the State Bar of Michigan from 2008-2009. Mr. Pappas was Co-Chair of the State Bar's Judicial Crossroad's Task Force. He also served as past President and as a board member of Oakland County Bar Association where he received the Distinguished Service Award and Professionalism Award. Mr. Pappas is Chairman and Member of Dickinson Wright in Troy.

Additionally, the Michigan State Bar Foundation elected 48 Michigan lawyers as new Fellows (see list below), bringing the total number of Fellows elected to date to 1,402. Membership in the Fellows may not exceed 5 percent of the total active membership of the State Bar.

"Congratulations to our new Fellows who were chosen for their professional excellence and community service," said Fellows Chairperson, Charles R. Rutherford of Grosse Pointe. "Without the contributions of the Fellows, many of the Foundation's public service programs would not be possible," said Foundation President Margaret J. Nichols of Ann Arbor.

The Foundation, a tax-exempt charitable organization, was established by lawyers and judges in 1947 to fund worthy programs that advance the administration of justice, promote public understanding of the legal system or further the delivery of legal services to the poor. More information on the Foundation or the Fellows can be found at www.msbf.org.

2011 New Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation

Hon. Donald L. Allen Jr., Mason	Sandra Schultz Mengel, Grosse Pte Park
Charles F. Behler, Grand Rapids	Regina L. Meo, Sterling Heights
Carl L. Bekofske , Flint	Paul L. Mitchell, Grand Rapids
Rhonda R. Brazile, Detroit	Philip M. Moilanen, Jackson
Thomas P. Bruetsch, Detroit	Heidi A. Naasko, Ann Arbor
John J. Bursch, Lansing	Johanna M. Novak, Marquette
David E. Christensen, Farmington Hills	Kevin J. O'Dowd, Grand Rapids
Pamela J. Cross, Grand Rapids	Mark B. Periard, Grand Rapids
Hon. Paul J. Denenfeld, Grand Rapids	Salvatore W. Pirrotta, Grand Rapids
Charles M. Denton, Grand Rapids	James J. Rabaut, Grand Rapids
Timothy J. Dlugos, Okemos	Kenneth A. Rathert, Kalamazoo
James A. Fink, Ann Arbor	Jesse M. Reiter, Bloomfield Hills
Todd M. Gambrell, Midland	Wayne D. Roberts, Grand Rapids
M. Sheila Garin, Pontiac	James R. Saalfeld, Grand Rapids
Stephen J. Gobbo, Lansing	Vivek S. Sankaran, Ann Arbor
Ronald F. Graham, Bloomfield Hills	Anne M. Seurnyck, Grand Rapids
Craig E. Hilborn, Birmingham	Jack A. Siebers, Holland
Suzanne K. Hollyer, Pontiac	Rebecca Simkins, Detorit
Katherine Kakish, Detroit	Paul C. Smith, Royal Oak
Mara Elena Kent, Ann Arbor	Judith A. Susskind, Southfield
Aileen M. Leipprandt, Grand Rapids	Jennifer B. Van Regenmorter, Holland
Steven W. Martineau, Mount Pleasant	Lynwood P. Vanden Bosch, Grand Rapids
Douglas G. McClure, Ann Arbor	Rock A. Wood, Grand Rapids
Ralph E. McDowell, Detroit	Paula A. Zimmer, Southfield