

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

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May 21st 2026, 8:19:01 pm

IP ADDRESS

 184.175.144.162

* Nominee's Name:

Alexander S. Rusek

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

77581

* Nominee's Email Address:

arusek@fosterswift.com

Nominee's Address:

313 S. Washington Sq.
Lansing
MI
48933
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

alexander_rusek_bio.pdf

Provide below a link to your nominee's bio:

(see attached)

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:**

Alex Rusek practices in my firm's Lansing office so I'm pretty biased. He gives back extensively to the community and profession. In his Criminal Law work, the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys named him one of the "Top 10 Under 40 for Michigan. He is a founder and board member of The Army of Survivors, Inc. (an organization devoted to ending sexual violence in sports), board member and Vice-President of the Ingham County Bar Association, board member of the State Bar of Michigan Litigation Section Council, Past-President of the Ingham County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section. He has written articles for the Michigan Bar Journal and other state bar association and ABA publications.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Julie I. Fershtman

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

39282

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

jfershtman@fosterswift.com



Alexander S. Rusek

Shareholder

Lansing, MI
517.371.8153
arusek@fosterswift.com

Overview

Alexander Rusek is a rare trial lawyer under 40 who has tried numerous complex cases in the business world and the criminal law arena. His trial experience shapes how he advises and strategizes with clients in litigation and those facing potential litigation.

Most of Alex's work falls into three primary, often overlapping, areas: civil litigation, criminal cases, and administrative, regulatory, and investigative matters, including headline cases.

Trials: Jury verdicts and bench trials are a steady part of Alex's practice. He has tried breaches of contract and complex business dispute cases, civil rights cases, and criminal cases. His criminal cases have ranged from drunk driving offenses to first-degree premeditated murder and other life-offenses.

In (2023), Alex was awarded the Top 10 Under 40 Attorney Award for the State of Michigan by the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys (NACDA). NACDA was established in (2013) with the primary goal of discovering and recognizing the TOP 10 UNDER 40 criminal defense attorneys in each state for their hard work.

High Profile Litigation: Handling the press and pressure are skills Alex has honed in high profile mass action and class action cases. He represented over 100 survivors of sexual assault in nationally recognized cases and a defendant in the sprawling Flint Water Crisis civil and criminal litigation.

Administrative & Regulatory Matters & Investigations: Individuals face some of the most challenging times in their lives when they find themselves involved in overlapping civil, administrative, and criminal matters. Alex guides people through these difficult situations –including state and federal regulatory investigations into business and other practices that may result in both civil litigation and criminal prosecutions. Alex also represents healthcare and other licensed professionals in disciplinary and similar administrative proceedings, often while they are also facing criminal charges. These licensed professionals

Practices

Administrative Law
Appellate Practice
Business Law
Criminal Law
Firearm Regulation Law
Governmental Relations
Health Care
Litigation
Mass Tort
Name Image Likeness (NIL) Legal Services Team

Education

Michigan State University
College of Law, *cum laude*, J.D.,
(2013)
Oakland University, B.A., (2010)

Bar & Court Admissions

State Bar of Michigan
Supreme Court of the United States
United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

include doctors, pharmacists, dentists, nurses, counselors, attorneys, residential builders, barbers, etc.

Tech in Litigation: Alex is a proponent of using the latest resources to help his clients. He leverages his tech background to better understand tech subject matter disputes and to conduct eDiscovery efficiently and effectively. As litigation surrounding technology, eDiscovery, data privacy, and data protection heats up, Alex is available to assist clients.

In his time outside of work, Alex enjoys being an active leader in the State Bar and Ingham County Bar, mentoring undergraduate and law students, and actively supporting The Army of Survivors, Inc., a non-profit formed by survivors of sexual abuse, the mission of which is to spread awareness and combat sexual abuse in sport.

Experience

- Attorney Alexander S. Rusek successfully negotiated the dismissal of the assaultive criminal charges against his client less than one week before the start of the trial in the matter.
- Foster Swift attorney Alexander S. Rusek represented a corporate client and its employee in a criminal prosecution and secured the dismissal of two misdemeanor charges. Rusek successfully negotiated a dismissal of the criminal charges resulting in a *de minimis* fine for the client.
- Foster Swift attorneys Alaina Nelson and Alexander Rusek successfully advocated on behalf of a large healthcare facility client to overturn an *ex parte* restraining order entered against the client in circuit court within one week of Foster Swift's involvement in the case.
- Represented national corporation charged criminally for violating building codes and ordinances. Attorneys Alexander S. Rusek and Toi Thomas successfully negotiated a dismissal of the criminal charges resulting in a *de minimis* fine for the client.
- Represented over 85 survivor-plaintiffs and served as local counsel in civil cases arising from the Robert Anderson/University of Michigan sexual abuse scandal. These cases were resolved with a \$490,000,000.00 global settlement.
- Represented over 40 survivor-plaintiffs and served as local counsel arising from the Larry Nassar/Michigan State University sexual abuse scandal. These cases were resolved with \$500,000,00.00 and \$380,000,000.00 settlements.
- Represented former public servant civil defendant in mass tort and class action cases arising from the Flint Water Crisis in the Supreme Court of the

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court
(Isabella County, Michigan)

Pro Hac Vice Admissions: United
States Bankruptcy Court for the
District of Delaware

United States, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Federal Eastern District of Michigan, Federal Western District of Michigan, Genesee County Circuit Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, and the Michigan Supreme Court. All causes of action against client were dismissed as part of a \$626,250,000.00 master settlement agreement.

- Represented and successfully argued to preserve client's Fifth Amendment rights in the context of concurrent criminal and civil litigation before the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in the published decision in *In re Flint Water Cases*, 53 F.4th 176, 183 (6th Cir. 2022), reh'g denied, No. 22-1353, 2023 WL 370653 (6th Cir. Jan. 5, 2023).
- Represented client charged with multiple criminal counts, including False Pretenses > \$100,000.00, Conspiracy, and Involuntary Manslaughter arising from the Flint Water Crisis. All charges dismissed in (2019).
- Represented client indicted by a grand jury in (2021) on charges of Willful Neglect of Duty arising from the Flint Water Crisis.
- Represented client as *amicus curiae* in the Michigan Supreme Court wherein the client was granted oral argument as *amicus curiae* and a favorable decision was reached by the Court in the published decision in *People v. Peeler*, 509 Mich. 381; __ NW2d __ (2022). Cited in § 8.1(b) Special grand juries, 3 Crim. Proc. § 8.1(b) (4th ed.).
- Represented client charged with Moving Violation Causing Death. All charges against the client were dismissed after presenting expert findings regarding the motor vehicle crash.
- Represented an international child advocacy non-profit think tank as *amicus curiae* in the Michigan Supreme Court.
- Represented client charged in Western District of Michigan in a multi-defendant interstate and international criminal conspiracy case.
- Represented clients who were sexually abused by clergy members as children.
- Represented client charged with homicide and other crimes. All charges against client dismissed in December 2020. Case is listed in the National Registry of Exonerations.
- Represented client in civil litigation for actions resulting in client's wrongful homicide conviction and subsequent imprisonment. Settled amicably within four months of filing Complaint in Michigan Circuit Court.
- Represented Licensed Practical Nurse in contested administrative proceedings wherein the client was accused of diverting medications from patients. Client was found to have not committed the alleged acts following a contested hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.
- Represented client charged with homicide and other crimes at trial.
- Represented former members of the Boy Scouts of America in civil litigation alleging sexual abuse by leaders and volunteers.
- Represented client in business court litigation wherein he won a Motion for Summary Disposition and the client was granted a permanent injunction for violations of Michigan's Uniform Trade Secrets Act.
- Represented client charged with multiple counts of homicide and other crimes on direct appeal in the Michigan Court of Appeals.
- Represented clients affected by the opioid crisis.
- Represented survivor of sexual abuse perpetrated by a former Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives as victim advocate in criminal proceedings and in civil litigation.

- Represented minor client charged with Open Murder and firearm related offenses.
- Represented clients in Federal Tort Claim Act matters regarding the negligence of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in investigating sexual abuse committed by Larry Nassar.
- Represented client charged with Home Invasion 2nd Degree. All charges were dismissed after proving client's innocence prior to the Preliminary Examination.
- Represented pharmacist client in concurrent criminal and administrative licensing proceedings. Client was able to successfully maintain his license to practice as a pharmacist.
- Represented client charged with felony malicious destruction of property at Preliminary Examination wherein the Court dismissed the felony charge. Client re-charged with same crimes after initial dismissal at Preliminary Examination. Felony charge dismissed again following second Preliminary Examination.
- Represented former pediatricist and won reinstatement of client's medical license after a multi-day contested administrative hearing.
- Represented IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in relation to an age-based unlawful discrimination Complaint before the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. All charges were dismissed by the agency.
- Represented IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization during negotiations with a major public research university related to a coordinated social work practicum between the organizations.
- Represented client in complex defamation and tortious interference civil litigation before the Michigan Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court.
- Represented landlord in complex civil litigation alleging injuries from toxic mold exposure.

Honors & Recognition

National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys (NACDA), Top 10 Under 40 Award Michigan, (2023)

Shared Resources, Super Volunteer Award, (2024)

Ingham County Bar Foundation, Fellow, (2024)

Ingham County Bar Association, President's Special Recognition Award, (2023)

Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, 10 Over Next Ten Award, (2018)

Oakland University, 10 Within 10 Alumni Award, (2018)

American Bar Association - Young Lawyers Division, Affiliate Star Award, (2018)

Ingham County Bar Association (ICBA), Top 5 Under 35 Award, (2016)

ICBA BRIEFS Featured Young Lawyer, (2016)

Memberships & Affiliations

Legal Affiliations

- State Bar of Michigan
 - Business Law Section, Information Technology Law Section, Litigation Section, Governing Council, Young Lawyers Section, (2022-present)
 - Criminal Law Section, Council Member, (2024-2026)
 - Civil Procedure and Courts Committee, Member, (2024-2025)
- Ingham County Bar Foundation
 - Fellow
- Ingham County Bar Association (ICBA)
 - President, (July 2025-Present)
 - President-elect, (July 2024-June 2025)
 - Vice President, (July 2023-June 2024)
 - Board Treasurer, (2022-2023)
 - Board of Directors, (2016-present)
 - ICBA Young Lawyers President, (2017-2018)
- Ingham County Circuit Court
 - Neutral Tort Case Evaluator for 30th Circuit Court
- Eaton County Bar Association
- Macomb County Bar Association
- Davis-Dunnings Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association, Eastern and Western District of Michigan Chapters
- Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan
- Michigan State University College of Law
 - Adjunct Professor
 - Member, Alumni Association
- WDMI Hillman Trial Advocacy Program
 - Steering Committee Member

Community Affiliations

- Downtown Lansing, Inc.
 - Board Member
- Capital Area Humane Society
 - Board of Directors, (2024-Present)
- Army of Survivors
 - Board Member
- Highfields
 - Board Member
- Ingham County Board of Commissioners Equal Opportunity Committee
 - Member (1/2021-09/2021)
 - Chairperson (8/2018-1/2021)
 - Treasurer (11/2016-8/2018)
 - Ingham County Equal Opportunity Policy Review & Revision Subcommittee
 - Chair (1/2017-1/2021)
- Democratic Party of Michigan
 - Precinct Delegate – City of Lansing, Ward 1, Precinct 6, Elected (08/02/2016); Re-Elected (8/7/2018); Re-Elected (8/2020-8/2022)

News & Resources

Publications

May 19, 2026 | Foster Swift Business & Tax Law News

AI is No Substitute for an Attorney: Understanding Limits of DIY Legal Research

July 15, 2024 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS, July 2024

Governor's Forensic Interview Protocol Fifth Edition Released

February 11, 2024 | Michigan Bar Journal: February 2024 Edition

The AI revolution: A look back at 2023 and the future of AI in the law

August 22, 2023 | State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Bar Journal

An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Lawyering

July 19, 2023 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

Cannabis Law Update

March 27, 2023 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

ChatGPT: Your New Artificially Intelligent Associate?

October 31, 2022 | Foster Swift Business & Tax Law News

Expungement Process in Michigan

January 2022 | Spring/Summer 2022 State Bar of Michigan Litigation Journal and Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Lawyering

March 2016 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

New Laws Pave Way for Statewide E-Filing System and Fees

December 2015 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

How We Went to the Cloud: An Overview of Cloud Based Law Firm Practice Management Solutions

November 2015 | American Bar Association Trial Evidence, Fall 2014, Vol. 23, No. 1. Quoted by "Tech in Trial: Advancing Techniques Means Increased Preparation," Jenna Greene, The Am Law Litigation Daily

The Basics of iPad Trial Evidence Presentation

June 2015 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

Holmes Youthful Trainee Act Amendments Expand Eligibility for Young Adults Charged with Criminal Offenses

March 2015 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

Amended Expungement Statute Eases Requirements to Set Aside Convictions

June 2013 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

Who let the dogs out? U.S. Supreme Court rules on drug-sniffing dog cases

September 2012 | Ingham County Bar Association BRIEFS

Resisting Unlawful Arrest: The Common Law is Common Again

Events

April 8, 2026

Practical Guidance for Navigating AI, Privilege & Confidentiality After *U.S. v. Heppner*

October 14, 2025 | James B. Henry Center for Executive Development

Session One: Personal Injury Law

September 29, 2025 | James B. Henry Center for Executive Development in Lansing

Catchup to ChatGPT: An Introduction to and Overview of Artificial Intelligence in 2025

August 20, 2025 | East Lansing, Michigan

Professionalism in Action

August 13, 2025

Readying Your College Student to Steer Clear of Legal Trouble

April 8, 2025

Catchup to ChatGPT: An Introduction to and Overview of Artificial Intelligence in 2025

October 2024

Trauma Informed Interview Techniques

September 27, 2024

Artificial Intelligence in 2024

September 23, 2024

Catchup to ChatGPT: An Introduction to and Overview of Artificial Intelligence

July 10, 2024

Best Practices to Avoid Legal Consequences for Parents & College Bound Students

July 9, 2024

Navigating Legal Challenges for Parents & College Bound Students - Part Two

July 4, 2024

Navigating Legal Challenges for Parents & College Bound Students - Part One

May 21, 2024

AI and the Law – Unpacking Generative Intelligence in Legal Practice

May 1, 2024

Critical Elements of Superintendent Contracts

January 15, 2024

Trauma Informed Interviewing

October 11, 2023

Unintended Consequences Your College Student May Face

September 18, 2023

Catchup to ChatGPT: An Introduction to and Overview of Artificial Intelligence in 2023

June 21, 2023

ChatGPT: Your New Artificially Intelligent Associate?

May 10, 2023

An Overview of Michigan's Felony Sentencing Guidelines

News

May 22, 2025 | *Ingham County Legal News, Washtenaw County Legal News, and Flint-Genesee County Legal News*

Get to Know Alexander Rusek

May 9, 2025 | *Detroit Legal News*

Alexander Rusek is founding member of The Army of Survivors

July 22, 2024 | Meltwater Global Newswire

Prepare Your College Student for a Smooth School Year Free of Legal Challenges

January 15, 2024 | *Ingham County Legal News*

Foster Swift Elects Three Shareholders for 2024

November 21, 2023 | EIN Newswire

Are You Prepared? New Video Series Exposes Potentially Devastating Legal Challenges for Young Adults & Their Families

May 22, 2023 | Mlive

Rusek and Thomas Win Dismissal of Criminal Charges in Flint Water Crisis Prosecutions

November 21, 2022 | Global Newswire

Be Careful on the Biggest Bar Night of the Year

October 12, 2022 | Michigan Business Network

MBN Introduces New Senior Attorney Alexander Rusek

September 26, 2022 | State Bar of Michigan - On Balance Podcast

What You Need to Know About Trauma-Informed Lawyering

September 13, 2022 | Ingham County Legal News

Litigators Rusek and Thomas Join Foster Swift

Blog Posts

March 18, 2026 | Health Care Law Blog

ICLE Institute Addresses Critical Issues in Health Care Law

August 25, 2025 | BizTech Law Blog

AG Warns About Fake College Websites: How to Protect Yourself and Your Child

April 17, 2024 | Health Care Law Blog

DHHS Revises and Clarifies Guidelines for Patients' Informed Consent When Providing Sensitive Medical Care