

# 2026 Fellows Nomination Form

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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

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May 18th 2026, 1:22:13 pm

### IP ADDRESS

 74.204.74.226

### \* Nominee's Name:

Joseph J. Gavin

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

69529

### \* Nominee's Email Address:

gavinj@millerjohnson.com

### Nominee's Address:

45 Ottawa Ave.  
Suite 1100, PO Box 306  
Grand Rapids  
Michigan  
49503-4009  
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

### Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

www.millerjohnson.com/attorney/gavinj/

### 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:**

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(No response)

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

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Joe Gavin is an outstanding lawyer with a deep commitment to community service. He is currently serving as President of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees for the Grand Rapids Bar Association, former chair of the Justice Foundation of West Michigan and former board member of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan.

**\* Nominator's Name:**

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Craig H. Lubben

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

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33154

**\* Nominator's Email Address:**

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lubbenc@millerjohnson.com

# Joseph J. Gavin

MEMBER

Grand Rapids

[gavinj@millerjohnson.com](mailto:gavinj@millerjohnson.com)

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Joe Gavin has been practicing law since 2005. He is a litigator, and has extensive experience in both federal and state courts. He has represented individuals, Fortune 500 companies and family-owned businesses. Mr. Gavin has handled complex cases involving myriad issues.

## Healthcare Reimbursement Litigation

Mr. Gavin a member of the firm's healthcare reimbursement practice group. He regularly provides litigation and counseling to medical providers seeking insurance reimbursement on patient accounts. He also pursues wrongful denials of hospital and provider claims by third-party payers, including ERISA health plans, no-fault carriers, health insurance plans and government payors.

## Appellate Litigation

As a former Prehearing Research Attorney with the Michigan Court of Appeals, Mr. Gavin has seen the inside and outside of the appellate process. He has successfully handled appeals in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court. These cases have covered diverse topics, including insurance and healthcare disputes, business disputes, banking and real estate disputes, and family law disputes. Some of Mr. Gavin's appeals include:

## Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Family Owned Business and Closely Held Companies
- Government Investigations
- Health Care
- Litigation
- Med Recovery

## Education

- J.D., Michigan State University College of Law, 2005, *summa cum laude*
- B.A., Hope College, 2001, *cum laude*

## Bar Admissions

- Michigan, 2005

## Court Admissions



- *Meroste Co. Medical Center v. Metropolitan Group Property & Cas Ins Co*, 509 Mich. 276 (2022) (holding that privity between an assignor and an assignee ceases at the point of assignment).
- *Cheff v. Cheff*, unpublished opinion of the Court of Appeals, issued April 24, 2012 (Docket No. 300231) (affirming the trial court's holding favoring the client voiding a postnuptial agreement).
- *Greenville Layfayette v. Elgin State Bank*, 296 Mich. App. 284 (2012) (reversing summary disposition granted against the client in a banking dispute).
- *DuRay Development v. Perrin*, 288 Mich. App. 143 (2010) (reversing entry of judgment against the client based on the *de facto* corporation doctrine).
- *Hillsdale Community Health Center v. Pioneer State Mutual Insurance Company*, unpublished opinion per curiam of the Court of Appeals, issued September 8, 2009 (Docket No. 285681) (affirming trial court's award of summary disposition and attorneys' fees in ERISA litigation).
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

### Professional Affiliations and Community Activities

Mr. Gavin is a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association and State Bar of Michigan. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, and serves as its President. Mr. Gavin also serves on the board for Alternative Directions, a Kent County-based program that serves MDOC Probationers and Parolees in leading successful, crime-free lives in their communities. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees for the GRBA, former chair of the Justice Foundation of West Michigan, and is a former board member and officer of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan. He is a member of Leadership Grand Rapids, Class of 2014.

### Education

Mr. Gavin earned his law degree, summa cum laude, from Michigan State University College of Law. He earned his bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Hope College. He is admitted to practice in Michigan.