

Foundation News

Michigan State Bar Foundation



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FOUNDATION PRESENTS AWARD, ELECTS FELLOWS OFFICERS AND WELCOMES NEW FELLOWS

The Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation elected the following officers at their September 2006 annual meeting: **Honorable Julian A. Cook, Jr.**, Senior Judge in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, as Chairperson; **Honorable Hilda R. Gage** of Bloomfield Hills, as Vice-Chair; and **Charles R. Rutherford**, Of Counsel at Dykema Gossett, PLLC, in Bloomfield Hills, as Secretary.

The Foundation Fellows are a distinguished group of attorneys selected for their outstanding professional contributions and devotion to their community. Fellows membership cannot exceed 5% of the membership of the State Bar of Michigan. In 1984, thirty-two leading lawyers founded the Fellows to sustain leadership and financial support for the Foundation and its charitable programs. Today, more than 1,200 attorneys and judges are Fellows, and their contributions to support the Foundation's charitable work total over \$1.2 million. Without the Fellows leadership and financial support, much of the Foundation's public service would not be possible. See more about the Foundation's programs at www.msbf.org.

Fellows secretary **Charles R. Rutherford** was also honored with the Foundation's 2006 Founders Award which recognizes a lawyer who exemplifies professional excellence and has made significant community contributions. The award has only been given twice before, to Dennis Archer and Wallace Riley. In presenting the award on behalf of the Foundation, Michigan Supreme Court **Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor** said the previous Founders award winners were "tough acts to follow...But Charlie Rutherford is a fitting addition to this illustrious company" and "there is no better choice than Charlie for this honor."

Foundation President **Margaret J. Nichols** said, "There isn't a person among the Foundation's past or present leadership who thinks the Foundation could have grown to its present status without [Charlie Rutherford's] leadership." Upon receiving the award, Mr. Rutherford thanked the Foundation for the honor. He also expressed gratitude to the legal profession for the many opportunities provided him in nearly 50 years of practicing law and particularly thanked a number of lawyers and judges for assistance to him and his family in the past year.

The award recognizes all of Mr. Rutherford's professional and community contributions including: Foundation Trustee for over 27 years (including past President and a founder of the Fellows Program); three decades of reserve military service, retiring in 1984 as Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate Department; past president of the Federal Bar Association (Michigan Chapter), as well as the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Alumni Association and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Alumni Board; trustee of the Detroit Rotary Club and Legal Aid and Defender Association; trustee of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society; and past chair of the State Bar's Senior Lawyer's Section, from which he received the inaugural Charles R. Rutherford Senior Lawyers Leadership Award in 2004. Mr. Rutherford is currently Of Counsel at Dykema Gossett, PLLC, specializing in intellectual property law.

Additionally, the following attorneys were elected new Fellows members in 2006:

Deborah G. Adams, Okemos; **Harold Kirby Albright**, Lansing; **Gary K. August**, Farmington Hills; **James V. Bellanca Jr.**, Harper Woods; **Terrence G. Berg**, Detroit; **Naldo Bucci**, Wixom; **Steven E. Chester**, Lansing; **Lisa Sewell Demoss**, Detroit; **Sue Ellen Eisenberg**, Bloomfield Hills; **Kiffi Y. Ford**, Lansing; **Timothy T. Fryhoff**, Bloomfield Hills; **Robert C. Gardella**, Brighton; **Douglas Hamel**, Southgate; **Kevin S. Hendrick**, Detroit; **R. Craig Hupp**, Detroit; **Frank W. Jackson**, Detroit; **Elizabeth Moehle Johnson**, Plymouth; **Nicole Y. Lamb-Hale**, Detroit; **Leslie Anne Logan**, Bloomfield Hills; **Joan H. Lowenstein**, Ann Arbor; **Michael A. Macdonald**, Grand Rapids; **Mona K. Majzoub**, Detroit; **Margaret A. McCrystal**, Allendale; **Susan G. Meyers**, Grand Rapids; **John F. Mills**, Birmingham; **Hon. James Robert Redford**, Grand Rapids; **Julie H. Reincke**, Eaton Rapids; **Richard A. Roane**, Grand Rapids; **Ann L. Routt**, Ann Arbor; **Margaret F. Schweitzer**, Ann Arbor; **Richard J. Suhrheinrich**, Okemos; **Kathryn R. Swedlow**, Lansing; **Norris J. Thomas Jr.**, Detroit; **Thomas H. Thornhill**, Muskegon; **Jalae A. Ulicki**, East Lansing; **Hon. R. Steven Whalen**, Detroit; and **Avery K. Williams**, Detroit.



Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor presents the Michigan State Bar Foundation Founder's Award to Charles R. Rutherford for "exemplifying the highest traditions of the legal profession and devoted service to community."

Photo: Michael M. Smith/State Bar of Michigan