

MICHIGAN  
STATE BAR  
FOUNDATION **MSBF**

*years*

INVESTING IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**SPECIAL EDITION**

1947 – 2021

# MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION **MSBF**



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### Our Mission:

The Michigan State Bar Foundation provides 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.

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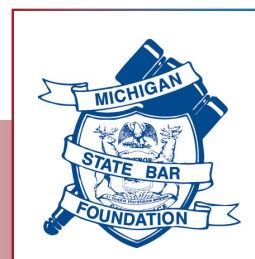
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Dear Fellows, Friends and Colleagues,

The Michigan State Bar Foundation is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. We are pleased to present our Special Edition Anniversary Report. We hope you enjoy the highlights from the Foundation's history and the pictures of prior award recipients, staff, board members and leaders from the legal community who have provided visionary leadership to improve the civil justice system and expand access to justice.

Since its inception in 1947, the Michigan State Bar Foundation has made more than 2,322 grants totaling more than \$255 million. Nonprofit civil legal aid programs, receive the largest share and annual grants from the Foundation. The Foundation has also provided funding for innovative and collaborative projects throughout the state, some of which are highlighted in this report. Since 2020, the Foundation has experienced significant growth, administering stimulus funding to meet the needs generated from the pandemic, while continuing to focus on increasing IOLTA revenue and Access to Justice Campaign donations, so that there is ongoing sustainable funding for nonprofit civil legal aid programs.

Over the past 75 years, the Foundation also has provided leadership and partnered with the State Bar of Michigan, the Michigan Supreme Court, civil legal aid organizations and other stakeholders to improve the civil justice system for all. These partnerships continue and currently, the Foundation is part of the leadership team for the Justice for All Commission and the Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Judiciary.

Thank you to the Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. Without you, all that is highlighted in this report, would not be possible. In addition to recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence and service to the community, the Fellows Program provides important support to the Foundation in providing leadership and grants. We will continue to seek ways to engage and grow the Fellows Program.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for all that you do. As we look to the future, we are energized by the unwavering commitment to access to justice and continuing visionary leadership. We look forward to furthering and expanding partnerships to address emerging needs, developing innovative service delivery models and increasing access to justice.

*Edward H. Pappas*  
President

*Jennifer S. Bentley*  
Executive Director

1947 — First Board Meeting

1959 — Moved into State Bar Building



1947-2022

MICHIGAN  
STATE BAR  
FOUNDATION **MSBF**

- 1947— The Michigan State Bar Foundation's first meeting was held on November 19, 1947, at the University of Michigan, Hutchins Hall, Ann Arbor. Glenn C. Gillespie was elected President.
- 1957— The Foundation obtained its designation as a 501c3 organization.
- 1959— Established offices in the State Bar of Michigan building.
- 1974— Legal Services Corporation, a federal nonprofit organization, was created to promote equal access to justice and provide grants, with money appropriated by Congress, for civil legal aid. John Cumiskey, a trustee of the Foundation, started exploring opportunities for the Foundation to take a leadership role in supporting civil legal aid at the state level.
- 1983— The Foundation Board amended the Bylaws to adopt a Fellows Program, the purpose of which was to support the programs and activities of the MSBF.
- 1990— The Michigan Supreme Court adopted mandatory Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) and designated the Foundation as the administer of the program.
- 1991— The Foundation created a new grants process to include a geographic distribution approach for nonprofit civil legal aid programs.
- 1993— State legislation allocated a portion of court filing fees for indigent civil legal services and designated the Foundation as the administer of the grant program.
- 1994— The Foundation spearheaded and funded a Computer Pilot Project Committee to implement uses for technology in legal services in Michigan. By 1997, all Legal Services Grantees had web access and electronic mail systems.
- 1996— The Foundation granted funding for a statewide support program, Michigan Poverty Law Program, to provide training and support to legal aid attorneys and legal advocates.
- 1997— The Access to Justice Campaign was launched as a partnership between the State Bar of Michigan, Michigan State Bar Foundation, and civil legal aid programs in Michigan to increase financial donations from the legal community for civil legal aid organizations in Michigan.
- 1999— The Foundation evaluated various hotline models which led to the development of a centralized statewide hotline to provide intake, brief service and referral of calls to full service legal aid programs. This led to the launch of the statewide Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL).
- 2000— The Foundation provided funding to develop the Legal Assistance Center of Kent County (LAC), which helps individuals help themselves by providing legal information, forms, guidance and resources to solve legal problems and use the courts.



1983— Fellows Program Launched

Celebrating 75 years

- 2006— Grants were awarded to a few legal aid programs to provide direct legal work for Hurricane Katrina Evacuees that had fled to Michigan.
- 2010— Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly announced the development of the "Solutions on Self-Help" Taskforce to promote ways to help those who could not afford an attorney. One of the many recommendations from this taskforce was the development of an interactive legal self-help website for individuals wanting to represent themselves in legal proceedings.
- 2012— Michigan Legal Help Program launched an interactive user-friendly statewide legal self-help website. In 2014, a Spanish language version of Michigan Legal Help, Ayuda Legal de Michigan, was launched.
- 2018— The Foundation partnered with the State Bar of Michigan and civil legal aid programs to centralize the Access to Justice Campaign to increase resources for both regional and statewide legal aid programs.
- 2019— The Banking on Justice Campaign was launched to increase IOLTA revenue. In the first year of the program, IOLTA revenue increased by 61%.
- 2019— The Michigan Supreme Court amended the cy pres court rule to indicate that unless the judgement provides otherwise, unclaimed residual funds shall be disbursed to the Foundation to support activities and programs that promote access to the civil justice system for low-income residents of Michigan.
- 2020— Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA) granted funds to the Foundation to administer legal aid grants as part of the Eviction Diversion Program. The program was launched to help households facing eviction in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- 2021— The Michigan Supreme Court launched a Justice for All Commission committed to providing 100% access to the civil justice system. The Foundation participates on the Executive Committee to implement the strategic plan created by the Justice for All Task Force.
- 2022— The Michigan Supreme Court created the Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Michigan judiciary to assess and work toward elimination of demographic and other disparities within the Michigan judiciary and justice system. The Foundation participates on the Executive Team.

The **Future**— *The Foundation looks forward to furthering and expanding partnerships to address emerging needs, developing innovative service delivery models and increasing access to justice.*



1990— IOLTA Rule Adopted in Michigan



# Foundation Award Recipients

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



**2004 Award Recipient**  
Former Justice Dennis W. Archer  
*Pictured with (L to R) Scott Brinkmeyer, Margaret Nichols, and Linda Rexer*



**2005 Award Recipient**  
Wallace D. Riley  
*Pictured with (L) Former Justice Stephen Markman*



**2006 Award Recipient**  
Charles R. Rutherford  
*Pictured with (L) Former Justice Clifford Taylor*



**2007 Award Recipient**  
Former Judge Julian A. Cook  
*Pictured with (L) Former Justice Clifford Taylor*



**2008 Award Recipient**  
Kimberly M. Cahill



**2008 Award Recipient**  
Patrick J. Bruetsch  
*Pictured with Margaret Nichols*



**2009 Award Recipient**  
Former Judge Avern K. Cohn  
*Pictured with (L to R) Edward Pappas, Former Justice Marilyn Kelly, Hon. Gerald Rosen, and Charles Toy*



**2010 Award Recipient**  
John W. Cummiskey



**2015 Award Recipient**  
Former Judge Harold Hood



**2014 Award Recipient**  
Former Judge Hilda R. Gage



**2016 Award Recipients**  
George A. Googasian and Jon R. Muth  
*Pictured with (L to R) Lawrence Nolan and Lori Buiteweg*



**2017 Award Recipient**  
Linda K. Rexer  
*Pictured with (L to R) Donald Rockwell and Lawrence Nolan*



**2018 Award Recipient**  
Thomas W. Linn  
*Pictured with Jennifer Grieco and Donald Rockwell*



**2019 Award Recipient**  
Former Judge Alfred M. Butzbaugh  
*Pictured with Jennifer Bentley and Edward Pappas*



**2020 Award Recipient**  
Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack



**2021 Award Recipient**  
Janet K. Welch



**2020 Award Recipient**  
Justice Brian K. Zahra





# Access to Justice Award Recipients

Access to Justice Award honors persons who significantly advanced access to justice for low-income individuals in Michigan.



**2011 Award Recipient**  
Robert F. Gillett

*Pictured with (L to R) Margaret Nichols, Julie Fershtman, and W. Anthony Jenkins*



**2012 Award Recipient**  
Candace A. Crowley

*Pictured with (L to R) Julie Fershtman, Margaret Nichols, and Bruce Courtade*



**2013 Award Recipient**  
Former Judge Chad C. Schmucker

*Pictured with (L to R) Bruce Courtade and Brian Einhorn*



**2015 Award Recipient**  
Marilyn T. Mullane

*Pictured with Thomas Rombach and Margaret Nichols*



**2014 Award Recipient**  
Michael C. Chielens



**2014 Award Recipient**  
Holli J. Wallace



**2017 Award Recipient**  
Ari J. Scharg  
and  
Edelson PC



**2017 Award Recipient**  
Angela S. Tripp  
and Michigan Legal Help  
*Pictured with Jennifer Bentley and  
Former Judge Alfred Butzbaugh*



**2018 Award Recipient**  
Lorry S.C. Brown

*Pictured with (L to R) Edward Pappas, Mark Fancher, Toussaint Fancher, and Jennifer Bentley*



**2019 Award Recipient**  
Bradley M. Gayton, Ford Motor Company  
*Award accepted by Kimberly Ray  
Pictured with Jennifer Bentley and Edward Pappas*



**2020 Award Recipient**  
James A. Keedy



**2021 Award Recipient**  
Khalilah V. Spencer



**1996** — Funded statewide training and support program

**1997** — Access to Justice Campaign Launched





## Fellows Program

The Michigan State Bar Foundation's Fellows Program was established in 1984 to recognize Michigan lawyers for their professional excellence and service to the community. The Fellows Program supports the Foundation in providing leadership and grants for improvements in the administration of justice and the delivery of civil legal aid to the poor. Currently, there are 1,497 Michigan attorneys who are active Fellows, and since inception, the Fellows have contributed over \$2 million.

### 2021 New Fellows

Martha Rabaut Boonstra	Debra A. Freid	Laura Katers Reilly
Steven Bylenga	Julie A. Gafkay	Beth Ann Richardson
Emily A. Calabrese	Laura J. Genovich	Robert F. Riley
Nakisha N. Chaney	Hon. Michael L. Jaconette	Larry J. Saylor
Alisha L. Cieslak	Michael S. Leib	Mark H. Shapiro
Tracy M. Clark-Flaherty	Homer W. McClarty	Katherine K. Strickfaden
Julie H. Pfitzenmaier Cotant	Nicholas M. Ohanesian	Kimberly L. Ward
Matthew S. Fedor		

### Current Officers of the Fellows

Hon. Victoria A. Roberts, Chairperson  
 Former Judge, Wendy L. Potts, Vice-Chairperson  
 Edward H. Pappas, Secretary

### List of Past Fellows Chairpersons

Charles R. Rutherford.....2011 - 2021	Stephen C. Brandsdorfer.....1987 - 1989
Former Judge 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	

### Founding Fellows

Former Justice Dennis W. Archer	Stuart J. Dunning, Jr.	Dean S. Lewis
Joel M. Boyden	Emmett E. Eagan	Former Judge Lawrence B. Lindemer
Stephen C. Brandsdorfer	Leo A. Farhat	Wallace D. Riley
Frederick G. Buesser, Jr.	Michael Franck	A. DeVere Ruegsegger
George E. Bushnell, Jr.	Nathan B. Goodnow	Robert G. Russell
Daniel M. Clark	William T. Gossett	Charles R. Rutherford
John S. Clark	Elliott S. Hall	Norman Otto Stockmeyer, Jr.
Former Judge Avern Cohn	Joseph L. Hardig, Jr.	Brian Sullivan
Former Justice Mary S. Coleman	Former Judge Charles W. Joiner	Fred L. Woodworth
Julia Donovan Darlow	Former Judge Cornelia G. Kennedy	
Kenneth O. Doyle	John A. Krsul, Jr.	
	Robert E. LeMire	



**1999** — Statewide Centralized Legal Hotline Initiated

## Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation

Thank you for your support and leadership for the Foundation and its mission.

<p><b>PATRON FELLOWS</b> <i>(\$5,000)</i></p> <p>Lawrence J. Acker                  James V. Bellanca Jr.                  Hon. Richard H. Bernstein                  Paul J. Blizman                  William D. Booth                  Beverly H. Burns                  David E. Christensen                  Former Judge                  Jessica R. Cooper                  Thomas W. Cranmer                  Terence M. Donnelly                  Sue E. Eisenberg                  Pamela C. Enslin                  Robin D. Ferriby                  Clifford T. Flood                  David L. Haron                  Vernon R. Johnson                  Teresa A. Killeen                  K. Dino Kostopoulos                  Hon. Lisa A. Langton                  Leslie A. Logan                  Diane L. Marion                  Bernard Mindell                  Philip M. Moilanen                  Mayer Morganroth                  Margaret J. Nichols                  Jill L. Nylander                  Gail M. Pamukov                  Michael L. Pitt                  Robert F. Riley                  Alan T. Rogalski                  Ted S. Rozeboom                  Charles R. Rutherford                  Jeffrey A. Sadowski                  John A. Shea                  Khalilah V. Spencer                  James R. Stadler                  Duncan A. Stuart                  Leigh C. Taggart                  Charles R. Toy                  Hon. Karen Quinlan Valvo                  Lynwood P. Vanden Bosch                  Paul T. Walton                  Dana M. Warnez                  Mark A. Wisniewski                  Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTING FELLOWS</b> <i>(\$2,500)</i></p> <p>John E. Anding                  Joseph T. Barberi                  Carl L. Bekofske                  Jennifer S. Bentley                  Hon. Terrence G. Berg                  David E. Bevins                  Bruce E. Bigler                  Erika L. Bryant                  Hon. Joseph F. Burke                  Samuel J. Churikian                  Pamela J. Cross                  Francine Cullari                  Matthew G. Curtis                  Edward C. Dawda                  Dennis M. Devaney                  Nancy J. Diehl                  Timothy A. Dinan                  James A. Fink                  Julie A. Gafkay                  Judah B. Garber                  Sharon R. Gross                  Harold Z. Gurewitz                  Hon. Katherine L. Hansen                  Elizabeth P. Hardy                  R. Craig Hupp                  Constance L. Jones                  Barbara J. Kelly                  Richard C. Kraus                  Richard B. Learman                  Howard T. Linden                  Mary M. Massaron                  Hon. Mabel J. Mayfield                  Gayle S. McGregor                  William F. Mills                  Hon. Patricia T. Morris                  Former Judge                  William B. Murphy                  Shalini Nangia                  Michael J. Nolan                  Susan C. Nystrom                  Jules B. Olsman                  Daniel V. Padilla                  Terence V. Page                  Roshunda L. Price                  Kelly J. M. Quardokus                  Linda K. Rexer</p>	<p>Richard A. Roane                  Marc K. Shaye                  Mark A. Stern                  Gail H. Straith                  Suzanne K. Sukkar                  Louis Theros                  Stuart Trager                  Stephen K. Valentine Jr.                  Janet K. Welch                  Keri L. Middleditch Wigod                  Sharon M. Woods</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FELLOWS</b> <i>(\$1,000)</i></p> <hr/> <p>Richard J. Aaron                  Candyce E. Abbatt                  William G. Abbatt                  Matthew R. Abel                  Gary J. Abraham                  Maria B. Abrahamsen                  Nina D. Abrams                  Hon. Terence J. Ackert                  Deborah G. Adams                  Stephen P. Afendoulis                  Robert L. Agacinski                  Harold K. Albright                  Former Judge                  James M. Alexander                  Hon. Donald L. Allen Jr.                  Hon. Dorene S. Allen                  John W. Allen                  Kathleen M. Allen                  Kelly A. Allen                  Matthew P. Allen                  Richard S. Allen                  Tracy L. Allen                  Peter M. Alter                  Jeffrey S. Ammon                  Danielle M. Anderson                  David C. Anderson                  Jonathan W. Anderson                  Hon. Martha D. Anderson                  Thomas M. Anderson                  Elisa M. Angeli-Palizzi                  Former Justice                  Dennis W. Archer</p>	<p>Former Judge                  Trudy D. Archer                  Mark A. Armitage                  Susan Artinian                  Patrick A. Aseltyne                  Theresa M. Asoklis                  Gary K. August                  Joseph Aviv                  Former Judge                  Laura L. Baird                  Thomas A. Baird                  Frederick M. Baker                  Hon. Richard D. Ball                  Former Judge                  Richard A. Bandstra                  Charles E. Barbieri                  C. David Bargamian                  Richard W. Barker                  Hon. Laura C. Barnard                  Dennis M. Barnes                  Thomas J. Barnes                  Steven L. Barney                  Bruce A. Barnhart                  Katherine L. Barnhart                  Benson J. Barr                  John M. Barr                  Marjory G. Basile                  Dorothy H. Basmaji                  Patricia J. Battersby                  Robert J. Battista                  Former Judge                  James M. Batzer                  Timothy A. Baughman                  Janet C. Baxter                  Judith A. Baxter                  Kenneth W. Beall                  Dirk A. Beamer                  George F. Bearup                  Robert C. Beck                  Hon. Jane M. Beckering                  Dirk H. Beckwith                  Mary A. Bedikian                  Michael R. Behan                  Charles F. Behler                  Thomas R. Behm</p>
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**2010** — Solutions on Self-Help Taskforce Developed  
 Pictured (L to R) Former Justice Marilyn Kelly, Linda Rexer, Lorraine Weber

(Fellows continued)

William D. Belski  
 Jennifer Z. Belveal  
 Hon. Curt A. Benson  
 Dennis H. Benson  
 Harvey W. Berman  
 Daniel J. Bernard  
 Linda D. Bernard  
 Mark J. Bernstein  
 Nazar Berry  
 Jeffrey H. Beusse  
 Hon. Michelle S. Bianchi  
 James A. Bidol  
 Douglas S. Bishop  
 L. Ray Bishop  
 James G. Black  
 Thomas F. Blackwell  
 E. Robert Blaske  
 Thomas H. Blaske  
 Michael J. Blau  
 Michael R. Blum  
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 Shirlee M. Bobryk  
 Dale E. Bock  
 Thomas E. Bock  
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 Eugene R. Bolanowski  
 R. Lance Boldrey  
 Becky J. Bolles  
 Jordan S. Bolton  
 Frederick J. Boncher  
 Ronald M. Bookholder  
 Hon. Mark T. Boonstra  
 Martha R. Boonstra  
 Former Judge  
 Fred L. Borchard  
 Charles W. Borgsdorf  
 Former Judge  
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 Glen V. Borre  
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 Barry D. Boughton  
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 Former Judge  
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 Darcel F. Bozen  
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 Evan Caminker  
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 Lawrence G. Campbell  
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 Former Justice  
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 Richard L. Cunningham  
 Michelle T. Czapski  
 Mary P. D'Isa  
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 Ann M. Daley  
 James L. Dalton

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 William J. Danhof  
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 Timothy J. Dardas  
 Julia D. Darlow  
 Elaine P. Darmon  
 Thomas B. Darnton  
 Stephen E. Dawson  
 Devin R. Day  
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 Herold M. Deason  
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 Nyal D. Deems  
 Lynne E. Deitch  
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 Michael H. Dettmer  
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 Ronald G. Dewaard  
 Carey A. Dewitt  
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 Eric M. Dobrusin  
 Stanley T. Dobry  
 Andrew S. Doctoroff  
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 Eric J. Eggan  
 Brian D. Einhorn  
 Jerry M. Ellis  
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 James M. Elsworth  
 Albert J. Engel III  
 John M. Engler  
 Former Judge  
 James N. Erhart

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 John L. Etter  
 William N. Evans  
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 William J. Ewald  
 William K. Fahey  
 Hon. Joseph J. Farah  
 Former Judge  
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 Michael L. Fayette  
 Matthew S. Fedor  
 Jon Feikens  
 Robert H. Feikens  
 J. Kay Felt  
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 LeClair L. Flaherty  
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 Robert E. Forrest  
 Michael J. Forster  
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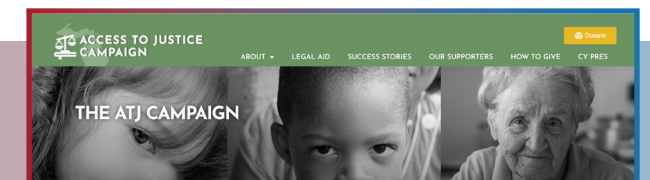
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The Banking on Justice Campaign recognizes financial partners that pay significantly more interest on IOLTA accounts. These financial institutions go above and beyond the basic IOLTA requirements by waiving all fees and paying a minimum net yield of either .5% or 75% of the Effective Federal Funds Target Rate, whichever is higher. Participating institutions earn Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credits, support corporate social responsibility goals and attract new customers from the legal community.

Please consider opening an IOLTA account with or moving your current IOLTA account to one of the participating institutions below.



Please inquire about the interest rate being paid on your IOLTA account just as you would when opening a personal or business account. Based on current interest rates, IOLTA revenue would increase by approximately \$1.8 million per year if all Michigan lawyers held their IOLTA accounts at participating financial institutions. This would significantly increase funding for civil legal aid throughout the state.

**Summarized Financial Information**

for Fiscal Year  
10/1/2020 - 9/30/2021

**REVENUE**

IOLTA (net available) .....	\$1,325,379
Fellows .....	\$35,738
ATJ Campaign Legal Community .....	\$1,391,067
Other .....	\$508,154
MSHDA Eviction Diversion Program .....	\$6,649,211
Cy Pres Awards .....	\$1,790,327
Contributions/Memorials .....	\$143,642
Investment Income .....	\$364,240
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$12,207,758</b>

**EXPENSES**

Administrative and Operating Expenses .....	\$1,008,145
Legal Aid/Self Help Annual Grants .....	\$1,475,000
MSHDA Eviction Diversion Grants .....	\$6,589,211
Administration of Justice Project Grants .....	\$374,000
ATJ Fund Distributions to Programs ..	\$2,758,156
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$12,204,512</b>

The Foundation manages certain bids and contracts to support civil legal aid. In addition, pursuant to state legislation, the Foundation administers the portion of court filing fee funds which is distributed to legal aid programs. These grants are paid directly to grantees and not included in our financial statements.

The financial information provided is a condensed version of MSBF's audited financials for the fiscal year ending 9/30/2021.



2022

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission Created**

**Order**

January 5, 2022  
ADM File No. 2021-38  
Adoption of Administrative Order No. 2022-1  
Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Michigan Judiciary  
Administrative Order No. 2022-1 – Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Michigan Judiciary

Michigan Supreme Court  
Lansing, Michigan  
Budget M. McCormack, Chief Justice  
Brian K. Zahra  
David F. Viviano  
Richard H. Bernstein  
Elizabeth F. Clement  
Megan K. Cavanaugh  
Elizabeth M. Welch, Justice

**Future**

**Continuing Our Commitment and Partnerships to Increase and Improve Access to Justice**

INVESTING IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE

MICHIGAN  
STATE BAR  
FOUNDATION **MSBF**

*Celebrating 75 years | 1947-2022*

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