

Foundation News

Michigan State Bar Foundation



Funding and Leadership for Justice Since 1947

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2006

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Michigan State Bar Foundation Elects 2006-2007 Officers and Trustees

At its annual meeting on September 13th, 2006, the Michigan State Bar Foundation elected Officers and Trustees for 2006-2007, its 60th year. The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation, was founded in 1947 by Michigan judges and lawyers to support law-related charitable programs. Since its inception, the Foundation has made over 600 grants totaling nearly \$84 million dollars to improve the administration of justice, advance public understanding of the law, promote peaceful conflict resolution and support the delivery of civil legal services to the poor. See www.msbf.org for more information.



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 was recently appointed to the Board for the National Association of IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) Programs after serving two appointed terms on the ABA Commission on IOLTA, is a Fellow with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a charter member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Michigan. In 2002, Ms. Nichols received the esteemed Michael Franck Award for outstanding contributions to the profession.



Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh of St. Joseph was elected to a new term as Trustee and to the office of Vice-President. Judge Butzbaugh serves in the Berrien County Trial Court and is Chair of the Legal Services Grants Committee which manages the Foundation's largest grant program distributing more than 8 million dollars annually to support civil legal aid for low-income Michigan families. Judge Butzbaugh spearheaded 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 of Michigan's Roberts P. Hudson award.



Lamont E. Buffington, a senior shareholder in the Detroit firm of Garan, Lucow, Miller was elected Treasurer. Mr. Buffington chairs the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee and is a long standing member of the Foundation's Legal Services Grants Committee. Buffington holds professional memberships in several state, national and international defense trial associations, is a former commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan and has served as a panelist on the Attorney Discipline and Grievance Committee.



Stefani A. Carter, a principal partner at Hamilton, McDonald & Carter, P.C. in Ann Arbor, has been elected as Secretary. Ms. Carter is a member of both the Finance and Audit and Legal Services Grant Committees. Ms. Carter is an active member of the Washtenaw County Trial Lawyers Association, Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association and a member of the Litigation Advisory Board of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Ms. Carter is also a past president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association and former commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan.

Other trustees elected to new terms on the Foundation's Board of Trustees include: **Michael G. Harrison**, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC, Lansing; **Hon. William B. Murphy**, Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids; **Jon R. Muth**, Miller Johnson, Grand Rapids; and **Richard K. Rappleye**, The Kresge Foundation, Troy; **Linda K. Rexer**, Executive Director of the Foundation was also elected Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Additional Foundation trustees include: **Peter H. Ellsworth**, Dickinson Wright, PLLC, Lansing; **Julie I. Fershtman**, Zausmer, Kaufmann, August & Caldwell PC., Farmington Hills; **Hon. Harold Hood**, Detroit; **Jon H. Kingsepp**, Rochester; **Hon. Wendy L. Potts**, Chief Judge, 6th Circuit Court, Pontiac; **Hon. Victoria A. Roberts**, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit; and **Richard Soble**, Soble Rowe Krichbaum, Ann Arbor. Ex-Officio Trustees include the **Hon. Clifford W. Taylor**, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court; **Kimberly M. Cahill**, President, State Bar of Michigan, and, **Ronald D. Keefe**, President-Elect, State Bar of Michigan.