



Michigan State Bar Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michigan State Bar Foundation Elects 2004-2005 Officers and Trustees

The Michigan State Bar Foundation has elected Officers and Trustees for 2004-2005. The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation, founded by Michigan judges and lawyers in 1947 to support law-related charitable programs. It awarded nearly 8.5 million dollars in grants this year to improve the administration of justice and further the delivery of 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 and recipient of the 2002 Michael Franck Award for outstanding contributions to the profession and the public. Nichols currently serves on the American Bar Association's Commission on IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) and is a past chair of the Washtenaw County Bar Association, past Chair of the State Bar Family Law Section and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

The Honorable Alfred M. Butzbaugh of St. Joseph was elected Vice President and to a new term as Trustee. Judge Butzbaugh is Chair of the Foundation's Legal Services Grants Committee which oversees the Foundation's largest grant program of more than 7 million dollars annually to support civil legal aid for low-income families in Michigan. While President of the State Bar of Michigan in 1999-2000, Judge Butzbaugh helped launch the Access to Justice Campaign to raise additional funds for civil legal aid services. Judge Butzbaugh is also a past recipient of the State Bar'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 and to a new term as Trustee. Mr. Buffington chairs the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee and serves on the Foundation's Legal Services Grants Committee. Mr. Buffington holds membership in state, national and international defense trial associations and also served on the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners and as chair of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association's Public Advisory Committee.

Stefani A. Carter, a partner at Hamilton, McDonald & Carter, P.C. in Ann Arbor, has been elected as secretary and to a new term as Trustee. She is a member of the Foundation's Finance and Audit Committee and Legal Services Grants Committee. She is an active member of the Washtenaw County Trial Lawyers Association and Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association and was on the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners and past president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association.

Other Trustees recently named to new terms on the Foundation's Board of Trustees include: The Honorable Harold Hood, Detroit; Hon. Wendy Potts, Pontiac; Nancy J. Diehl, Detroit; and Thomas W. Crammer, Bloomfield Hills.

The Honorable Harold Hood is retired from the Michigan Court of Appeals. Judge Hood was co-chair of the Open Justice Commission of the State Bar of Michigan and has served on various Supreme Court Committees concerning courts rules and jury instructions. The Honorable Wendy Potts is currently the Chief Judge for the 6th Circuit Court in Oakland County and is a former member of the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners and the American Bar Association House of Delegates. Judge Potts also co-chaired the State Bar of Michigan's Children's Justice Committee and is a past member of the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence.

Nancy J. Diehl, an ex-officio Foundation Trustee, is the current President of the State Bar of Michigan. She heads the Felony Trial Division in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and serves on the Executive Committee of the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice. Diehl is also the Chair of the Wayne County Council Against Family Violence. Thomas W. Cramer, also an ex-officio Foundation Trustee, is President- Elect of the State Bar of Michigan. He is a partner in the law firm Miro, Weiner, & Kramer of Bloomfield Hills and is a past Assistant Prosecutor of Oakland County, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and past president of the Oakland County Bar Foundation. The Honorable Maura D. Corrigan, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, is also an ex-officio Trustee of the Foundation.

Other Trustees include: the Honorable Victoria A. Roberts, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit; Jon R. Muth, a shareholder with Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cumiskey, PLC, Grand Rapids; Julie I. Fershtman, of Counsel with Zausmer, Kaufman, August & Caldwell, P.C., Farmington Hills; Peter H. Ellsworth, of Dickinson Wright, PLLC, Lansing; Michael G. Harrison, of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC, Lansing; Jon H. Kingsepp, of Howard & Howard, PC, Bloomfield Hills; Hon. William B. Murphy, Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids; Richard K. Rappleye, The Kresge Foundation, Troy; and Richard A. Soble, Soble & Rowe, Ann Arbor.

Attached: Photos for All Four Officers

Cutlines:

Margaret J. Nichols
President, Michigan State Bar Foundation

Hon. Alfred Butzbaugh
Vice-President, Michigan State Bar Foundation

Lamont E. Buffington-
Treasurer, Michigan State Bar Foundation

Stefani A. Carter
Secretary, Michigan State Bar Foundation



Nichols
President, Michigan State Bar Foundation



Margaret J.
Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh
Vice-President, Michigan State Bar Foundation



Lamont E. Buffington
Treasurer, Michigan State Bar Foundation



Stefani A. Carter
Secretary, Michigan State Bar Foundation