

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

 PUBLIC
May 15th 2026, 10:15:30 am

IP ADDRESS

 73.18.18.154

* Nominee's Name:

Matthew L. Wikander

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

65160

* Nominee's Email Address:

mwikander@shrr.com

Nominee's Address:

Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge
 100 Monroe Center Street, N.W.
 Grand Rapids
 Mi
 49503
 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.

22

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:

<https://shrr.com/our-people/matthew-l-wikander/>

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:**

Matt is the CEO of Smith Haughey. He is a trial lawyer focusing on commercial, product liability and wrongful death matters. Matt is actively involved in the West Michigan Access to Justice Campaign committee. He is also active in many bars, including the Michigan Association of Justice and the Justice Foundation of West Michigan. Matt exemplifies professional excellence and community service.

*** Nominator's Name:**

Jennifer Bentley

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

57076

*** Nominator's Email Address:**

jennifer@msbf.org

MATTHEW L. WIKANDER

Shareholder

100 Monroe Center NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616.458.8605 • mwikander@shrr.com



PRACTICES

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death

Employment Litigation Defense

Plaintiff's Contingency Cases: Business & Employment

Product Liability

Transportation & No-Fault Law

Commercial Litigation

EDUCATION

University of Michigan (B.A., 2001)

Wayne State University (J.D., 2004)

Vice Chancellor, Wayne State Moot Court Program

Member, Sports and Entertainment Law Society

MATT IS A SHAREHOLDER WHO HAS BEEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE FIRM SINCE 2019.

Matt is a trial lawyer practicing primarily in the areas of commercial, product liability, and wrongful death/personal injury matters. He tries cases in both federal and state courts across the state of Michigan.

Matt devotes the majority of his practice to complex and high exposure litigation often involving catastrophic injuries and wrongful death claims. Matt's experience includes vehicular, airplane, premises, and construction accidents. He also has extensive products liability experience.

Additionally, Matt serves a variety of businesses and individuals in commercial disputes, including ADA accessibility litigation, employment discrimination, trade secret, wrongful advertising, and other unfair trade practice claims. He also has experience handling class action matters.

Whether Matt is representing individuals or businesses, he maintains a genuine and passionate dedication to his clients and their interests.

ADMITTED

State Bar of Michigan, 2004

U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan, 2004

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 2014

U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 2009

NOTEWORTHY

Crain's Grand Rapids GR200 Most Influential Leader (2024, 2025)

Selected as a "Go To Lawyer" for Negligence Law by Michigan Lawyers Weekly, 2024

Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® (2019-2026) -- Commercial Litigation, Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs

Listed in the "Grand Rapids 200" as one of the most powerful business leaders in West Michigan by Grand Rapids Business Journal (2019-2023)

Listed as a "Rising Star" in Michigan Super Lawyers (2013-2018) -- Personal Injury Plaintiff: General

Listed as a "Local Litigation Star" in Benchmark Litigation (2013-2015, 2021) -- Personal Injury, Wrongful Death Litigation, Securities (2021)

Listed as a "Michigan Super Lawyer" (2020, 2022, 2025) -- Personal Injury – General: Plaintiff

Listed as Grand Rapids Magazine "Top Lawyer" (2019- 2022) – Personal Injury

Selected as an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by Michigan Lawyers Weekly (2012)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

State Bar of Michigan

Federal Bar Association - Western Michigan Chapter

American Bar Association

Lawyer Pilots Bar Association

Grand Rapids Bar Association

American Inns of Court

The Historical Society of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Advisory Board Member, The University of Michigan Club of Grand Rapids

University of Michigan Alumni Association and Victors Club

West Michigan Sports Commission (Member, Board of Directors)

Sigma Chi West Michigan Alumni Chapter

Kent Country Club

PUBLICATIONS

"Daubert and the Soft Sciences: Can a Forensic Economist Ever Make it Past the Gatekeeper?," FDCC Quarterly, 2006

"Heavy Hauling 'Permits' and Ways to Avoid Problems Down the Road — Documentation! Documentation! Documentation!," The Pool Cue, Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool, August 2007

PRESENTATIONS

"Aviation Crash Litigation," presented at the NALS Region 3 Summer Meeting, June 2011

Panel speaker, ABA Law Student Division 6th Circuit 2010 Spring Meeting, Thomas M. Cooley Law School