

Michigan State Bar Foundation

Fellows Program Guidelines

The Foundation recognizes Michigan Lawyers for their professional excellence and service to the community. Foundation staff will develop and implement a nominating process, with input from the Nominating Committee. The number of Fellows is limited to not more than five percent (5%) of the total active membership of the State Bar of Michigan.

Guidelines for Fellows Nominations and Participation

1. **Attorneys In Good Standing:** Fellows must be in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan to become and remain a Fellow.
2. **Minimum 10 Years Required:** Fellows must have been admitted to the bar in Michigan or another jurisdiction (or a combination) for at least 10 years. Any person whose 10-year admission date occurs during the calendar year in which he or she is nominated is eligible for nomination.
3. **Nominations By Relatives Prohibited:** To enhance the integrity and objectivity of the Fellows nominations process, nominations for new Fellows are not to be submitted by anyone related by blood or marriage to the potential nominee.
4. **Two Years Ineligibility For Non-Acceptance:** Persons who did not accept a Fellows nomination extended to them are typically not eligible for consideration as a new Fellow until the third year following the year in which they did not accept the invitation. In some circumstances, exceptions will be made.
5. **Honorary Fellow Category:** The Foundation also recognizes key supporters, who are not lawyers, as Honorary Fellows. These candidates will be nominated and considered by the Nominating Committee or nominating directly by the Nominating Committee.

The Fellows Contribution Levels and Payment Information

Contribution Levels

Pledges may be paid over a 10-year period. Prepayments of annual amounts are permitted and encouraged. The Fellows contribution levels are as follows:

1. \$10,000 Pledge (\$1,000 annual payments)
2. \$5,000 Pledge (\$500 annual payments)
3. \$2,500 Pledge (\$250 annual payments)
4. \$1,500 Pledge (\$150 annual payments)
5. Fellows who previously pledged \$1,000 will be grandfathered in at that level but may choose to increase their pledge.

A Fellow may modify their pledge by indicating in writing their intent to increase or decrease their pledge amount. Such election shall constitute a pledge by the Fellow to pay the total amount, with credit given for the amount previously paid. The annual payments will be increased or decreased to the new pledge amount, with the final payment being the difference between the increased or decreased pledge amount and the original pledge amount.

Payment Information

To remain current with pledges, annual installments should be paid until the pledge is paid in full.

If a Fellow becomes three (3) years behind in annual payments, the individual will be removed from the Fellows recognition lists, removed from the invitation list for the Fellows Reception and the pledge balance will be written off.

Fellows may be reinstated upon payment of the difference between the amount contributed and the total amount due to bring the payments up to date. The Foundation may at its discretion, for good cause shown, extend the membership status and the annual pledge payment deadlines for any period or periods not exceeding two years in the aggregate.