

2026 Fellows Nomination Form

COMPLETE

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The Michigan State Bar Foundation is currently seeking nominations for the Class of 2026 Fellows. ONLY active Fellows are eligible to complete the nomination form. Nominations may not be submitted by persons related by blood or marriage to the nominee.

Following is the criteria for the Fellows Program:


- * Attorneys who have demonstrated professional excellence.
- * Attorneys who serve their community.
- * Attorneys who practice law for a minimum of 10 years.
- * Attorneys who are in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan.

Please answer each question as thoroughly as possible.

CREATED

 PUBLIC
May 15th 2026, 5:52:07 pm

IP ADDRESS

 98.243.32.162

* Nominee's Name:

Elizabeth Benton

* Nominee's P Number (please enter number only):

78057

* Nominee's Email Address:

ebenton@mplp.org

Nominee's Address:

Michigan Poverty Law Program
15 South Washington St.
Ypsilanti
MI
48197
United States

* Total Years Admitted to Practice Law (a minimum of 10 years required). Also, include in your total the years practiced out of state.

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Do you have a vitae, resume or bio for your Nominee? If not, you will be asked to answer additional questions below.

Yes

Upload Your Nominees Bio

benton._resume_2026.pdf

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

Please list State Bar, local or affinity bar associations and other community activities:

(No response)

Please list legal teaching, publications, professional recognition and/or memberships:

(No response)

*** PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF WHY YOU BELIEVE THIS CANDIDATE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FELLOWS PROGRAM:**

I worked directly with Ms. Benton, initially as one of her supervisors and later as a colleague on several projects. I have a high regard for her legal ability and for her commitment to access to justice.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Bob Gillett

*** Nominator's P Number (please enter number only):**

29119

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

gillettrf@gmail.com

ELIZABETH BENTON

2359 Prairie Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 • (810) 441-4342 • libby.benton@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

Michigan Poverty Law Program, Ypsilanti, MI 2025 – present

Director/Consumer Law Attorney

Lead statewide nonprofit organization focused on advancing the health, safety, and economic security of low-income Michiganders and racial justice. Provide training and support to state's legal aid attorneys. Bring impact litigation to enforce important rights and set legal precedents. Advocate for legislative, administrative, and court rule changes to expand access to justice. Serve on Justice for All Commission's Debt Collection Work and State Bar of Michigan's Consumer Law Council and Access to Justice Policy Committee.

Center for Community Progress, Flint, MI 2021 – 2025

Senior Counsel

Led expert teams providing technical assistance to local governments on issues related to vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties, including developing scopes of work and budgets, assigning tasks, managing team members, and producing high-quality written deliverables. Assisted local partners in identifying needed law reforms, developing advocacy strategies, and drafting ordinances, policies, and three state statutes.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Ypsilanti, MI 2015 – 2021

Staff Attorney

Represented clients in housing, consumer, and public benefits cases and appeals, including in affirmative cases brought in state and federal court. Represented clients on a broad range of consumer and foreclosure-related cases, including credit reporting, mortgage lending and servicing violations, mortgage modifications, reverse and second mortgage foreclosures, property tax foreclosures, rent-to-own scams, land contract forfeitures, and illegal lease terms, fees, and utility charges. Helped form and represented three tenant associations. Secured and served as co-principal investigator of \$25,000 grant to research Michigan evictions.

Center on Finance, Law, and Policy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2013 – 2015

Assistant Executive Director

Led launch of interdisciplinary research center focused on financial regulation, including organizing monthly events and annual conferences, securing and managing grants totaling \$190,000, and creating website and newsletter. Assisted faculty with research and writing on consumer protection and financial regulation topics, including supervision of 5-10 research assistants each semester.

The Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Jamaica Plain, MA 2011 – 2013

Skadden Fellow

Represented tenants and former homeowners in post-foreclosure eviction cases and appeals, raising defenses and counterclaims based on housing code violations, improper foreclosures, and consumer protection violations. Developed and briefed appeal to Supreme Judicial Court seeking favorable interpretation of new state homeowner protections. Co-taught housing law clinical workshop and supervised three clinical law students.

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., June 2011

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, *Student Attorney, Foreclosure Task Force Chair*

Project No One Leaves, *Board Member* (organized students to fight displacement after foreclosure)

Andrew L. Kaufman Pro Bono Service Award

University of Michigan, B.A. with high honors in Political Science and English, April 2006

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Policy Reform Post-*Tyler v. Hennepin County*: Preserving Homeownership, Preventing Vacancy, and Reducing Legal Risk,” online webinar, National Consumer Law Center and Center for Community Progress, December 2023.

“Property Tax Foreclosure Advocacy: Preserving Homeownership, Preventing Displacement, and Improving Neighborhoods,” National Housing Law Project’s National Housing Justice Conference, Washington, DC, October 2022.

“Overview of Federally Subsidized Rental Housing Programs,” online webinar, Committee on Regional Training Housing Law Training, February 2021.

“Introduction to RESPA and TILA Mortgage Servicing Rules,” National Consumer Law Center’s Mortgage Litigation Training Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 2018.

“Raising and Litigating Claims under the Truth in Renting Act,” Michigan Poverty Law Program’s Roadshow Training, Okemos, Michigan, September 2017.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Addressing Vacant, Abandoned, and Deteriorated Properties in Arkansas (Center for Community Progress, November 2024), <https://communityprogress.org/publications/arkansas-vacant-properties/>.

Elizabeth Benton and Tarik Abdelazim, *From Harm to Home: Replicating Detroit’s Make it Home Program* (Center for Community Progress, November 2022), <https://communityprogress.org/publications/from-harm-to-home/>.

Goodspeed, Robert, Elizabeth Benton, Kyle Slugg, and Margaret Dewar, *Michigan Evictions: Trends, Data Sources, and Neighborhood Determinants* (University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, 2020), <https://poverty.umich.edu/data-tools/michigan-evictions/>.

ADMISSIONS

Michigan; Eastern District of Michigan; Massachusetts (retired)