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Honorable Julian A. Cook Jr. Receives 2007 Founders Award

During the State Bar's recent annual meeting, **Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor** presented **Judge Julian A. Cook, Jr.** with the Michigan State Bar Foundation's 2007 Founders Award. The Founders Award is presented to a Michigan lawyer for exemplary contributions to the profession and the community. Prior recipients include Dennis W. Archer, Wallace D Riley and Charles R. Rutherford.

Chief Justice Taylor highlighted Judge Cook's distinguished career, including his service to the Foundation. He noted that during Judge Cook's term as Chair of the Foundation's Fellows Program, Fellows membership doubled to its current level of over 1,300 lawyers, and Fellows financial contributions tripled to a cumulative total of nearly \$1.3 million, which supports the Foundation's program of public service.

Judge Cook was appointed Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in 1978, was Chief Judge from 1989 to 1996, and now serves as a Senior Judge. He has received many honors, including honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Georgetown University, University of Detroit-Mercy, Wayne State University and Michigan State University as well as distinguished alumnus awards from Georgetown University and Pennsylvania State University. He also received the State Bar's Champion of Justice Award, the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association's first Annual Trailblazers Award, and the Bench-Bar Award from the Wolverine and Detroit Bar Associations. Judge Cook is an Emeritus member of the State Bar of Michigan, a member of the Michigan Association of Black Judges, Federal Bar Association, National Bar Association, Wolverine Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, American Law Institute, American Bar Association and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Judge Cook has served on many civic and professional committees, including as Chairman of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, Chairman of the Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions for the Sixth Circuit, President of the American Inns of Court (Chapter XI) and member of the American Law Institute's Federal Judicial Code Revision Project. He has been a board member of the Detroit Urban League, American Heart Association of Michigan, Child and Family Services of Michigan, the Detroit Medical Center, Michigan United Way, several local Oakland County nonprofit organizations and a life member of the NAACP. He has also published extensively and been a trial advocacy instructor at Harvard University Law School, taught for the U.S. Department of Justice and been an adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Detroit Law School and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Chief Justice Taylor said "The Foundation could make no better choice than Julian A. Cook for this Award." In accepting the Award, Judge Cook expressed appreciation to Chief Justice Taylor and to the Foundation and thanked his family and his colleagues in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for their support. He urged others to give back to the profession and their communities to help the less fortunate and to pass on fundamental lessons of responsibility, integrity and fairness to aspiring lawyers.