

BARBEAT

Genesee County Bar Association



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Protection Act and the Intelligence
Community Whistleblower Protection
Act
Why I Continued Practicing Law
The Genesee County Sobriety Court Update
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Effective 1/1/2020

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Larry Cooks for the Holidays!

By Sherri L. Belknap, President

On December 19, 2019, the Genesee County Bar Association ("GCBA") and the Genesee County Bar Foundation will hold its 29th Annual Holiday Dinner. About a thousand people will be fed a holiday dinner catered by Larry Battiste of Temple Dining and his team. For 29 years, Larry and Temple Dining have partnered with our organization to feed people for the holidays. After all, feeding people is a family business for Larry.

Prior to opening the restaurant in the Masonic Temple, Larry's grandparents owned Courtavon which served coffee, tea, lunch and pies. It was recognized in the 1941 book "Adventures in Good Eating" by Duncan Hines. This started the family business more than 70 years ago.

In 1947, William Battiste, Larry's grandfather, moved the Courtavon to the Masonic Temple and renamed it Temple Dining. This started the family affair. When working as a child, Larry would be allowed to make the donuts while his grandfather sat down. In 1953, Larry's father, Robert, started working. The business was eventually passed on to Robert and Larry's mother, Evelyn, who was a longtime cashier. The boys were not the only ones helping out. Larry's sister, Lynn, also worked in the dining room.

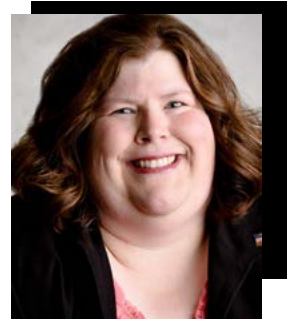
Larry and Robert, who now co-own Temple Dining took over in 1976 and 1977, respectively. Joining Larry in the family tradition was his lovely wife, Carol, who enjoyed serving and spreading joy to her customers. Now, Larry's daughter, Christine O'Brien, has joined Temple Dining. Christine is the fourth generation of Battistes to work at Temple Dining.

Larry and Temple Dining are amazing partners in our Holiday Dinner. During one of our Holiday Dinners, we ran out of food for those attending. Instead of closing the doors, Larry went down to his kitchen and cooked everything that he had to make sure that our attendees were all fed. He used gifts that were given to him for desserts and items purchased for other catering events. Talk about dedication.

Larry's dedication to the Holiday Dinner can also be seen a few weeks before the event. If you drive by the Masonic Temple at night, do not worry when you see lights on in the basement. No one has broken in. It is Larry preparing desserts and other items late at night for the Holiday Dinner.

Larry leads by example. He is not the only person at Temple Dining who gives his time and efforts to our tradition. His staff works for free in order to serve the community each year.

There are not enough words or awards that can be given to Larry and his team to acknowledge their efforts in the Holiday Dinner or in the community. Even if we were to give an award, Larry is too humble to accept the praise due to him. Without Larry, the Holiday Dinner would not be as successful as it is. If you have a chance, please stop by Temple Dining to have lunch and thank Larry for all of his and his team's efforts in supporting our Holiday Dinner.



Sherri L. Belknap

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2019 Holiday Dinner

By Brian Barkey

As the Genesee County Bar Association and Foundation have done 28 prior times, we are inviting you to Christmas dinner with us. You guessed it, we are inviting you to attend the annual GCBA/GCBF Holiday Dinner with our Flint Community on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 4:00 pm at the Masonic Temple. As you suspect, you might be asked to help out while you are there.

Though we all help people in our day jobs, there is a difference between our professions and most charitable work that makes this event a wonderfully rewarding experience. I don't know about you, but I am always reluctant and resist requests for money from people who approach me on the street. Though they are obviously needy, I always suspect that what I give them will not be used for food or bus transportation even though they assure me it will. The Dinner, like our day job, allows us to do something directly for the object of my contribution.

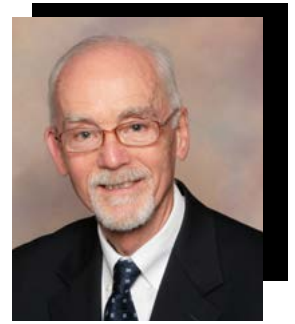
And it is very well received. Last year we fed over 1,000 people a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. 317 young children got a wrapped gift directly from Santa Claus. For the second year in a row, we gave those in attendance 351 books. Many of our members have been knitting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for those who needed them and last year, we gave away 700 of them. We did not run out until 6:15pm, which is a record.

I am always amazed at the reaction to the Dinner we receive from those who work on this event. For years, we have closed our law offices and the lawyers and staff have helped. Now, it has grown outside of the legal community.

Many schools have identified the Dinner as an "eligible event" for community service points in their honors programs. Last year, the Fenton wrestling team and its coach as well as other sports teams appeared to help, and their energy was a wonderful and inspiring thing.

Our fund-raising goal for this year has not changed – \$17,000. If past history is any indication, you will not let us down. You never have.

Please plan to come to the Dinner. As I always say, it will make your heart grow in your chest. I promise you.



Brian Barkey





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The Federal Whistleblower Protection Act and the Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act

By Sean Siebigteroth



Sean Siebigteroth

The impeachment inquiry of President Trump stems from an anonymous “whistleblower complaint” filed by an employee of the United States intelligence community (IC) on August 12, 2019.¹ This article very briefly summarizes the basic law protecting whistleblowers in the federal government, and the law protecting whistleblowers in the IC.

After finding that previous protections were too feeble and that federal employees feared reprisal for whistleblowing,² Congress passed the federal Whistleblower’s Protection Act of 1989.³ “Whistleblowing” is defined in the act as a disclosure of information reasonably believed to show “(i) any violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or (ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety[.]”⁴ Where a disclosure would involve classified government information, the disclosure may be made to the federal Office of the Special Counsel or to the Inspector General of the employee’s agency.⁵ The federal WPA prohibits any federal employee from making an adverse “personnel action” because of the employee or applicant’s whistleblowing.⁶

The most profound difference between the federal and Michigan WPAs is the lack of a private right of action in the federal statute. The recourse for aggrieved federal employees is to the Office of Special Counsel, who investigates and provides written findings.⁷ 5 USC 1214. An aggrieved employee may then appeal to the federal Merit Systems Protection Board, where the employee is entitled to a *de novo* hearing before an administrative law judge the Board designates.⁸ The Board can order reinstatement, back pay and other consequential damages, and attorney fees.⁹ An aggrieved employee can appeal an adverse decision to a federal circuit court having jurisdiction.¹⁰

The statutory process just described does not apply to potential whistleblowers who, like the “Ukraine” whistleblower, are in the United States IC.¹¹ Protection for IC employees is provided by the Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act of 1998 (ICWPA).¹² The IC-WPA protects IC employees who intend to report “urgent concerns” (including “flagrant abuse relating to the administration of an intelligence activity within the . . . authority



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of the Director of National Intelligence”) to Congress. The prospective whistleblower must first submit information regarding the “urgent concern” to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (IGIC). The IGIC is prohibited from disclosing the whistleblower’s identity.¹³ If the IGIC finds the report credible, he reports it to the Director of National Intelligence (DNI). The DNI must then forward the report to the Congressional intelligence committees; if the DNI does not, the whistleblower may contact the Congressional intelligence committees directly.¹⁴

Although the ICWPA created a reporting process, protection for IC whistleblowers and an avenue of relief did not exist until subsequent legislation prohibited IC agencies from taking personnel actions in retaliation for making protected disclosures¹⁵ and directed creation of centralized administrative internal appeal policies for aggrieved employees.¹⁶ However, no judicial review or private right of action exists for IC employees who have suffered retaliation.

Many less general whistleblower protection laws exist in the federal sector that provide more robust protections and incentives for whistleblowing, as well as a private right of action. Where resort to these are not available, as in the case of the “Ukraine” whistleblower, the WPA, and especially the ICWPA, don’t “really offer much protection to whistleblowers.”¹⁷

Endnotes

- 1 <<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6430418-Whistleblower-complaint-regarding-President.html> >
- 2 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act Of 2012, S Rep No 112-155, at 3 (April 19, 2012).
- 3 Pub L 101–12, 103 Stat 16 (April 10, 1989).
- 4 5 USC 2302(b)(8)(A). This definition is notably broader than the primary definition of whistleblowing in the Michigan WPA. Compare MCL 15.362 (an employee whistleblows when making a report of “a violation or a suspected violation of a law or regulation or rule . . . to a public body[. . .]”)
- 5 5 USC 2302(b)(8)(A).
- 6 Id.
- 7 5 USC 1214.
- 8 5 USC 1221; 5 CFR 1204.
- 9 5 USC 1221(g).
- 10 5 USC 1221(h).
- 11 5 USC 2302(a)(2)(C)(ii)(I)(excluding intelligence agencies from the definition of covered “agency” in the federal WPA).
- 12 Pub L 105–272, 112 Stat 2413 (October 20, 1988).
- 13 5 USC App, §7.
- 14 50 USC 3033(k)(5).
- 15 50 USC 3234(b).
- 16 50 USC 3341(b).
- 17 Spiggle, President Trump Just Showed Us What’s Wrong with a Federal Whistleblowing Law, Forbes <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tomspiggle/2019/10/01/president-trump-just-showed-us-whats-wrong-with-a-federal-whistleblowing-law/#d2304104c2aa>> (October 1, 2019).

Why I Continued Practicing Law

By Randy Petrides

I retired two years ago after 38 rich years in the Genesee County Prosecutor’s Office. Many marvel at how many years I put in at one single office. What kept me going amidst the treadmill of unending cases? The victims. One particular case comes to mind.

It was in the ‘90s. Some of the details (including even the outcome) escape me. But my encounter with the victim I will never forget. He and his wife were an elderly couple from rural southern Ohio traveling for their first ever trip to Mackinac Island. (He pronounced it with the “c”.) They stopped for the night halfway – at Walli’s on Pierson at I-75. After a nice dinner – before dark – they strolled through the parking lot to look at some old cars he had noticed. They were attacked. The multiple assailants robbed and beat them, sending one of them to the hospital, ruining their trip.

An alert passerby and quick action by the Mt. Morris Township police led to the apprehension of one or two of the assailants.

I conducted the preliminary exam and met the couple. I told them how sorry I was that this happened to them and expressed my wish that they would get another chance to visit Mackinac Island. I will never forget the man’s response. Looking at me with the emotion of fiercely painful memories, he said: “We – will – NEVER - come - to - Michigan – again.” My heart stopped.

Crime hurts. It hurts real people. That’s what kept me going all those years.



Randy Petrides

The Genesee County Sobriety Court Update

By Hon. Vikki Bayeh Haley



Hon. Vikki Bayeh Haley

The goal of the Genesee County Sobriety Court (GCSC) is to decrease the level of drinking related offenses thereby increasing public safety.

GCSC Team. The current GCSC team consists of myself, Director Melissa Lane, Probation Officers Andrea Johnson and Charlene Sierkowski, Prosecutor Amanda Doyle, Defense Attorneys Jessica Mainprize Hajek and Shelly MacFarlane, Ken Jones of Odyssey House and Officer Yacoub Young. Odyssey House is the treatment provider while DnA is the current testing facility.

Case types. Most defendants participating in GCSC have cases involving drinking and driving. However, GCSC does accept other types of cases if the offense was the result of drinking. Examples include domestic violence, malicious destruction of property, and retail fraud.

Referral timing. Defendants may be referred for a GCSC assessment any time after arraignment; however, defendants who enter the program within 50 days of their arrest have a higher graduation rate. In felony cases, ideally, assessments are made before bindover.

Criteria. GCSC accepts referrals from attorneys, or as a condition of bond before or after a plea. Assessments are completed in approximately three weeks. Referral forms are available in circuit and district courts and in the district court probation offices. The basic criteria for referral are: the defendant is over the age of 18, lives in Genesee County, and either has more than one conviction related to drinking or has a blood alcohol level above 0.20.

Caveats. Statements made during the assessments are not admissible in a proceeding against the defendant “unless it reveals other criminal acts other than personal drug use.” When preparing a client for an assessment, attorneys should advise clients against making statements concerning any other criminal activity unrelated to drug use. An early assessment allows for better case analysis in deterring and explaining a defendant’s options.

Assessment. Assessments originally were provided to the court; however, the GCSC changed its policy and assessments are no longer presented to courts other than for sentencing. When an assessment is completed, a statement is provided to the court as to whether the defendant is eligible for GCSC and nothing more. Upon request a copy of the assessment may be provided to defense counsel with the defendant’s consent.

Confidentiality. To ensure confidentiality, documents in the court file use the acronym “GCSC” and probation files are separated from the court file and secured pursuant to the statutory requirements.

Deferral. In traffic cases (OUIL, OWI) a sentence cannot be deferred, and a judgment must be entered. MCL 600.1070(C). The statute allows for a deferral pursuant to MCL 771.1, however, for the GCSC, such a deferral is impractical because the statute only allows a deferral for up to one year. While it is possible for a defendant to complete GCSC in less than 24 months, it is not possible to complete the program in 12 months.

GCSC Term. Participation in GCSC requires a defendant serve a term of at least 24 months. The program fee is \$300.00, in addition to mandatory state and crime victim fines and a monthly oversight fee. A benefit and incentive to participation in GCSC is the possibility of obtaining restricted licenses. At sentencing for traffic cases, attorneys should ask the court to avoid prohibiting a defendant from driving. The Secretary of State will issue the appropriate suspension that potentially can be amended to a restricted license.

Restricted license. A restricted license is an incentive to defendants who are successful in the program. Likewise, if there is a violation, the GCSC has the discretion to confiscate a restricted license as a sanction. This is a powerful tool for the GCSC. If “no driving” is a condition of the judgment of sentence, then this sanction is lost as there can be no restricted license. Before a restricted license is issued, a defendant must have an interlock system installed on the vehicle they are driving. If a defendant drives a vehicle without this system, revocation of the restricted license is automatic.

Timing for multiple offenses. It is not unusual for a defendant to have more than one drinking and driving related offense at the same time. Where there are driver’s license consequences, a defendant must actively be participating in GCSC in order to receive a restricted license and must be ordered to participate in GCSC for each case. A defendant who is in GCSC for one case but not the other will have a restricted license on the GCSC case and a suspended license on the non-GCSC case. If a client is facing potential driver’s license sanctions upon conviction, be mindful of timing.

You and the Law

By I'Lanta M. Robbins

The Mallory, VanDyne, Scott Bar Association (MVSBA) collaborated with the Flint Neighborhood Coalition (FNC) to present the legal program, "You and the Law" on October 17, 2019 at the Flint Development Center.

This round-table discussion provided the participants with general legal information regarding criminal law, family law and estate planning. Attorneys I'Lanta M. Robbins, Torchio Feaster and Tabitha Marsh were panel members with Honorable Herman Marable as moderator. Attorney Robbins discussed criminal record expungements, wills and powers of attorney; Attorney Marsh discussed child custody; and Attorney Fester discussed criminal procedure and police interaction.

Each participant was provided with handouts for future reference and panel members were open for questions. The participants were very engaged and came to the pro-

gram with many other questions involving the discussion topics as well as questions regarding civil judgments and asset protection.

The MVSBA was formed in 1989 and takes its name from three of the earliest black attorneys in Genesee County. The organization is comprised of African-American judges and attorneys practicing law in the county. The Association was formed to promote and protect the interests of minorities entangled in the criminal justice system, as well as to encourage appropriate representation of minorities on the bench and in the business of law. The Flint Neighborhood Coalition is an "umbrella" group for several smaller neighborhood groups that direct community improvement projects and work to inform the neighborhoods about safety issues.



I'Lanta M. Robbins

The DOL Issues New Overtime Rules Effective 1/1/2020

By Linda Graham

The Department of Labor (DOL) has issued final overtime rules effective January 1, 2020 which will extend overtime pay to more than one million workers who are not currently eligible under federal law. In order to be exempt from DOL overtime pay requirements, an employee must meet both a duties test and a salary threshold. The duties tests for exempt employees will not change under the new rules. However, the minimum salary threshold for exempt employees, which is currently set at \$23,660 per year or \$455 per week, will increase to \$35,568 per year or \$684 per week. The minimum salary threshold for highly compensated employees will rise from \$100,000 to \$107,432, including at least a \$684 weekly salary.

Employers undoubtedly recall that in 2016, the DOL proposed rules raising the salary threshold for exempt employees to \$47,476 per year or \$913 per week and \$134,004 annually for highly compensated employees. However, a Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Texas enjoined the DOL from implementing and enforcing the 2016 rules and the rules never went into effect. *Nevada v*

Department of Labor, 218 F Supp 3d 520 (E.D. Texas, 2016).

The new overtime rules will raise the salary threshold but not to the extent proposed by the DOL in 2016. Employers should examine their exempt employees to ensure the employees are in compliance with the 2020 DOL overtime rules.



Linda Graham

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Bench & Bar Committee Update

By Jeremy Piper, Chair

What's going on with your committee?

The Bench and Bar Committee is back! After a long hiatus, the GCBA has combined its Federal, Circuit and District court committees into the Bench and Bar Committee. The purpose of the B&B Committee is to work with judges and court administrators to make recommendations to improve the system of justice and to educate attorneys and the public about changes in the law.

We felt it critical to first meet with the judges and court administrators to introduce (or re-introduce) the concept of the committee to them. With these meetings, we hope to establish lines of communication and expectations of where the bar can help the bench and vice-versa. A review of past practices is also underway to see what initiatives can be utilized to benefit bar, bench and public.

Updates on seminar planning?

The B&B Committee is reviewing the seminar schedule and looking at opportunities to partner with other committees to offer efficient, relevant and high-quality seminars.

Any changes in the law in your practice area?

A seemingly major change in the court rules is underway and the B&B Committee is monitoring this development. Stay tuned for more information.

Most GCBA members have contact with at least one Federal, Circuit or District court, your insight and experience are valuable. If you would like to get involved, please email the GCBA office and sign up for the Bench & Bar Committee.



Jeremy Piper

WLAM Update

By Alena M. Clark

Founded in 1919, the Women Lawyer's Association of Michigan (WLAM) is one of the oldest women's bar associations in the country. We operate statewide through our seven regional chapters and thirteen standing committees.

One of WLAM's main goals this year is to continue growing the Michigan Coalition for Impartial Justice which seeks to amend Judicial Canon 2(F) to prohibit judges from being part of social organizations that engage in invidious discrimination. Thirteen bar associations, including the Genesee County Bar Association, comprise the Coalition. WLAM is extremely grateful for your support.

Other activities this year include our collection of used cell phones to be refurbished and donated to domestic violence survivors at women's shelters across the state. (If you have a phone to donate, please contact me at aclark@co.genesee.mi.us.) We are also headed to Washington, D.C. in November to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment which guarantees women the right to vote. (The amendment was passed by Congress in 1919 and ratified by the states in 1920). Additionally, we plan to co-host an event at the Michigan Capitol with the Equal Pay Day Coalition to spread awareness of pay inequality based on gender and race. Equal Pay Day will be recognized on March 31, 2020.

We look forward to developing several new regions in the near future. We are already in the process of developing a northern region of WLAM, and although Genesee attorneys typically join either the Great Lakes Bay region or Oakland region, I believe we have enough support to re-start a Genesee region soon as well. Stay tuned for a regional development meeting near you!

If you wish to learn more about our organization and keep up to date with ongoing events please visit our website at <https://www.womenlawyers.org/>. Membership is open to any member of the bar who supports our mission statement.

Alena Clark is an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with Genesee County Prosecutor's Office where she is currently assigned to the Appeals, Training, and Research Division. She completed her undergraduate degree at Western Michigan University and obtained her JD from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Prior to working with Genesee County she has worked for Saginaw, Oakland, and Wayne Counties. She is the President of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (WLAM), and a Past President of the Great Lakes Bay and Wayne Regions of WLAM.



Alena M. Clark

Remembering Frumeth Hirsh Polasky

By Shelley Spivack and Linda Pylypiw

If you wander the halls of the Genesee County Courthouse on a typical Monday motion day, it is likely that at least one-half of the attorneys you encounter will be women. Back in 1975, the year Frumeth Hirsh Polasky joined the GCBA, women were a rarity. Nationwide in 1970 only four percent of practicing attorneys were women. Here in Genesee County, only four women are pictured in the 1970 GCBA composite photo.

By 1980 the numbers both nationwide and in Genesee County had begun to change. While nationally the percentage of women attorneys had increased to approximately 18%, in Genesee County instead of four lone women, 21 appear in the 1980 composite.

Frumeth Hirsh Polasky, who passed away on Thursday October 3, 2019 at the age of 76, played a pivotal role in the history of women lawyers in this county and will be remembered as a role model for the scores of women who have practiced law here over the past 4 decades. After graduating from Wayne State University Law School, Frumeth worked at Legal Services of Eastern Michigan during the mid 1970's. While at Legal Services, Frumeth supervised law students, including, long-time family law attorney Linda Pylypiw.

I first met Frumeth Hirsh (Fru) in the summer of 1976. I was volunteering at Legal Services of Eastern Michigan for the summer between the 1st and 2nd year of law school. I was assigned to assist Fru and another attorney, Tom Baltus. I don't remember much about what she had me do, but I clearly remember how elegant I thought she was and her laugh! Fru had the heartiest laugh, so unexpected coming from so slight a person.

I admired her confidence and her ability to calm your fears. Although I'm certain I asked a lot of dumb questions, I never felt that she thought so. She was a great listener and was a great role model for how I treated others. She showed me that you can be aggressive in your representation of your client without being disrespectful or obnoxious.

In the spring of 1979 Frumeth and three other women attorneys: Arthalu Lancaster, Lee Vera Loyd, and Dolores Coulter made history by co-founding the first all-female law firm in this county. According to Coulter, "[t]he idea for the firm was not specifically to focus on women's issues,

although we were interested in pursuing those issues, but also simply to support each other in practice."

Frumeth will be remembered not only as a successful attorney who paved the way for other women, but as a reminder to all of us, that there is more to life than practicing law. In addition to her legal career Frumeth was a trained ballet dancer who danced with the Chicago Ballet, an actress and operatic singer, a mother to her son Jonathan Siegel and a wife to her beloved husband, the late Frank Polasky. She was deeply involved in philanthropic work involving a variety of causes, including medical and legal services and Jewish outreach. The practice and study of Orthodox Judaism was an essential part of Frumeth's life, and in her later years she earned a Masters Degree in Judaic Studies from Spertus Institute.

When asked about her memories of Frumeth, Linda Pylypiw concluded by stating:

The last time I saw Fru was a couple years ago. I was sitting in an auditorium waiting for a lecture to begin. From across the room, I heard a laugh ring out. I turned and there was Fru, a little older, but elegant as always, laughing and enjoying life.



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Inns of Court Update

By B.D. "Chris" Christenson, President



B.D. "Chris" Christenson

Our 2019 – 2020 Inns of Court season is underway. The Inns of Court meets once a month from September to May to promote civility and professionalism in our profession. We have a social time to open the meeting, which allows us the opportunity to catch up with our colleagues in a relaxed setting. After the social, we enjoy dinner. Our meetings are primarily held at the Redwood Lodge Sequoia room. After dinner there is a short program. The programs include updates to the law, civility techniques, stress relief, practice tips, etc. and are always something interesting. The combination of these aspects is what makes the Inns of Court so worthwhile.

Our October 2019 meeting had several local Judges from the District Court and the Circuit Court explaining their specialty courts. In Genesee County we have many

specialty courts including mental health court, veterans court, drug court, sobriety court, family drug court, and baby court. It was nice to learn from the judges exactly how the programs work and what the criteria are for acceptance into the programs. It was refreshing to learn about all of the opportunities available for people in our community and to hear directly from the judges the passion that they had for each of their respective programs. The November meeting focused on the significant changes in marijuana laws in our state.

The Inns of Court allows everyone to get to know each other and develop relationships. We absolutely welcome everyone to come and see for yourselves.



Congratulations to Hon. Elizabeth A. Kelly and Hon. Larry J. Stecco, who were honored by Mott College Alumni Association. Pictured: Judge Celeste D. Bell, Judge Elizabeth A. Kelly, Judge Larry J. Stecco, Judge Duncan M. Beagle, Judge Thomas C. Yeotis, Judge Robert M. Ransom, and Judge Joseph J. Farah.

Gerrymandering: Where are We Now?

By Roberta J.F. Wray

The October 2019 action of the United States Supreme Court that killed the Michigan gerrymandering case is not the last word. While the opinion that the drawing of electoral districts is a matter for states leaves Michigan's current districts intact, the voters have already approved a back-up plan.

The ruling actually implicitly endorses Michigan's 2018 constitutional amendment creating the independent commission to draw political boundaries. That commission is currently being recruited and will be charged with drawing the congressional district boundaries for the 2022 election cycle.

Any Michigan registered voter may apply for membership on the commission with some exceptions that include anyone who has, in the last six years, been:

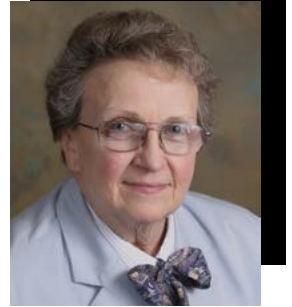
- A partisan candidate or elected official in local, state or federal government;
- An officer in a political party;
- A consultant or employee for a political candidate, campaign, or PAC;
- A legislative staff member;
- A registered lobbyist or an employee of one;
- An unclassified state employee, except those who work for public universities, the courts or the armed forces; and

- The parent child or spouse of any of the above, including stepparents and children.

Service on the commission requires one to forgo holding elective office for five years after selection, a time commitment of a year or more of both full and part time work (10-40+ hours a week), travel to at least 15 public hearings across the state, and the ability to perform the duties in an impartial manner that reinforces public confidence in the integrity of the process. Compensation is approximately \$40,000 and is set by law as 25 per cent of the governor's salary.

Applications for the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for Fair Elections are available on line from Redistricting michigan.org. They are due by June 1, 2020. A random, statistically weighted drawing by July 1, 2020 will narrow the applicants to 200. Thereafter, majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate may strike up to five applicants, each, with the final random drawing of the 13-member commission to be held by September 1, 2020.

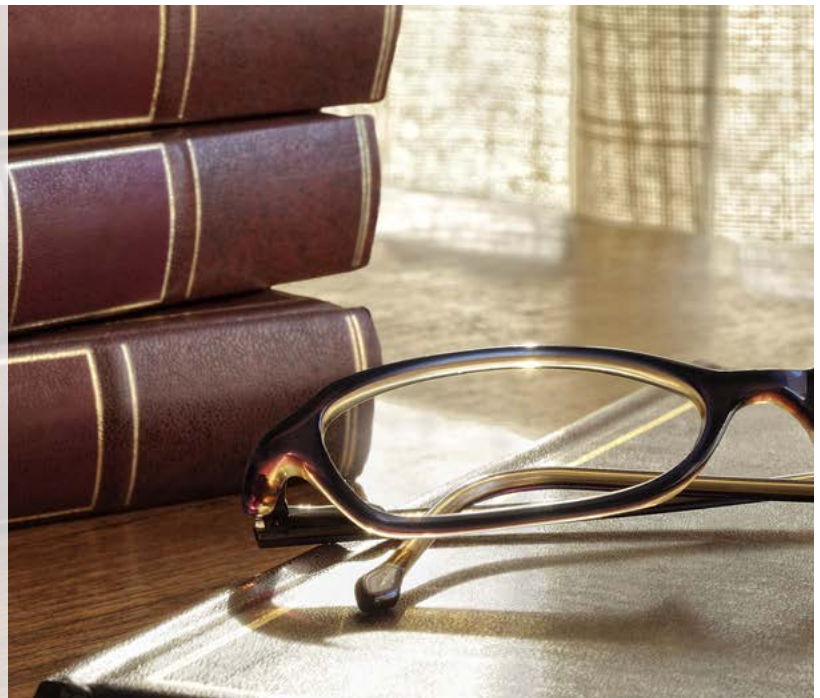
From the fall of 2020 thru the fall of 2021 the commission will meet, hold town hall meetings, and draw maps that become law December 31, 2021 to take effect for 2022 elections.



Roberta J.F. Wray

Neithercut Legal Education Fund

An experiment of the Genesee County Bar Foundation is offering grants that reimburse GCBA members for half the cost of tuition, up to \$300 per attorney per year, to any Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) Seminar of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM). Details on the grant can be found at www.gcbalaw.org. To take advantage of this opportunity please contact GCBA/GCBF Executive Director Tatilia "Tina" Burroughs at 810-232-6000.





Welcome New Members

Attorney: Joshua Beagle

Employer: Dyki, Latra, Brauckmuller & Ross
 Undergrad School: Michigan State University
 Law School: University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Attorney: Anissa Hudy

Employer: Bundy Hudy Legal Services PLLC
 Undergrad School: Walsh College
 Law School: University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Attorney: Robert Lee Hinojosa

Employer: The Hinojosa Law Firm
 Undergrad School: Grand Valley State University
 Law School: University Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Attorney: Steven Malach

Employer: Lipson Neilson, PC
 Undergrad School: University of Michigan
 Law School: University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Admission Ceremony



Pictured L-R: B.D. "Chris" Christenson, Judge Brian S. Pickell, New Admittee Jessica Rundle, Julie Nichols, and GCBA President Sherri L. Belknap.



The November issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* highlights Children's Law and was edited by GCBA member Shelley Spivack.

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/f0ead878#/f0ead878/1>

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