

Foundation News

Michigan State Bar Foundation



Funding and Leadership for Justice Since 1947

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Michigan State Bar Foundation Elects 2005-2006 Officers and Trustees

The Michigan State Bar Foundation has elected Officers and Trustees for 2005-2006. The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation, founded by Michigan judges and lawyers in 1947 to support law-related charitable programs. Since its inception, the Foundation has made over 500 grants totaling nearly \$75 million dollars to improve the administration of justice, advance public understanding of the law, promote peaceful conflict resolution and further the delivery of civil legal services to the poor. See www.msbf.org for more information on Foundation programs.



Margaret J. Nichols was elected President of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. She is a shareholder in the Ann Arbor firm of Nichols, Sacks, Slank, Sendelbach & Buiteweg PC and is currently serving her second appointed term on the American Bar Association Commission on IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts). Nichols is a past Chair of the State Bar Family Law Section, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and the 2002 recipient of the Michael Franck Award for outstanding contributions to the profession.



Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh of St. Joseph was elected Vice-President. Judge Butzbaugh is Chair of the Legal Services Grants Committee which manages the Foundation's largest grant program involving more than 8 million dollars annually to support civil legal aid for low-income families in Michigan. As president of the State Bar of Michigan from 1999-2000, Judge Butzbaugh was instrumental in the creation of the Access to Justice Campaign and is a past recipient of the State Bar of Michigan's highest honor, the Roberts P. Hudson award.



Lamont E. Buffington, a senior shareholder in the Detroit firm of Garan, Lucow, Miller was elected Treasurer. Mr. Buffington chairs the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee and is a long standing member of the Foundation's Legal Services Grants Committee. Buffington holds membership in several state, national and international defense trial associations and has served as a panelist on the Attorney Discipline and Grievance Committee.



Stefani A. Carter, a partner at Hamilton, McDonald & Carter, P.C. in Ann Arbor, has been elected as Secretary. She is a member of both the Foundation's Legal Services Grants and Finance and Audit Committees. Carter is an active member of the Washtenaw County Trial Lawyers Association and is a past president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association. Carter is also a member of the Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association and the Litigation Advisory Board of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Trustees elected to new terms on the Foundation's Board of Trustees include: **Peter H. Ellsworth**, Dickinson Wright, PLLC, Lansing; **Julie I. Fershtman**, Zausmer, Kaufmann, August & Caldwell, Farmington Hills; **Jon H. Kingsepp**, Howard & Howard, Bloomfield Hills; **Hon. Victoria A. Roberts**, US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit; and **Richard Soble**, Soble Rowe Krichbaum, Ann Arbor. **Linda K. Rexer**, Executive Director of the Foundation was also elected as its Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Other Foundation Trustees include: **Michael G. Harrison**, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC, Lansing; **Hon. Harold Hood**, Detroit; **Hon. William B. Murphy**, Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids; **Jon R. Muth**, Miller, Johnson, Grand Rapids; **Hon. Wendy L. Potts**, Chief Judge, 6th Circuit Court, Pontiac; **Richard K. Rappleye**, The Kresge Foundation, Troy; and Ex-Officio Trustees **Hon. Clifford W. Taylor**, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court; **Thomas W. Cranmer**, President, State Bar of Michigan, and **Kimberly M. Cahill**, President-Elect, State Bar of Michigan.