

Self-2026 Fellows Nomination Application Form

COMPLETE

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The Michigan State Bar Foundation is currently seeking nominations for the Class of 2026 Fellows.


Following is the criteria to be considered a member of 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.

Your application for nomination will be reviewed and considered by the Fellows Nominating Committee and brought to the Board of Directors for final approval.

CREATED

 PUBLIC
May 21st 2026, 4:03:04 pm

IP ADDRESS

 99.60.162.232

* Name:

Linda Kennedy

* P Number: (please enter number only)

64692

* Email Address

lkennedy@paniplaw.com

Address:

3155 West Big Beaver Road
119
Troy
Michigan
48084
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:

27

Do you have a Curriculum Vitae, Resume or Bio? If not, you will be asked to answer additional questions below.

Yes

Upload Your Curriculum Vitae, Resume or Bio

[linda_d_kennedy_cv_sbm.pdf](#)

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)

*** Please provide the names of three current members that are Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation that are willing to act as references.**

Nicole Smithson, Leigh Taggart, Richard Grauer

*** Please summarize below why you would like to join the Fellows Program.**

Lawyers in leadership positions should visibly support access to justice. The Foundation's work aligns with my view that the legal profession has a responsibility to help vulnerable people obtain meaningful legal assistance, including people in underserved communities and legal deserts. I would be proud to support that work through the Fellows program and to encourage others to do the same.

Linda D. Kennedy
PANAGOS KENNEDY PLLC
lkennedy@paniplaw.com | 248.564.1343

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highly regarded intellectual property attorney with 25+ years of experience advising executive leadership on IP strategy, litigation, and enterprise risk management. Career includes senior in-house counsel roles, law firm partnership, bar leadership, university board service, and pro bono constitutional litigation. Recognized by Michigan Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers in America, Michigan Lawyers Weekly, and Crain's Detroit Business.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Partner, Panagos Kennedy PLLC

Michigan | Feb. 2019 – Present

Serve as outside Chief IP Advisor to companies across manufacturing, consumer products, technology, and e-commerce sectors, advising executives on corporate risk, commercial transactions, dispute management, and intellectual property strategy.

- Advise executive leadership on commercial contracts, supplier agreements, licensing arrangements, and technology transactions supporting global operations
- Provide guidance on enterprise risk, regulatory compliance considerations, and dispute avoidance strategies across domestic and international business activities.
- Assist leadership teams in evaluating strategic initiatives, including acquisitions, product launches, and international expansion
- Manage litigation and dispute resolution matters, including intellectual property, commercial, and competitive disputes

Associate Director, IP, United Technologies Corp. (Pratt & Whitney / Collins Aerospace)

Connecticut | Nov. 2016 – Feb. 2019

Led intellectual property strategy for advanced aerospace propulsion and defense technologies supporting U.S. Department of Defense programs.

- Served as primary legal advisor to program executives on IP and competitive risk across development and commercialization cycles
- Assessed new product versions in view of third-party IP rights, and advised on practical clearance paths, risk mitigation strategies, and dispute-avoidance options
- Advised executive teams on infringement risk, trade secret exposure, and competitive hiring risks and mitigation plans for hiring executives and engineers subject to NDAs and noncompete agreements
- Managed outside counsel in executing metrics-driven international IP portfolio strategy, including decisions regarding new filings whether to maintain aging patents

Partner, Butzel Long, P.C.

Michigan | June 2012 – Oct. 2016

Advised manufacturing and technology companies on IP strategy and commercial disputes.

- Managed complex litigation involving trademark, trade secret, and patent issues across multiple jurisdictions
- Advised clients on IP portfolio development and international filing strategies
- Mentored attorneys on case management, expert handling, and settlement strategy

EARLIER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Partner, **Rader, Fishman & Grauer**, Michigan (2005 – 2012)

In-House Litigation Counsel, **Dow Chemical Company**, Michigan (2002 – 2005)

Associate, **Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione**, Illinois (1998 – 2002)

LICENSES & ADMISSIONS

State Bars of Michigan & Illinois

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

U.S. District Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities J.D., *cum laude*

B.A. (Chemistry)

Michigan Technological University B.S., *summa cum laude* (Scientific & Technical
Communication)

LEADERSHIP & BOARD SERVICE

Trustee Emerita, Michigan Technological University

Life Director, Michigan Technological University Alumni Association

Past Trustee, Michigan Tech Entrepreneurial Support Corporation

Past Chair, State Bar of Michigan Public Outreach & Education Committee

Past Chair, OCBA Professional Development Committee

PRO BONO EXPERIENCE

Murphy v. Lockhart, (10-cv-11676 ED Mich), First Amend.

Burnett v. Michigan Department of Corrections (08-cv-11764 ED Mich), Fourteenth Amend.

RECOGNITION

Michigan Super Lawyers (2020–2026)

Best Lawyers in America (2017, 2021–2026)

Leaders in the Law, Michigan Lawyers Weekly (Class of 2024)

Notable Women in Law, Crain's Detroit Business (Class of 2019)

**LINDA D. KENNEDY**

248.564.1343

lkennedy@paniplaw.com



Linda brings 25+ years of experience to her clients, including the business judgment developed as in-house counsel with Dow Chemical Co., Pratt & Whitney, and Collins Aerospace. Linda has developed global IP strategies, managed litigation, and negotiated commercial contracts and government contracts. She brings a business focus to the facing modern companies.

Linda litigates in federal and state court, and she advises clients on agreements. Linda authors patent applications and opinions, and manages IP portfolios.

RECOGNITION

Best Lawyers in America, 2017, 2021-2026

Michigan Super Lawyers, 2020-2025

Leaders in the Law, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, 2024

Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for Litigation - Patent in Troy MI, 2022

Go To Lawyers for Intellectual Property, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, 2022

Influential Women in Law, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, 2020

Notable Women in Law, *Crain's Detroit Business*, 2019

Top Lawyers, *DBusiness* magazine, 2014, 2017, 2022, 2024-2025

Fellow, American Bar Foundation

Fellow, Oakland County Bar Foundation

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member, Affordable Legal Services Committee, State Bar of Mich., 2025-present

Past Chair, Public Outreach & Education Committee, State Bar of Mich.

Past Trustee, Michigan Tech Entrepreneurial Support Corp.

Past Trustee, Michigan Technological University

PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Mitigating Risk When Hiring from the Competition*, Laches, Mar. 2023
- *Accessing Third Party Technology to Launch New Products*, Laches, Apr. 2022 (with I Panagos)
- *Are Patents Good for Green?*, Laches, Apr. 2021
- *Women Leaders in IP Law*, ACI's Inaugural Summit. (Presentation on Fostering Involvement among Women), Mar. 2021
- *Beyond Money: Creative Solutions to Litigation*, Laches, Feb. 2021
- *Protecting IP in Michigan's Defense Corridor*, State Bar of Michigan's IPLS Proceedings issue 1, 2020 (with Bill Panagos)
- *In-house & Outside Counsel Teams: Managing Commercial Litigation*, Laches, Jan. 2020
- *Why You Should Safeguard Your Newly-Formed Business's IP*, Corp! Magazine, Apr. 2019
- *Medical Device Patents: Design or Utility?*, 27 No. 11 Intell. Prop. & Tech. L.J. 12 (Nov. 2015)

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, B.A., J.D., *cum laude*

Michigan Technological University, B.S., *summa cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

State of Illinois

State of Michigan

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

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