

2026 Fellows Nomination Form

COMPLETE

#31


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, 11:10:37 pm

IP ADDRESS

 68.58.219.255

* Nominee's Name:

Nicole Evans

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

74826

* Nominee's Email Address:

Nevans@54bdistrictcourt.com

Nominee's Address:

101 Linden Street
 East Lansing
 MI
 48823
 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.

15

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

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

(No response)

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:**

Attorney Nicole Evans is an accomplished court administrator. She has a 20 year career in our court system and has been active in the court administration associations. She is completing her studies as a fellow of the Institute of Court Management. Nicole is active in the State Bar and presently serves as the Chair of the Representative Assembly. She has served in leadership roles in various bar associations and community organizations. She is a contributor, helping to advance their missions and our profession. Nicole shares her knowledge and expertise as well, presenting at local and national events. She models and represents commitment, dedication, and excellence. She possesses the characteristics of the ideal fellow.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Zenell Brown

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

49845

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

zenellbrown@comcast.net

2026 Fellows Nomination Form

COMPLETE

#18


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 20th 2026, 6:09:01 pm

IP ADDRESS

 70.90.42.157

* Nominee's Name:

Nicole A. Evans

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

74826

* Nominee's Email Address:

nevans@54bdistrictcourt.com

Nominee's Address:

101 Linden St.
East Lansing
MI
48823
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.

15

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

nicole_evans_resume_2026.pdf

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

(No response)

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 believe Nicole Evans would be an exceptional addition to the State Bar Fellows program. Ms. Evans has a longstanding commitment to the legal profession, public service, and the pivotal attribute of access to justice. She has dedicated her career to advancing integrity and accessibility of MI judicial system through her hands on community engagement and as the Court Administrator of 54-B District Court, where she oversees critical court operations and has a firsthand look into what areas of access to justice can be improved for litigants. She has served as the Clerk, Vice Chair, and Chair of the SBM Representative Assembly and has been an excellent example of what leadership looks like. She also was instrumental in the extensive research and committee work that addressed Legal Deserts in the State. Having worked alongside her as Chair of the Representative Assembly, she is committed to leading the RA in the most orderly, organized fashion and leads the representatives from every corner of this great State and reflects the high regard she is held by her peers and colleagues. This allows her to gain an understanding of the issues affecting practitioners and the practice of law. She has also devoted a lot of time to expungement clinics, access to justice initiatives, mentorship and community advocacy efforts impacting underserved communities. In sum, Nicole Evans embodies the professionalism, leadership and integrity that represents the Fellows Program.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Tanisha M. Davis

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

71716

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

tdavis@tmdavislaw.com

NICOLE EVANS

Attorney, Administrator, Advocate

Email: nevans@54bdistrictcourt.com; Office: (517) 336-8645

Judicial Administration Experience - 54-B District Court, East Lansing, MI

Court Administrator

2016 – Present

- Responsible for daily operations of two-judge court including personnel, budget, technology, and infrastructure
- Manage 3.5 million dollar annual budget
- Lead team of 20+ staff, including unionized employees
- Hire, train, supervise, and invest in professional development of staff
- Create opportunities for positive engagement with the community
- Expanded access to justice with implementation and improvement of online resolution programs
- Ensure compliance with applicable statutes, court policies and procedures, court rules, and administrative orders
- American Disabilities Act and Language Access Coordinator
- Advance access to justice and public, trust, and confidence in the courts by serving on various committees and workgroups
- Liaison to funding unit and other local stakeholders

Deputy Court Administrator

2011 – 2016

- Act in absence of Court Administrator
- Responsible for daily operations of the court
- Assist with hiring, training and supervising staff
- Develop, implement, review court policies and procedures

Chief Probation Officer

2002 – 2006

- Maintained caseload of 200+ probationers
- Acted in the absence of Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator
- Assisted with managing AS400 network and JIS case management systems
- Hired, trained, supervised, and evaluated professional, support staff, and interns
- Prepared department budget for inclusion in annual court budget
- Implemented Minor in Possession Diversion Program
- Developed and implemented Probation Intern Procedure Manual
- Compiled and analyzed monthly statistics to determine possible trends in probation caseload
- Staff liaison to substance abuse agencies to discuss new program development
- Developed policies and procedures for the probation department.

- Presenter on the process of a case for various organizations including East Lansing Police Department, Family Independence Agency (now Department of Human Services), and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) – Victim Advocacy Training

Municipal Administration Experience – City of East Lansing, East Lansing, MI

City Clerk

2008 – 2011

- Responsible for administration of all elections held in the City of East Lansing
- Hired, trained, supervised and evaluated staff
- Prepared, presented, and managed annual budget
- Recruited, appointed and trained over 250 volunteer election inspectors each election
- Created and implemented Precinct Chair Bootcamp program
- Chaired task force to review issues of safety and congestion in the downtown area
- Developed, implement and evaluate office policies and procedures
- Coordinate city code amendments and updates
- Served as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator
- Chaired City Election Commission
- Staff liaison to Elected Officers' Compensation Commission
- City liaison to Michigan State University YouVote Committee
- Certified Election Inspector Trainer
- Certified Municipal Clerk

Deputy City Clerk

2006 – 2008

- Responsible for receipt and archiving of official city records
- Acted in the absence of City Clerk
- Assisted with hiring, training, and supervising staff
- Recruited, assigned, and prepared payroll for election inspectors
- Conducted election inspector training
- Conducted mandatory testing of election equipment to ensure accurate counting of ballots and votes
- Created business licenses procedure manual
- Created procedures for city's budget management and accounting software

Education

- Juris Doctor, *Thomas M. Cooley Law School*
- Master of Public Administration, *Western Michigan University*
- Bachelor of Arts, *University of Olivet (formerly Olivet College)*

Licenses and Certifications:

- Licensed Michigan Attorney
- Certified Court Executive – *National Center for State Courts*
- Certified Court Manager – *National Center for State Courts*
- Qualified Mediator – Civil and Domestic 2011 - 2017

- Certified Municipal Clerk – designation earned 2009
- Election Inspector Training Coordinator received 2007
- Notary Public
- Certified Criminal Justice Professional (*substance abuse assessments*) 2004 – 2006

Leadership & Affiliations

- **Representative Assembly**, State Bar of Michigan (2018–Present)
 - Chair (2025-2026)
 - Vice-Chair (2024 – 2025)
 - Co-Chair Legal Deserts sub workgroup: Leveraging Technology for Broader Access
 - Clerk of the Assembly (2023-2024)
 - Chair, Special Issues Committee (2019–2022)
- **Director**, Michigan Court Administrators Association (2020–Present)
 - **Co-founder**, Public Trust & Confidence Committee
- **President**, Zonta Club of East Lansing (2016-2017)
- **President**, Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (2014–2015)

Community Engagement & Advocacy

- **Organizer**, May 1 Law Day Expungement Clinic (2026)
- **Organizer**, Lansing Area Road to Restoration Clinics (2022, 2023, 2025, 2026)
- **Organizer**, Mid-Michigan Virtual Expungement Clinic (June 19, 2021)
- **Volunteer**: Local area expungement clinics, Ingham County Bar Foundation Golf Outing, Project Salute, Meals on Wheels (20 years)

Affiliations, Committees, and Projects

Ingham County Bar Foundation Fellow	2025 – present
Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan	2025 – present
American Inns of Court	2021 – present
Women’s Lawyers Association of Michigan	2020 – present
National Association of Court Managers	2011 – present
Michigan Court Administrators Association	2011 – present
Director	2020 – present
Public Trust and Confidence Committee co-founder	2020 – present
State Bar Representative Assembly	2018 – present
Special Issues Committee Chair	2019 – 2022
Ad Hoc – Reforms Committee	2023
Ad Hoc – Diversity Committee	2021
State Bar Affordable Legal Services workgroup	2017 – 2019
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	2015 – present
Treasurer	2020 – present
Equal Access to Justice Initiative – State Bar of Michigan	2015 – 2017

Project Salute, Volunteer	2012
State Bar of Michigan	2011 – present
Ingham County Bar Association	2011 – present
Davis-Dunnings Bar Association	2011 – present
President	2014 – 2015
Treasurer	2012 – 2014
Zonta Club of East Lansing	2008 – 2019
President	2016 – 2017
Capital Area Municipal Clerks Association,	2006 – 2011
Director - Ingham County	2008 – 2011
Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks	2006 – 2011
Meals on Wheels	2000 – 2020

Presentations

- Landau, Hon. C., White, Martha, Evans, Nicole (2021, September 28) *Court as a Service, Not a Place*. Presented remotely at the Court Technology Conference, Columbus, OH
- McCormack, CJ Bridget Mary; Evans, Nicole; Davis, Alicia; Sydow, Nora (2021, July 14) *Pandemic Rapid Response Team Implementation Lab: Integrating Sustainable Strategies and Innovative Resources*. Presented at the National Association of Court Managers Conference, San Diego, CA
- Larkin, Hon. A., Evans, N., Stump, R., & Cheesebro, S. (2019, May 8) *College Town Court Connects with the Public Online*, [Webinar], <https://youtu.be/xSOV6milujs>
- Butler, Denise and Evans, Nicole (July 2016), *Building a Connected Court, Increasing Access Online in East Lansing*, presented at the National Association of Court Managers Conference, Pittsburgh, PA
- Frequent presenter on Professionalism and Ethics as part of the Court Support Certification Program, Michigan Judicial Institute, Lansing, MI

2026 Fellows Nomination Form

COMPLETE

#17


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 19th 2026, 6:33:30 pm

IP ADDRESS

 99.16.80.158

* Nominee's Name:

Nicole Evans

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

74826

* Nominee's Email Address:

NEvans@cityofeastlansing.com

Nominee's Address:

101 Linden St.
East Lansing
MI
48823
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.

15

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

nicole_evans_resume_2026.pdf

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

<https://www.michbar.org/journal/Details/Seeing-people-as-people-Nicole-Evans-sworn-in-as-2025-2026-Representative-Assembly-chair?ArticleID=5173>

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:**

Nicole Evans is a dedicated public servant. She is currently the Court Clerk for East Lansing. She brings a unique perspective having served as the City Clerk for East Lansing and Chief Probation Officer. Nicole has also given her time and energy to the State Bar and currently serves as the Chair of the RA. She is worthy of this honor.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Nicholas M. Ohanesian

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

62064

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

nickohanesian@yahoo.com

NICOLE EVANS

Attorney, Administrator, Advocate

Email: nevans@54bdistrictcourt.com; Office: (517) 336-8645

Judicial Administration Experience - 54-B District Court, East Lansing, MI

Court Administrator

2016 – Present

- Responsible for daily operations of two-judge court including personnel, budget, technology, and infrastructure
- Manage 3.5 million dollar annual budget
- Lead team of 20+ staff, including unionized employees
- Hire, train, supervise, and invest in professional development of staff
- Create opportunities for positive engagement with the community
- Expanded access to justice with implementation and improvement of online resolution programs
- Ensure compliance with applicable statutes, court policies and procedures, court rules, and administrative orders
- American Disabilities Act and Language Access Coordinator
- Advance access to justice and public, trust, and confidence in the courts by serving on various committees and workgroups
- Liaison to funding unit and other local stakeholders

Deputy Court Administrator

2011 – 2016

- Act in absence of Court Administrator
- Responsible for daily operations of the court
- Assist with hiring, training and supervising staff
- Develop, implement, review court policies and procedures

Chief Probation Officer

2002 – 2006

- Maintained caseload of 200+ probationers
- Acted in the absence of Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator
- Assisted with managing AS400 network and JIS case management systems
- Hired, trained, supervised, and evaluated professional, support staff, and interns
- Prepared department budget for inclusion in annual court budget
- Implemented Minor in Possession Diversion Program
- Developed and implemented Probation Intern Procedure Manual
- Compiled and analyzed monthly statistics to determine possible trends in probation caseload
- Staff liaison to substance abuse agencies to discuss new program development
- Developed policies and procedures for the probation department.

- Presenter on the process of a case for various organizations including East Lansing Police Department, Family Independence Agency (now Department of Human Services), and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) – Victim Advocacy Training

Municipal Administration Experience – City of East Lansing, East Lansing, MI

City Clerk

2008 – 2011

- Responsible for administration of all elections held in the City of East Lansing
- Hired, trained, supervised and evaluated staff
- Prepared, presented, and managed annual budget
- Recruited, appointed and trained over 250 volunteer election inspectors each election
- Created and implemented Precinct Chair Bootcamp program
- Chaired task force to review issues of safety and congestion in the downtown area
- Developed, implement and evaluate office policies and procedures
- Coordinate city code amendments and updates
- Served as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator
- Chaired City Election Commission
- Staff liaison to Elected Officers' Compensation Commission
- City liaison to Michigan State University YouVote Committee
- Certified Election Inspector Trainer
- Certified Municipal Clerk

Deputy City Clerk

2006 – 2008

- Responsible for receipt and archiving of official city records
- Acted in the absence of City Clerk
- Assisted with hiring, training, and supervising staff
- Recruited, assigned, and prepared payroll for election inspectors
- Conducted election inspector training
- Conducted mandatory testing of election equipment to ensure accurate counting of ballots and votes
- Created business licenses procedure manual
- Created procedures for city's budget management and accounting software

Education

- Juris Doctor, *Thomas M. Cooley Law School*
- Master of Public Administration, *Western Michigan University*
- Bachelor of Arts, *University of Olivet (formerly Olivet College)*

Licenses and Certifications:

- Licensed Michigan Attorney
- Certified Court Executive – *National Center for State Courts*
- Certified Court Manager – *National Center for State Courts*
- Qualified Mediator – Civil and Domestic 2011 - 2017

- Certified Municipal Clerk – designation earned 2009
- Election Inspector Training Coordinator received 2007
- Notary Public
- Certified Criminal Justice Professional (*substance abuse assessments*) 2004 – 2006

Leadership & Affiliations

- **Representative Assembly**, State Bar of Michigan (2018–Present)
 - Chair (2025-2026)
 - Vice-Chair (2024 – 2025)
 - Co-Chair Legal Deserts sub workgroup: Leveraging Technology for Broader Access
 - Clerk of the Assembly (2023-2024)
 - Chair, Special Issues Committee (2019–2022)
- **Director**, Michigan Court Administrators Association (2020–Present)
 - **Co-founder**, Public Trust & Confidence Committee
- **President**, Zonta Club of East Lansing (2016-2017)
- **President**, Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (2014–2015)

Community Engagement & Advocacy

- **Organizer**, May 1 Law Day Expungement Clinic (2026)
- **Organizer**, Lansing Area Road to Restoration Clinics (2022, 2023, 2025, 2026)
- **Organizer**, Mid-Michigan Virtual Expungement Clinic (June 19, 2021)
- **Volunteer**: Local area expungement clinics, Ingham County Bar Foundation Golf Outing, Project Salute, Meals on Wheels (20 years)

Affiliations, Committees, and Projects

Ingham County Bar Foundation Fellow	2025 – present
Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan	2025 – present
American Inns of Court	2021 – present
Women’s Lawyers Association of Michigan	2020 – present
National Association of Court Managers	2011 – present
Michigan Court Administrators Association	2011 – present
Director	2020 – present
Public Trust and Confidence Committee co-founder	2020 – present
State Bar Representative Assembly	2018 – present
Special Issues Committee Chair	2019 – 2022
Ad Hoc – Reforms Committee	2023
Ad Hoc – Diversity Committee	2021
State Bar Affordable Legal Services workgroup	2017 – 2019
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	2015 – present
Treasurer	2020 – present
Equal Access to Justice Initiative – State Bar of Michigan	2015 – 2017

Project Salute, Volunteer	2012
State Bar of Michigan	2011 – present
Ingham County Bar Association	2011 – present
Davis-Dunnings Bar Association	2011 – present
President	2014 – 2015
Treasurer	2012 – 2014
Zonta Club of East Lansing	2008 – 2019
President	2016 – 2017
Capital Area Municipal Clerks Association,	2006 – 2011
Director - Ingham County	2008 – 2011
Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks	2006 – 2011
Meals on Wheels	2000 – 2020

Presentations

- Landau, Hon. C., White, Martha, Evans, Nicole (2021, September 28) *Court as a Service, Not a Place*. Presented remotely at the Court Technology Conference, Columbus, OH
- McCormack, CJ Bridget Mary; Evans, Nicole; Davis, Alicia; Sydow, Nora (2021, July 14) *Pandemic Rapid Response Team Implementation Lab: Integrating Sustainable Strategies and Innovative Resources*. Presented at the National Association of Court Managers Conference, San Diego, CA
- Larkin, Hon. A., Evans, N., Stump, R., & Cheesebro, S. (2019, May 8) *College Town Court Connects with the Public Online*, [Webinar], <https://youtu.be/xSOV6milujs>
- Butler, Denise and Evans, Nicole (July 2016), *Building a Connected Court, Increasing Access Online in East Lansing*, presented at the National Association of Court Managers Conference, Pittsburgh, PA
- Frequent presenter on Professionalism and Ethics as part of the Court Support Certification Program, Michigan Judicial Institute, Lansing, MI

2026 Fellows Nomination Form

COMPLETE

#15


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 18th 2026, 2:22:10 pm

IP ADDRESS

 165.85.196.222

* Nominee's Name:

Nicole Evans

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

74826

* Nominee's Email Address:

NEvans@cityofeastlansing.com

Nominee's Address:

101 Linden Street
East Lansing
Michigan
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.

15

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

No

Upload Your Nominees Bio

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

(No response)

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

State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners; State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly. among others

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:**

Nicole is an outstanding lawyer, a thoughtful contributor to the bar, and a friendly and dynamic person. She is performing admirably chairing the representative assembly.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Aaron Burrell

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

73708

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

aburrell@dickinson-wright.com

2026 Fellows Nomination Form

COMPLETE

#11


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 17th 2026, 6:20:18 pm

IP ADDRESS

 96.94.132.173

* Nominee's Name:

Nicole Evans

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

74826

* Nominee's Email Address:

nevans@54bdistrictcourt.com

Nominee's Address:

101 Linden Street
East Lansing
MI
48823
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.

15

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

nicole_evans_resume_2026.pdf

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

(No response)

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:**

First as a mentee then as a fellow Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (DDBA) officer, I have worked directly with Nicole on several community service projects, planning committees, and sought her input on complex legal issues. Further, she has played a pivotal role in helping me to secure vital services for my clients in her current role as the Court Administrator at the 54B District Court.

Nicole has worked tirelessly, in a variety of capacities, to secure justice for Ingham County's citizens for more than two decades. She has risen through the ranks at the district court level and gained practical experience that would prove invaluable in her role as a judge. Nicole started as a court clerk in the traffic division. Then she spent eight years as a probation officer including four as the chief probation officer. Never one to sit idle, Nicole returned to school to obtain her master's and law degree while working full time. Indeed, her ability to multitask effectively is without peer. Nicole is a certified civil mediator who has mediated cases in 54A and D55. During her tenure with the city, the city manager invited Nicole to become the deputy city clerk. Not surprisingly, she readily accepted and excelled in that role. Her mettle was tested when Nicole succeeded to city clerk just two months shy of the 2008 presidential election. She rose to the occasion. Nicole ultimately returned to district court as the deputy administrator. She wasted exactly no time in creating division manuals for training, reference, and succession planning. Notably, Nicole assisted with the implementation of the first online resolution program in Ingham County. Three more programs have manifested under her watch since 2015. One of those is the popular and efficient online misdemeanor plea option. Few others present with the depth and breadth of experience that Nicole does.

Nicole serves our community outside of the courthouse. She is a reliable and active member of various workgroups and committees that work to improve access to justice. For example, she was recently appointed to the board of the Michigan Court Administrators and Justice for All workgroup. It deserves emphasis that these unpaid commitments often take her away from her family for days on end.

Her selfless acts are not reserved for group settings though. I knee surgery a few years ago could not drive for several weeks. Nicole once insisted that I cancel my Uber and drove me to our offices from the courthouse. That unsolicited act of kindness still means more to me than she probably realizes.

Nicole would be an ideal addition to the ranks of the Fellows.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Takura Nyamfukudza

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

77034

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

takura@cndefenders.com

NICOLE EVANS

Attorney, Administrator, Advocate

Email: nevans@54bdistrictcourt.com; Office: (517) 336-8645

Judicial Administration Experience - 54-B District Court, East Lansing, MI

Court Administrator

2016 – Present

- Responsible for daily operations of two-judge court including personnel, budget, technology, and infrastructure
- Manage 3.5 million dollar annual budget
- Lead team of 20+ staff, including unionized employees
- Hire, train, supervise, and invest in professional development of staff
- Create opportunities for positive engagement with the community
- Expanded access to justice with implementation and improvement of online resolution programs
- Ensure compliance with applicable statutes, court policies and procedures, court rules, and administrative orders
- American Disabilities Act and Language Access Coordinator
- Advance access to justice and public, trust, and confidence in the courts by serving on various committees and workgroups
- Liaison to funding unit and other local stakeholders

Deputy Court Administrator

2011 – 2016

- Act in absence of Court Administrator
- Responsible for daily operations of the court
- Assist with hiring, training and supervising staff
- Develop, implement, review court policies and procedures

Chief Probation Officer

2002 – 2006

- Maintained caseload of 200+ probationers
- Acted in the absence of Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator
- Assisted with managing AS400 network and JIS case management systems
- Hired, trained, supervised, and evaluated professional, support staff, and interns
- Prepared department budget for inclusion in annual court budget
- Implemented Minor in Possession Diversion Program
- Developed and implemented Probation Intern Procedure Manual
- Compiled and analyzed monthly statistics to determine possible trends in probation caseload
- Staff liaison to substance abuse agencies to discuss new program development
- Developed policies and procedures for the probation department.

- Presenter on the process of a case for various organizations including East Lansing Police Department, Family Independence Agency (now Department of Human Services), and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) – Victim Advocacy Training

Municipal Administration Experience – City of East Lansing, East Lansing, MI

City Clerk

2008 – 2011

- Responsible for administration of all elections held in the City of East Lansing
- Hired, trained, supervised and evaluated staff
- Prepared, presented, and managed annual budget
- Recruited, appointed and trained over 250 volunteer election inspectors each election
- Created and implemented Precinct Chair Bootcamp program
- Chaired task force to review issues of safety and congestion in the downtown area
- Developed, implement and evaluate office policies and procedures
- Coordinate city code amendments and updates
- Served as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator
- Chaired City Election Commission
- Staff liaison to Elected Officers' Compensation Commission
- City liaison to Michigan State University YouVote Committee
- Certified Election Inspector Trainer
- Certified Municipal Clerk

Deputy City Clerk

2006 – 2008

- Responsible for receipt and archiving of official city records
- Acted in the absence of City Clerk
- Assisted with hiring, training, and supervising staff
- Recruited, assigned, and prepared payroll for election inspectors
- Conducted election inspector training
- Conducted mandatory testing of election equipment to ensure accurate counting of ballots and votes
- Created business licenses procedure manual
- Created procedures for city's budget management and accounting software

Education

- Juris Doctor, *Thomas M. Cooley Law School*
- Master of Public Administration, *Western Michigan University*
- Bachelor of Arts, *University of Olivet (formerly Olivet College)*

Licenses and Certifications:

- Licensed Michigan Attorney
- Certified Court Executive – *National Center for State Courts*
- Certified Court Manager – *National Center for State Courts*
- Qualified Mediator – Civil and Domestic 2011 - 2017

- Certified Municipal Clerk – designation earned 2009
- Election Inspector Training Coordinator received 2007
- Notary Public
- Certified Criminal Justice Professional (*substance abuse assessments*) 2004 – 2006

Leadership & Affiliations

- **Representative Assembly**, State Bar of Michigan (2018–Present)
 - Chair (2025-2026)
 - Vice-Chair (2024 – 2025)
 - Co-Chair Legal Deserts sub workgroup: Leveraging Technology for Broader Access
 - Clerk of the Assembly (2023-2024)
 - Chair, Special Issues Committee (2019–2022)
- **Director**, Michigan Court Administrators Association (2020–Present)
 - **Co-founder**, Public Trust & Confidence Committee
- **President**, Zonta Club of East Lansing (2016-2017)
- **President**, Davis-Dunnings Bar Association (2014–2015)

Community Engagement & Advocacy

- **Organizer**, May 1 Law Day Expungement Clinic (2026)
- **Organizer**, Lansing Area Road to Restoration Clinics (2022, 2023, 2025, 2026)
- **Organizer**, Mid-Michigan Virtual Expungement Clinic (June 19, 2021)
- **Volunteer**: Local area expungement clinics, Ingham County Bar Foundation Golf Outing, Project Salute, Meals on Wheels (20 years)

Affiliations, Committees, and Projects

Ingham County Bar Foundation Fellow	2025 – present
Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan	2025 – present
American Inns of Court	2021 – present
Women’s Lawyers Association of Michigan	2020 – present
National Association of Court Managers	2011 – present
Michigan Court Administrators Association	2011 – present
Director	2020 – present
Public Trust and Confidence Committee co-founder	2020 – present
State Bar Representative Assembly	2018 – present
Special Issues Committee Chair	2019 – 2022
Ad Hoc – Reforms Committee	2023
Ad Hoc – Diversity Committee	2021
State Bar Affordable Legal Services workgroup	2017 – 2019
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	2015 – present
Treasurer	2020 – present
Equal Access to Justice Initiative – State Bar of Michigan	2015 – 2017

Project Salute, Volunteer	2012
State Bar of Michigan	2011 – present
Ingham County Bar Association	2011 – present
Davis-Dunnings Bar Association	2011 – present
President	2014 – 2015
Treasurer	2012 – 2014
Zonta Club of East Lansing	2008 – 2019
President	2016 – 2017
Capital Area Municipal Clerks Association,	2006 – 2011
Director - Ingham County	2008 – 2011
Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks	2006 – 2011
Meals on Wheels	2000 – 2020

Presentations

- Landau, Hon. C., White, Martha, Evans, Nicole (2021, September 28) *Court as a Service, Not a Place*. Presented remotely at the Court Technology Conference, Columbus, OH
- McCormack, CJ Bridget Mary; Evans, Nicole; Davis, Alicia; Sydow, Nora (2021, July 14) *Pandemic Rapid Response Team Implementation Lab: Integrating Sustainable Strategies and Innovative Resources*. Presented at the National Association of Court Managers Conference, San Diego, CA
- Larkin, Hon. A., Evans, N., Stump, R., & Cheesebro, S. (2019, May 8) *College Town Court Connects with the Public Online*, [Webinar], <https://youtu.be/xSOV6milujs>
- Butler, Denise and Evans, Nicole (July 2016), *Building a Connected Court, Increasing Access Online in East Lansing*, presented at the National Association of Court Managers Conference, Pittsburgh, PA
- Frequent presenter on Professionalism and Ethics as part of the Court Support Certification Program, Michigan Judicial Institute, Lansing, MI