

Foundation

Michigan State Bar Foundation

News



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan State Bar Foundation Elects 2009-2010 Officers and Trustees

At its 2009 Annual Meeting, the Michigan State Bar Foundation elected Officers and Trustees for 2009-2010 year. The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1947 by Michigan judges and lawyers to support law-related charitable programs. Since its inception, the Foundation made some 1,200 grants totaling over \$110 million dollars to improve access for all to the justice system, including support for civil legal services to the poor, law-related education, and conflict resolution. See www.msbf.org for more information.



Margaret J. Nichols was elected as President of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. She is a shareholder in the Ann Arbor firm of Nichols, Sacks, Slank, Sendelbach & Buiteweg PC. Ms. Nichols is also a board member of the National Association of IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) Programs, a Fellow with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a charter member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Michigan. Ms. Nichols is a past recipient of the Michael Franck Award for outstanding contributions to the legal profession.



Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh of St. Joseph was elected Vice President. Judge Butzbaugh is Chief Judge in Berrien County. He is Chair of the Foundation's Legal Services Grants Committee which manages the Foundation's largest grant program. Judge Butzbaugh was instrumental in the creation of the Access to Justice Campaign during his 1999-2000 presidency of the State Bar of Michigan and is a past recipient of the State Bar's Roberts P. Hudson Award.



Lamont E. Buffington was elected as Treasurer. Of counsel to the Detroit firm of Garan, Lucow, Miller, PC., Mr. Buffington chairs the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee and is a member of its Legal Services Grants Committee. Mr. Buffington holds professional memberships in several state, national and international defense trial associations. He is a former commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan and has been a panelist for the Attorney Grievance Commission.



Stefani A. Carter was elected as Secretary. Ms. Carter, of Stefani A. Carter Law, Ann Arbor, is a member of the Foundation's Finance and Audit and Legal Services Grant Committees. Ms. Carter is also past president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association. She is also an active member of the Washtenaw County Trial Lawyers Association, Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association and the Litigation Advisory Board of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Other Trustees elected to three-year terms on the Board of Trustees include: **Michael G. Harrison**, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC, Lansing; **Hon. William B. Murphy**, Chief Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids; **H. Rhett Pinsky**, Pinsky Smith Fayette & Kennedy LLP, Grand Rapids; **Richard K. Rappleye**, The Kresge Foundation, Troy; and elected to a one-year term, **E. Christopher Johnson, Jr.**, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills.

Other Foundation Trustees include: **Thomas W. Cranmer**, Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC, Troy; **Peter H. Ellsworth**, Dickinson Wright PLLC, Lansing; **Julie I. Fershtman**, Zausmer Kaufman August Caldwell & Tayler PC, Farmington Hills; **Hon. Harold Hood**, Detroit; **Hon. Victoria A. Roberts**, U.S. District Judge, Federal Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit; and **Richard A. Soble**, Soble Rowe Krichbaum, Ann Arbor. Ex-Officio Trustees include **Hon. Marilyn J. Kelly**, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court; **Charles R. Toy**, President, State Bar of Michigan; and **W. Anthony Jenkins**, President-Elect, State Bar of Michigan. **Linda K. Rexer**, Foundation Executive Director, was elected Foundation Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.