

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 21st 2026, 9:14:32 pm

IP ADDRESS



73.18.99.173

* Nominee's Name:

Chad D. Catalino

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

64377

* Nominee's Email Address:

CCatalino@ALLEGANCOUNTY.ORG

Nominee's Address:

3255 122nd Ave.,
Suite 103
Allegan
MI
49010
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

catalino_resume_5.14.26.docx

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

<https://napd2026riseresistrepresent.sched.com/speaker/ccatalino>

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 am proud to nominate Chief Public Defender Chad D. Catalino to be a Fellow. I have known Chad for more than 10 years as a passionate and dedicated criminal defense attorney, and worked closely with him over the past few years in his role as the first Chief of the regional defender office in Allegan and Van Buren Counties. Chad serves solely in Allegan now that there is a stand-alone department in Van Buren. Chad has thoughtfully created an office that values client-centered representation for some of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens. He actively seeks out opportunities to collaborate with other leaders for innovative partnerships with an eye toward future defenders, including law student/social worker fellowship through Wayne State University. Chad recently created a position for – and hired – Allegan County's first Holistic Defense Technical Assistance Coordinator, to create more impactful representation for of all Michigan defendants. This position also implements holistic defense services in small, or isolated, or managed assigned counsel systems (or roster-based assignment systems without a public defender office) that otherwise would not receive significant exposure to holistic defense practice and benefits. Chad is an encouraging leader who empowers even the most junior members of his staff to take on roles that ensure that they are thriving and continuously providing the best representation for their clients. Throughout his career and most particularly in his current role, Chad has had a positive impact in his community and has improved representation for the clients his office serves.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Marla R. McCowan

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

57218

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

McCowanM@michigan.gov

CHAD D. CATALINO, J.D.
3255 122nd Ave., Suite 103, ALLEGAN, MI 49010
(269) 686-4720

ACADEMICS:

*MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, DETROIT COLLEGE OF LAW,
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN*
August 2000 to May 2003, earned J.D., Cum Laude. Cumulative
GPA 3.43. Graduated in the top twenty percent of my class and
Cum Laude.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduated April 1998, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Legal

Studies

with a Cumulative GPA of 3.5.

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION:**

BRONX PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Technical Assistance Grant Training Program; 2016 through 2019.

A Holistic Defense training program designed to teach public
defenders to recognize and implement social justice opportunities
within their litigation practices by utilizing a team of attorneys, social
workers, social justice advocates, and other community
stakeholders for the benefit of indigent defendants.

*CRIMINAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN LEGAL
UPDATE SEMINARS; 2006 through present.*

An ongoing seminar training designed to continuously update
criminal defense attorneys regarding innovative ideas relating to
legal, legislative, scientific, evidentiary, and social justice issues
involved in National and Statewide litigation.

*PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
TRIAL ADVOCACY TRAINING COURSE.*

A prosecuting attorney training program dedicated to updating
assistant prosecuting attorneys regarding relevant and sometimes
novel updates in legal, legislative, scientific, and evidentiary issues
involved in National and Statewide litigation.

*UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN
DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN HILLMAN ADVOCACY PROGRAM.*

A trial skills training course dedicated to teaching attorneys the
practical, as opposed to the theoretical, aspects of trial practice.
The faculty members consisted of prominent members of the
federal and state bars, including state and federal prosecutors.

Admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN TRIAL COLLEGE.

A trial advocacy training course dedicated to refining an attorney's ability to effectively communicate with all the participants in court proceedings, while also helping attorneys refine their jury voir dire skills, their opening statement and closing argument skills, and their direct and cross-examination skills.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY TRAINING PROJECT; THE NUTS & BOLTS OF OWI PROSECUTIONS.

A trial advocacy training course dedicated to refining a prosecutor's ability to utilize proven pretrial techniques, motion practice, trial strategies, and scientific information to more effectively advocate the People's position throughout all stages of an OWI prosecution.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY TRAINING PROJECT; DAUBERT, CRAWFORD & TRAFFIC CASES, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

A trial advocacy training course dedicated to updating prosecutors on the evidentiary issues surrounding the prosecution of traffic-related criminal offenses.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT CONFERENCE.

A training course designed to provide prosecutors and their staff with legal, legislative, and procedural updates necessary to effectively pursue causes of action relating to the establishment of paternity and child support.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE DEFENSE & RESOURCE CENTER TRAINING SEMINAR.

A training seminar dedicated to identifying the factual and legal issues arising in child abuse litigation. Specific attention was dedicated to the forensic protocol, forensic evidence in child abuse litigation, and the significance of certain types of medical evidence and medical data in child sexual abuse litigation.

ABUSE / NEGLECT DEFENSE AND GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING.

A training seminar dedicated to refining an attorney's ability to effectively litigate abuse/neglect cases.

**WORK
EXPERIENCE:**

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, ALLEGAN COUNTY

Chief Public Defender, April 2019 through present.

Responsible for acting as the Chief Executive Officer for the Public Defender's Office. Responsible for setting all macro-level policies and then working for the implementation of those macro-level policies. Responsible for all internal management of the Public Defender's Office's operations. Responsible for acting as legal counsel to all indigent defendants in Allegan County.

ALLEGAN VAN BUREN COUNTIES' REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Chief Public Defender, April 2019 through 2024.

Responsible for acting as the Chief Executive Officer for the Public Defender's Office. Responsible for setting all macro-level policies and then working for the implementation of those macro-level policies. Responsible for all internal management of the Public Defender's Office's operations. Responsible for acting as legal counsel to all indigent defendants in Allegan and Van Buren Counties.

MUSKEGON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Director – Misdemeanor Division, 2016 through 2019.

Administrative Duties:

Responsible for the internal day-to-day management of the Misdemeanor Criminal Division's operations, including but not limited to the coordination of Criminal Division Attorney assignments between the four Muskegon County Misdemeanor Courtrooms and the three Muskegon County Circuit Courtrooms. Responsible for the day-to-day management and coordination of two Criminal Division support staff members. Responsible for the day-to-day management of the Criminal Division's Social Worker interns. Solely developed a Misdemeanor Division internal Legal Training Program. Solely developed a Misdemeanor Division internal Mentoring Program. Solely developed a Misdemeanor Division and Family Division partnership program.

Responsible for acting as one of the Office's legal counsel relating to the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's internal discussions on procedure and outside relevant legal and political strategies.

Liaison between the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's Misdemeanor Division and the Muskegon County

60th District Court Chief Judge and Court Administrator regarding stakeholder participation and concerns.

Liaison between the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's Misdemeanor Division and various Community Corrections and Mental Health stakeholders in an effort to secure non-traditional, legally and socially beneficial representation of criminal defendants.

Instrumental in applying for and co-implementing the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's Technical Assistance Grant with the Bronx Public Defender's Office.

Co-developed and Co-implemented the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's Social Work Internship Program. Co-developed and co-managed the Social Work Internship selection process. Co-developed and co-managed the Social Work Internship training process. Managed the Social Work Internship Criminal Division assignment process. Co-developed and Co-managed the Social Work Internship leadership development mentoring program. Instrumental in developing opportunities for Social Work grant funding.

Accepted numerous assignments from our Director as the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's representative at Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel caseload workgroup and funding allocation meetings.

Responsible for identifying and implementing the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's community outreach programs in an effort to build solid and trusting relationships with our clients, within their own communities, and with the community leaders that serve our clients in political and social capacities.

Legal Duties:

As outlined in the immediately subsequent section.

Teaching / Lecture Duties:

Grand Valley State University. Co-developed and Co-presented as a continuing guest lecturer in the Social Work Bachelor's and Master's programs relating to Holistic Defense and the interplay between the Social Work and Legal Professions.

Muskegon County, Healthwest, Infant Mental Health Seminar Lecturer. Developed and presented an interactive training for Infant Mental Health professionals relating to trial preparation and testimony.

West Michigan Chapter of the Infant Mental Health Society. Co-developed and co-presented a lecture and interactive training for State Infant Mental Health professionals related to trial preparation, testimony, and the legal and social justice intersection between the legal and mental health professions.

Michigan Social Worker Continuing Education Seminar Lecturer. Co-developed and co-presented a lecture and interactive training relating to the interplay between legal and social justice, as well as Holistic Defense objectives.

Michigan DHHS Training. Co-developed and Co-presented a trial training lecture and interactive program related to training DHHS caseworkers regarding trial preparation, testimony, and Holistic Defense.

Ottawa County DHHS Training. Developed and presented a trial training interactive program related to training DHHS caseworkers regarding trial preparation, testimony, and Holistic Defense.

Wedgewood Training. Co-developed and Co-presented a trial training interactive program related to training Wedgewood psychologists, supervisors, caseworkers, and case managers regarding trial preparation, testimony, and Holistic Defense.

Ottawa County Foster Care Training. Developed and presented a training lecture and interactive program regarding the legal and social issues facing current and potential foster parents within Ottawa County.

Michigan State University Law School. Developed and presented a training lecture regarding the process of becoming an advocate of Holistic Defense within the Michigan and National Public Defense Model.

*MUSKEGON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE.
Assistant Public Defender, February 2015 until June 2016.*

Legal Duties:

Responsible for the management, research, and litigation

associated with my day-to-day felony and misdemeanor case load. As a Muskegon County Assistant Public Defender, while maintaining my day-to-day felony and misdemeanor caseloads, I have additionally earned the responsibility of being assigned to and responsible for all litigation duties associated with litigating many of the most significant felony life offense murder cases within the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office. Additionally, I have been instrumental in helping the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office team implement the beneficial community corrections EXIT Program within the 60th District Court for Muskegon County.

Administrative Duties:

Although not a formal member of the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's management team, I was responsible for the management of the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's Internship Program, where I recruited, hired, trained, managed, and evaluated the internship staff.

Additionally, our Director appointed me as the Muskegon County Public Defender's Office's Staff Liaison, where I mediated conflicts between staff and management; improved morale through innovative management techniques; and proposed policies and programs designed to enhance the team environment and, thus, service to our clients.

HOUGHTALING, WASIURA & CATALINO, PLC.

PREVIOUSLY CHRIS A. HOUGHTALING & ASSOCIATES, PLC.

Attorney, May 2006 until February 2015.

Applied for and was personally awarded a Muskegon County Public Defender misdemeanor contract. Applied for and was personally awarded a Muskegon County Abuse Neglect Defender contract.

Applied for and was personally awarded an Ottawa County Abuse Neglect Defender contract. Appointed by the Muskegon County

Public Defender's Office as a Felony Public Defender, where I have litigated serious felony cases ranging from first-degree and felony

murder cases through CSC and Great Bodily Harm cases. Applied for and was personally appointed as an Ottawa County Felony

Public Defender. Appeared as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Grand Haven and Fruitport Township Attorney, where I was

primarily responsible for conducting negotiations and trials relating to the prosecution of Grand Haven City and Fruitport Township

Ordinance violations and advising city officials. Appointed as Special Assistant City Attorney for the City of Muskegon, where I

conducted a highly contentious formal hearing involving a city commissioner's traffic violation. Through my various Public Defender Contracts, I refined my expertise in both substantive and procedural legal practice, as well as refining my administrative skills by managing all the tasks and support staff associated with these contracts. I also developed expertise regarding civil infraction traffic offenses and the novel issues associated with traffic violations as they relate to driver's license sanctions through the Michigan Secretary of State. Conducted all negotiation, litigation, and motion practice associated with my appointments. Developed, maintained, and managed a retained felony and misdemeanor caseload. Developed, maintained, and managed a retained civil litigation caseload emphasizing causes of action pursuant to the Construction Lien Act as well as causes of action involving Wills and Estates, Child Custody, Divorce, and Child Protection Proceedings. Provided litigation support to the Firm's attorneys and staff through research, writing, and court appearances.

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IONIA COUNTY.
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, January 2005 through April 2006. Responsible for reviewing and completing adult and juvenile felony and misdemeanor warrant requests, as well as on-call felony arrest warrant and on-call search warrant requests. Conducted all litigation, motion practice, negotiation, and appeals associated with my own felony and misdemeanor case load. Conducted five felony jury trials, including trials regarding the Delivery / Manufacture of Cocaine, Criminal Sexual Conduct, and Assault With the Intent to Commit Great Bodily Harm Less than Murder. Conducted twenty-five misdemeanor jury trials, including a highly contentious OWI prosecution of a law enforcement officer, while appointed as a Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Solely responsible for the prosecution of all juvenile felonies and misdemeanors, including prosecutions involving students possessing guns in the Ionia Public Schools. Solely responsible for pursuing all causes of actions associated with Ionia County's IV-D paternity and support contract. Solely responsible for the prosecution of all welfare fraud cases submitted by the State of Michigan, Family Independence Agency's Office of the Inspector General. Conducted a number of Abuse / Neglect adjudicative and disposition trials, including trials to terminate parental rights. Conducted numerous felony and misdemeanor contested probation violation hearings as well as mental competency and involuntary commitment hearings. Instrumental in training various Ionia County law enforcement entities in procedural and substantive legal matters. Instrumental in drafting a memorandum of law explaining why our Office was not authorizing charges against an on-duty

sheriff's deputy involved in the killing of an Ionia County citizen.

COOK & HOUGHTALING, PLC.

Associate Attorney, October 2003 through December 2004.

Conducted all litigation, investigation, motion practice, negotiation, and appeals, together with the case management associated with the Firm's Muskegon County Abuse / Neglect contract. Appeared in court to prosecute ordinance violations as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Grand Haven and Assistant Village Attorney for the Village of Lakewood Club. Conducted all litigation, investigation, and case management associated with my own felony and misdemeanor case load, while also providing support for the Partners' felony case load through research, writing, and court appearances. Developed and managed a family law and landlord/tenant practice.

PAAM INTERN, MONTCALM COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.

PAAM Intern, Summer 2002. Researched and drafted Criminal Appeals. Appeared for contested hearings, evidentiary motions, bench trials, picked approximately fifteen juries, and conducted three jury trials. Directed police investigations for the three cases that went to trial and observed a murder and drug investigation together with an autopsy.

MICHIGAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY APPELLATE SERVICES DIVISION.

Law School Intern, spring semester 2002. Researched and prepared numerous appeals, including an armed robbery appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

NEWAYGO COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.

Summer Intern, summer 2001. Prepared and conducted a bench trial, extensive legal research, and all pro persona pretrials.

STATE APPELLATE DEFENDERS' OFFICE, LANSING, MI.

Undergraduate Intern, spring semester 1998. Researched legal, social, and political issues surrounding the legalization of controlled substances to prepare a research attorney for a television debate. Provided research and drafting support for appellate briefs and memorandums of law.

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP
& INTERESTS:**

Michigan Holistic Defense Fellowship Program, Inaugural Board Chairperson

Byrne Jag Trainer
Community Corrections Advisory Board, Allegan County
Guest legal and trial trainer for Ottawa County DHHS.
Guest legal and trial trainer for Muskegon County DHHS.
Muskegon County Community Corrections Advisory Board Defense
Bar representative.
Muskegon County Sobriety Court Defense Bar representative.
Ionia County Juvenile Justice Committee.
Ionia County Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee.
Co-organized hurricane relief donations and a hurricane relief trip to
Louisiana to aid the Red Cross in the administration of aid to the
victims of Hurricane Katrina.
Board Member for Godai Judo.

HONORS:

Grand Valley State University, Social Work Phi Alpha Society 2019
Award Recipient.
The Michigan Foster Care Review Board Child Welfare Parent
Attorney of the Year, 2013.
MSU/DCL Moot Court Board Member.
MSU/DCL Jurisprudence Award in Advocacy I.
MSU/DCL Achievement Award Winner.
MSU/DCL Dean's List.
Member of the Georgetown Trial Advocacy Team.
Member of the ATLA Trial Advocacy Team.
GVSU Achievement Award Winner.
GVSU Dean's List.
Published by the GVSU English Department.
Upon graduating from MSU/DCL, I accepted an invitation to serve
as a Moot Court Board Guest Lecturer, responsible for teaching
trial skills workshops.

REFERENCES:

Mr. Robert Sarro
County Administrator, Allegan County
3283 122nd Ave.
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-0203

Mr. David Mackled
Chief Public Defender
Calhoun County Public Defender's Office
190 E. Michigan Ave.
Battle Creek, MI 49014
(269) 966-7575

Ms. Manda Mitteer
Deputy Chief Public Defender

Office of the Public Defender, Allegan County
3255 122nd Ave., Suite 103
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