



**2018 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS**

Presented by:

Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh
President

71st Annual Members Meeting
September 26, 2018, 2:00 p.m.
Amway Grand Plaza
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION
2017-2018 TRUSTEES**



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**MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION
FELLOWS OFFICERS AND FOUNDERS**



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Michigan State Bar Foundation

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Michigan State Bar Foundation
President's 2018 Report to the Members
Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh, President

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to provide this 2018 report to you. The Foundation's mission is to provide leadership and grants to improve access for all to the justice system, including support for civil legal aid to the poor, law-related education, and conflict resolution.

Since its inception in 1947, the Michigan State Bar Foundation has made 2,202 grants totaling more than \$215 million. Nonprofit legal aid programs receive the largest share of the Foundation's grants to assure access to justice for all. The Foundation also supports programs that improve the administration of justice by educating children and adults about their legal rights and responsibilities, the justice system and opportunities to resolve conflicts outside the courtroom.

During the last year, the Foundation grants and projects described in this report have made a meaningful difference for low-income families and the justice system.

FOUNDATION AWARDS

The Michigan State Bar Foundation is honored to give two awards this year. These award recipients represent the highest traditions of the legal profession through their dedication to their profession, their community and to access to justice.

FOUNDERS AWARD - Thomas W. Linn

The Founders Award recognizes lawyers who exemplify professional excellence and outstanding community contributions.

Mr. Linn has provided significant leadership to ensure that everyone, regardless of income, receives access to justice. As chairman emeritus of Miller Canfield, he has instilled a culture of pro bono throughout the firm. He has been a frequent volunteer in various legal service clinics sponsored by Lakeshore Legal Aid, the Capuchins and others, and has provided more than 200 hours per year for many years. Mr. Linn exemplifies the Founders Award criteria of professional excellence and outstanding community contributions.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD - Lorry S.C. Brown

The Access to Justice Award honors persons who have significantly advanced access to justice for the poor in Michigan.

Ms. Brown is an extremely devoted, passionate and knowledgeable consumer advocate. Ms. Brown has devoted her career to helping vulnerable consumers and homeowners. Ms. Brown has been the consumer law specialist at the Michigan Poverty Law Program since 2001 and serves as Co-Director of the Michigan Statewide Advocacy Services. Ms. Brown has provided leadership and has served as the Director of the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Program ("MFPP") since inception in 2009. Ms. Brown embodies the leadership and contribution this award recognizes through her dedication to ensuring access to justice to the poor in Michigan.

FUNDING SOURCES

IOLTA and FILING FEES

The IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) program was adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court in 1990. Under IOLTA, the Foundation receives interest on lawyers' pooled trust accounts which hold client funds that are too small in amount or held for such a brief period to generate net interest over costs to benefit the client. Many Michigan banks help provide more revenue for the Foundation's public interest grants by waiving fees on IOLTA accounts.

IOLTA provides revenue designated by the Michigan Supreme Court for public purposes, with seventy percent (70%) of net IOLTA proceeds allocated for civil legal aid to the poor. In addition, 15% of net IOLTA funds are allocated for improvements in the administration of justice (AOJ). The Foundation also administers Filing Fees Funds.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



The Access to Justice Campaign is a collaborative centralized campaign, administered by the Michigan State Bar Foundation in partnership with the State Bar of Michigan, to increase resources for fifteen regional and statewide civil legal aid programs in Michigan. The Access to Justice Fund has received more than \$17.5 million in contributions and pledges since its inception in 1997. The MSBF has worked closely with participating programs and leaders in the legal community to develop new campaign policies and seek opportunities to expand the ATJ Fund.

Contributions to the ATJ Fund help ensure fairness in the justice system for those living in poverty. For information about how to support the ATJ Fund, see www.atjfund.org.

FELLOWS PROGRAM



Since the Fellows program was established in 1984, Fellows have contributed more than \$1.9 million to support the Foundation's law-related public service programs. Without contributions and leadership from the Fellows, many activities described in this report would not be possible.

Almost 1,500 distinguished Michigan lawyers and judges are currently Foundation Fellows. They are elected for their professional excellence and community contributions. This year, the Fellows welcomed the following 25 attorneys:

- Mary B. Cobbs, Detroit
- Timothy J. Dardas, East Lansing
- Daniel J. Ferris, Detroit
- Katherine A. Gustafson, Riverview, Florida
- Clifford L. Hammond, Southfield
- Troy L. Harris, Detroit
- Elizabeth A. Hohausser, Southfield
- Mindi M. Johnson, Grand Rapids
- Michael S. Khoury, Bingham Farms
- Michael J. Liddane, Southfield, MI
- Keri L. Middleditch Wigod, Birmingham
- Robert J. Morad, Birmingham
- Laura C. Musachio, Lansing
- Melissa L. Neckers, Grand Rapids
- Megan P. Norris, Detroit
- Jonathan E. Osgood, Dearborn
- Michael L. Pitt, Royal Oak
- Roshunda L. Price, Troy
- Wendolyn W. Richards, Grosse Pointe
- Joshua K. Richardson, Lansing
- Alyson L. Robbins, Ann Arbor
- Emily S. Ross, Troy
- Khalilah V. Spencer, West Bloomfield
- Mary J. Swift, Marquette
- Marcy A. Tayler, Detroit

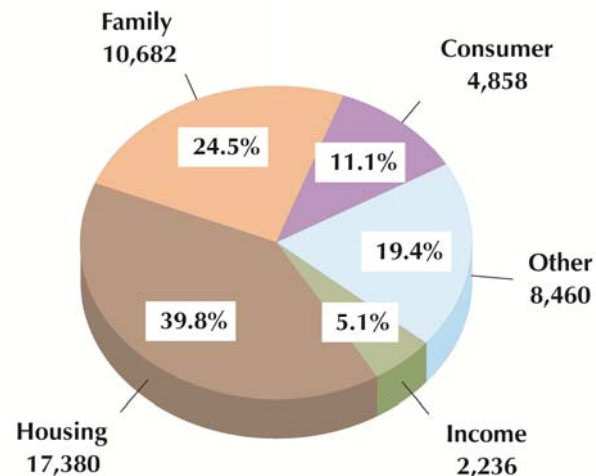
GRANT PROGRAMS

The Foundation's two major grant programs are: 1) support for civil legal services to the poor and 2) improvements in the administration of justice. During the last year, the Foundation made annual grants of \$7,502,830 for nonprofit civil legal aid agencies. Detailed descriptions of the Foundation's grant programs, application forms, criteria and other information can be found at msbf.org.

LEGAL SERVICES GRANTS

Supporting civil legal aid for the poor is the Foundation's largest grant program. Five statewide programs and seven regional programs received annual legal services grants to support the delivery of civil legal services to the poor.

This year, legal aid offices funded by the Foundation helped over 43,000 low-income families in Michigan.



Also, working with the State Bar and local bars, legal aid programs have recruited and supported pro bono attorneys who gave 32,485 hours of free legal help last year to educate and serve low-income families. Legal aid helps individuals trapped in abusive

relationships, veterans denied benefits, older adults and families facing wrongful evictions or foreclosures.

Legal aid offices provide a full range of legal assistance from advice to full representation in court. Some legal problems can be prevented by informing clients of their legal rights and responsibilities. Talking with an attorney about a problem before action is taken often helps prevent the legal problem from getting worse.

Legal aid achieves positive results for the families they are able to assist. Following is one example of a client that was helped by one of the Michigan State Bar Foundation's grantees:



A single mother with an eight-year-old son called legal aid for help. She was receiving temporary cash assistance while striving to complete post-secondary training so that she could find a better paying job to support her family. She was terminated from cash assistance during a required unpaid internship program. Legal aid successfully challenged the termination. Ms. Brown was able to complete her degree program, is now employed, and no longer receives cash assistance.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANTS

In the last decade, the Foundation has distributed almost \$2.2 million in Administration of Justice Grants for projects that improve the administration of justice through law-related education, conflict resolution, or assisting the delivery of civil legal aid to the poor. The Foundation's Administration of Justice (AOJ) grants provide funding for innovative ideas and are often project based grants.

Receiving an AOJ grant often creates opportunities for recipient organizations to obtain additional or matching funding from other sources. Also, AOJ grantees may work together as a result of Foundation grant conditions encouraging collaborative efforts. Many partnerships forged while working together on AOJ grant projects have lasted long after the project was finished.

This year, the Foundation provided funding for the following AOJ grants:

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and partnering with the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan was awarded up to \$16,438 toward the cost of the creation of a Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic.

Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center received funding up to \$ 2,500 to cover the cost of the electronic appointment, schedule and reminder system for those involved in the Community Court Program.

This year, the Foundation also awarded or distributed the following funds:

Michael Franck Fund for Professional Responsibility: The State Bar of Michigan was awarded a grant from the Michael Franck Fund for up to \$3,000 toward the cost of the 2018 Statewide Civility Summit. The purpose

of the summit is to engage a broad array of State Bar members and other interested people to examine civility issues in the profession, the practice, the courthouse, the business community, and in daily interactions with all. The summit is planned for October, 2018.

Michigan Legal Help received \$450,000 to support ongoing operations and expansion of a user-friendly interactive website and a number of affiliated local self-help centers.

For more information about the Foundation, please visit the Foundation's redesigned website at msbf.org.

If you would like to donate to the Access to Justice Fund, please go to: atjfund.org to make an online donation.

THANK YOU.

Michigan State Bar Foundation

2018 Legal Services Grants

Statewide Programs

- Michigan Indian Legal Services
- Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
- Michigan Poverty Law Program
- Elder Law of Michigan

- Statewide
- Statewide
- Statewide
- Statewide

Geographically-Based Programs

- Center for Civil Justice
- Lakeshore Legal Aid
- Legal Services of Eastern Michigan
- Legal Aid of Western Michigan
- Legal Services of Northern Michigan
- Michigan Advocacy Program /Legal Services of South Central Michigan
- Michigan Legal Services

- Eastern (E)
- Eastern/Metro (E/M)
- Eastern(E)
- Western (W)
- Northern (N)
- Southcentral (S)
- Metro



MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION PRESIDENTS

Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh	2016 - Present	*Mary H. Zimmerman	1972 - 1974
Margaret J. Nichols	2000 - 2016	*Henry L. Woolfenden	1968 - 1972
*Michael G. Harrison	1991 - 2000	*Fred Roland Allaben	1954 - 1968
Charles R. Rutherford	1985 - 1991	*Philip A. Hart	1952 - 1954
Norman Otto Stockmeyer, Jr.	1982 - 1985	*Glenn C. Gillespie	1947 - 1952
*Wallace D. Riley	1974 - 1982		

CHAIRS OF THE FELLOWS OF THE MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION

Charles R. Rutherford	2011 - Present	*Stephen C. Brandsdorfer	1987 - 1989
*Hon. Julian A. Cook, Jr.	1993 - 2011	John A. Krsul, Jr.	1986 - 1987
Julia D. Darlow	1992 - 1993	Joseph L. Hardig, Jr.	1984 - 1986
*Joel M. Boyden	1989 - 1992		

FOUNDERS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Thomas Linn	2018	Hon. Avern L. Cohn	2009
Linda K. Rexer	2017	Patrick J. Bruetsch	2008
George Googasian	2016	*Kimberly M. Cahill	2008
Jon Muth	2016	*Hon. Julian A. Cook, Jr.	2007
*Hon. Harold Hood	2015	Charles R. Rutherford	2006
*Hon. Hilda Gage	2014	*Wallace D. Riley	2005
*John W. Cummiskey	2010	Dennis W. Archer	2004

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lorray SC Brown	2018	*Holli J. Wallace	2014
Ari Scharg and Edelson PC	2017	Hon. Chad C. Schmucker	2013
Angela Tripp and Michigan Legal Help	2017	Candace Crowley	2012
Marilyn Mullane	2015	Robert F. Gillett	2011
*Michael C. Chielens	2014		

*Deceased

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MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION

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