

# 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 21st 2026, 8:03:29 pm

### IP ADDRESS

 184.175.144.162

### \* Nominee's Name:

Nicole E. Wilinski

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

61904

### \* Nominee's Email Address:

nicole.wilinski@ceflawyers.com

### Nominee's Address:

4000 Town Center, Ste. 909  
Southfield  
MI  
48075  
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.

No

### Upload Your Nominees Bio

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

(No response)

**Please list State Bar, local or affinity bar associations and other community activities:**

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State Bar of Michigan Insurance and Indemnity Law Section (President, 2020-2021)  
Oakland County Women's Bar Association (President, 2009-2010)  
Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation (President)

**Please list legal teaching, publications, professional recognition and/or memberships:**

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Consulting Co-editor of Michigan Insurance Law and Practice - Institute of Continuing Legal Education (Beginning 2018)  
ALFA Michigan Property/Casualty Insurance Update (February 2011)  
Co-Author of Ohio Chapter of the 2017 Defense Research Institute Construction Litigation Desk Reference, a State-by-State Compendium

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

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When I think of MSBF Fellows, I immediately think of lawyers who have, in some way, stood out in the profession by reputation and service. When I searched for lawyers I admire, Nicole's name came to mind. It really surprised me that she is not already a MSBF Fellow so I hope you'll agree with me that it's time to rectify that. Professionally, what makes her a stand-out is that she is an outstanding insurance coverage lawyer. She is ranked in Chambers USA, listed in Best Lawyers and Super Lawyers, has written articles on insurance coverage, and has spoken at conferences on current coverage issues. I know her through her bar association leadership; she is a past President of the State Bar's Insurance & Indemnity Law Section, past President of the Oakland County Women's Bar Association, and President of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation.

**\* Nominator's Name:**

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Julie I. Fershtman

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

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39282

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

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jfershtman@fosterswift.com



ATTORNEY

# Nicole E. Wilinski



nicole.wilinski@ceflawyers.com



P: 248-351-7168



F: 248-351-7169

Nicole focuses her practice in the area of insurance coverage litigation. She has extensive experience representing insurance carriers in complex coverage litigation in both state and federal courts throughout Michigan and the Midwest, including in the areas of environmental, personal and advertising injury, occupational and accident injury, and construction law. As part of her practice, Nicole regularly provides coverage opinions and proposed coverage position letters on behalf of insurers arising out of claims for property damage, construction defects, fraud and/or misrepresentations, personal and advertising injury, and bodily injury claims.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Michigan
  - Insurance and Indemnity Law Section (Treasurer)
  - Insurance and Indemnity Law Section (President, 2020-2021)
- Defense Research Institute
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- Oakland | Women's Bar Association (President, 2009-2010)
- Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (Past Director at Large)
- Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation (President)
- Consulting Co-editor of Michigan Insurance Law and Practice – Institute of Continuing Legal Education (Beginning 2018)

## PROMINENT OUTCOMES

Tenneco, Inc. v Amerisure Mut Ins Co, 281 Mich App 429 (2008) – defended carrier in environmental coverage litigation involving multi-million dollar claims at five sites in three states; obtained favorable decision from the Michigan Court of Appeals holding carrier entitled to summary disposition on the basis of late notice, voluntary payment/no action provisions, laches and statute of limitations

Obtained dismissal for insurer in Michigan in auto-policy fraud case

Drafted coverage opinions and recommendations for insurers on issues relating to personal and advertising injury, property damage, bodily injury and professional services exclusions

Defended carrier in coverage litigation and settlement negotiations involving indemnity claims from alleged additional insureds arising out of a severe construction workplace accident

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

Insurance Coverage  
Commercial Litigation  
Civil Liability Defense  
AI Ethics & Compliance

## EDUCATION

- Wayne State University Law School (J.D. cum laude, 2000)
- University of Michigan (B.A. 1997)

## ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Michigan
  - U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
  - 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. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
  - U.S. District Court, Southern District, Indiana
  - U.S. District Court, Northern District, Indiana
- Admitted Pro Hac Vice in numerous states and federal courts



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Provided coverage analysis and drafted declination letter on behalf of carrier in response to environmental claims relating to three Michigan sites

## **PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

To Mentor or not to Mentor, LACHES, Co-Author (March 2018)

Co-Author of Ohio Chapter of the 2017 Defense Research Institute Construction Litigation Desk Reference, a State-by-State Compendium

Implied Disparagement, DRI Coverage B: Personal and Advertising Injury Compendium, Co-Author (May 2014)

ALFA Michigan Property/Casualty Insurance Update (February 2011)

CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute Luncheon on Practice Area Diversity, Women's Bar Association, Panel Member (June 15, 2010)

CLEO Sophomore Summer Institute Luncheon on Bar Association Leadership, Oakland County Bar Association, Panel Co-Moderator (June 9, 2010)

"Corporate Designee Depositions of the Insurer/Insured: Avoiding Pitfalls in the Selection and Preparation of Designee Witnesses," ABA-TIPS-Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee, Tucson (2007)

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS**

- Chambers and Partners USA, Insurance Law (2024)
- Michigan Lawyers Weekly "Women in the Law" Class of 2020
- Best Lawyers of America®
  - Insurance Law (2018-2025)
- Super Lawyers™
  - Insurance Coverage (2016-2025)
  - Top 50 Women Lawyers in MI (2023)
  - Rising Star (2010)
- DBusiness® Top Lawyer
  - Insurance Litigation (2013-2014, 2020, 2022-2025)
- Up & Coming Lawyer, Michigan Lawyers Weekly (2010)

