

Nomination for Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation

Nominee: Elizabeth V. Janovic

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Michigan Bar Number: P71456

Position: Judicial Attorney to the Hon. Tracy E. Van den Bergh, Washtenaw County Trial Court

Address: 101 E. Huron Street, P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Telephone: (734) 222-6913

Nominator: Chad C. Engelhardt

Firm: Goethel Engelhardt, PLLC, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bar Roles: Chair, Washtenaw County Bar Association ADR Section; Executive Committee Chairperson, ICLE; Member, State Bar of Michigan Negligence Law Section

Statement in Support of Nomination

It is my privilege to nominate Elizabeth V. Janovic for membership in the Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. Ms. Janovic exemplifies the criteria the Foundation has set for the Fellows: she is an attorney in good standing, she has demonstrated sustained professional excellence across an unusually broad range of practice settings, and she has dedicated her career—both before and after admission to the bar—to public service and to the fair administration of justice. Her current work as judicial staff to the Hon. Tracy E. Van den Bergh of the Washtenaw County Trial Court places her at the very heart of the civil justice system the Foundation exists to support.

Professional Excellence

Ms. Janovic earned her Juris Doctor from Michigan State University College of Law, where her leadership was recognized early. She served as President of the Student Bar Association and as an executive board member of the Entertainment and Sports Law Journal. While still a student, she completed SCAO-approved civil mediation training and interned for both United States Senator Carl Levin and the Resolution Services Center—a combination that signaled, even then, the dual commitment to legislative service and to dispute resolution that has defined her career.

Her practice trajectory reflects depth, versatility, and the willingness to take on demanding new substantive areas. She began as Assistant Corporate Counsel at Hino Motors Manufacturing U.S.A. (a Toyota Group company) in Farmington Hills. She then relocated to New York City, where she joined the internet company Knovel and rose through her own initiative from executive assistant to the CEO into a Corporate Counsel role handling contract management, human-resources matters, and mergers and acquisitions. She subsequently joined Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP in New York, where her practice

focused on the defense of physicians, hospitals, and long-term-care providers in medical-malpractice litigation.

Upon returning to Michigan and Ann Arbor, Ms. Janovic joined Wilson P. Tanner III, PLC, where she practiced and mediated across the full range of family-law matters, including domestic mediation. She now serves as judicial attorney to Judge Van den Bergh at the Washtenaw County Trial Court—a role that requires precisely the qualities the Fellows program seeks to recognize: rigorous legal analysis, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to the integrity of the civil-justice process.

Her current practice areas—Alternative Dispute Resolution, Civil Mediation, Family Law and Family Law Mediation, Juvenile Law, Mediation and Arbitration, and Neutral Dispute Resolution Services and Training—reflect a settled professional commitment to helping parties resolve disputes constructively. Having had the opportunity to observe Ms. Janovic's work in the Washtenaw County legal community, I can attest that she brings to that work a combination of intellectual rigor, even temperament, and genuine care for the people in front of her that is the hallmark of an excellent neutral and an excellent lawyer.

Service to the Community

Ms. Janovic's commitment to service predates her legal career. She served in the United States Army 428th Military Police Company and as a cadet in the University of Notre Dame Army ROTC, later serving as a platoon leader in her Army Reserve unit. That foundation of service—of accepting responsibility for others and for the larger institution one serves—has continued to inform her work as a lawyer.

She is an active and engaged member of the Washtenaw County Bar Association, contributing to a local bar that depends on members like her to maintain its collegiality and professional culture. Her current role on the staff of the Washtenaw County Trial Court is itself a continuing form of public service: every day, she contributes to the careful, fair, and efficient resolution of the civil and family-law matters that come before the court—work that aligns directly with the Foundation's mission of ensuring that justice is administered fairly in Michigan's civil-justice system.

Alignment with the Mission of the Fellows

The Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation exist to recognize attorneys who embody the highest traditions of the profession and to support, through their generosity, the Foundation's grantmaking in civil legal services and the administration of justice. Ms. Janovic's career—spanning corporate, defense, plaintiff-adjacent, family-law, mediation, and judicial-staff work—demonstrates a breadth of professional experience matched by a consistent orientation toward service. Her dedication to alternative dispute resolution in particular advances precisely the values the Foundation supports: access to justice, fair process, and the constructive resolution of conflict.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recommend Elizabeth V. Janovic for invitation to join the Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. She would be an exemplary addition to the program, and her colleagues throughout the Washtenaw County legal community would, I am confident, welcome the recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad C. Engelhardt

Goethel Engelhardt, PLLC

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Erica Swieringa

From: Jennifer S. Bentley
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 3:18 PM
To: Chad Engelhardt
Cc: Robert Riley; Erica Swieringa
Subject: FW: Elizabeth V. Janovic- Nomination for Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation
Attachments: MSBF Fellows Nomination E. V. Janovic May 5 2026.docx

Chad,

Thank you! We received this. I am copying Erica Swieringa, our Engagement Manager, on this email. She will follow up if we have any questions.

Thanks.

Jennifer

From: Chad Engelhardt <chad@cmtjustice.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Jennifer S. Bentley <jennifer@msbf.org>
Cc: Robert Riley <rriley@rileyhurley.com>
Subject: Elizabeth V. Janovic- Nomination for Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation

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Elizabeth V. Janovic

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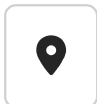
Call Now :

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Elizabeth V. Janovic

Washtenaw County Trial Court

P number : 71456



101 E. Huron Street, PO BOX 8645
Ann Arbor, MI, 48107



734-222-6913

Elizabeth received her Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University College of Law and is licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan. Before joining Wilson P. Tanner III, PLC, Elizabeth worked as an associate attorney at Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP in New York City where her practice focused primarily on the defense of physicians, hospitals, and long-term care providers involved in medical malpractice litigation. Prior to KBR, Elizabeth worked as assistant general counsel at Hino Motors Manufacturing U.S.A., a Toyota Group Company, and then as an in-house legal consultant for the New York based Internet company, Knovel. Elizabeth is currently working as a judicial attorney for Judge Tracy E. Van den Bergh at the Washtenaw County Trial Court.

Area(s) of Practice:

Alternative Dispute Resolution, Civil Mediation, Divorce, Family Law, Family Law Mediation, Juvenile Law, Mediation, Mediation and Arbitration, Neutral Dispute Resolution Services & Training,



Washtenaw County Bar Association

 (734) 994.4912

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