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Foundation Honors
Judge Harold Hood (posthumously) with the Founders Award
and
Marilyn Mullane with the Access to Justice Award

The Michigan State Bar Foundation has selected Hon. Harold Hood (posthumously) as the 2015 recipient of its Founders Award, which recognizes lawyers who exemplify professional excellence and outstanding community contributions. Past recipients included Dennis Archer, Wallace Riley, Charles Rutherford, Hon. Julian Cook, Patrick Bruetsch, Kim Cahill (posthumously), Hon. Avern Cohn, John Cummiskey (posthumously) and Hon. Hilda Gage (posthumously).



Judge Hood was a Trustee for the Michigan State Bar Foundation for 23 years and was a Life Fellow of the Foundation. He provided important stewardship for the Foundation's program of public service, particularly helping to lead a grants committee assisting improvements in the administration of justice, public understanding about the law and expanded delivery of legal services to those in need. He also served the lawyers and citizens of his state and nation in many other capacities since his admission to the practice of law in 1960, including becoming Judge of the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court (Wayne County) in 1978 and being appointed in 1982 to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Among his many honors were the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation's Dennis W. Archer Award for Public Service (2011); the Founders Award from the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness (2011); the State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice Award (1990); and the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

Phillip A. Hart Award (1991). Judge Hood helped lead many civic and professional committees, including: founding chair of the Association of Black Judges in Michigan; founding member of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts; chair of the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Issues in the Courts; co-chair of the State Bar's Open Justice Commission; member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association; member of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association; member of the American Judicature Society; member of the Michigan Judges Association; chair of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary; member and past president of the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit; member of the Advisory Commission of the National Institute on Alcoholism and Addictions. He served as faculty for the graduate division of Central Michigan University, the Michigan Judicial Institute, the National Judicial College, and Cooley Law School. Judge Hood completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan and received his law degree from Wayne State University Law School. Foundation President Margaret Nichols said "The Founder's Award will honor Judge Hood's distinguished career and his many important contributions to the Foundation, the legal profession and society."

The Michigan State Bar Foundation selected Marilyn Mullane for its 2015 Access to Justice Award which honors persons who have significantly advanced access to justice for the poor in Michigan. Past recipients have included Robert Gillett, Candace Crowley, Hon. Chad Schmucker, Michael C. Chielens (posthumously) and Holli Wallace (posthumously).

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Marilyn Mullane has been the Director of Michigan Legal Services since 2000. Under her leadership, the agency has provided impact-oriented legal services in the Detroit metropolitan region and operates an anti-homelessness project. Working closely with the United Community Housing Coalition, MLS has conducted extensive outreach services to and assisted numerous families facing foreclosure in Detroit. Ms. Mullane has specialized in housing and community development law for the past 30 years, with experience also working on access to utilities, public benefits, health and mental health care. She partners with many other legal aid providers; one example is working with Community Legal Resources, a program of Michigan Community Resources, to use volunteer business lawyers to assist nonprofit organizations throughout Michigan with transactional legal problems. MLS has served as counsel to a number of nonprofit community groups. Ms. Mullane has been a founding member or served on the board of directors for several organizations: the Maurice and Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic and

Social Justice (1991 to 2012); Cass Corridor Neighborhood Development Corporation (1980 to present); The Heat Warmth Fund (THAW); Michigan Community Resources (1998 to present); Bridging Communities (2000 to present) and Center for Community Change, Public Housing Advisory Board (1988 to 1998). Ms. Mullane has received the National Lawyers Guild award; the Judith E. Magid Award; the Social and Economic Justice Award; the Ernest Goodman Award; several awards from the Detroit City Council for her work in housing, most recently in Tax Foreclosure Prevention; the Community Health Hero of the Year Award (2011) from MichUHCAN and the Sol Schwartz Award (1999) for work on mental health issues from the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Oakland County. Before her work at MLS began in 1983, Ms. Mullane was a legal aid lawyer at Legal Aid and Defender and Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan, attended graduate school at Columbia University and received her law degree from Wayne State University Law School. Foundation President Margaret Nichols said "Marilyn Mullane embodies the leadership and contributions this award recognizes through her dedication to ensuring access to justice for those in need."

Both awards will be presented on behalf of the Foundation at the October 7th State Bar Awards Banquet during the State Bar's Annual Meeting in Novi, Michigan. The Michigan State Bar Foundation provides leadership and grants to improve access for all to the justice system, including support for civil legal aid to the poor, law-related education, and conflict resolution. For more information, visit www.msbf.org.