

# Foundation

Michigan State Bar Foundation

# News



*Funding and Leadership for Justice Since 1947*

306 Townsend Street    Lansing, Michigan 48933    Web Address: [www.msbf.org](http://www.msbf.org)    Phone: 517-346-6400

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## **FOUNDATION ELECTS 2007-08 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

At its 60th Annual Members Meeting on September 26th, the Michigan State Bar Foundation elected Officers and Trustees and highlighted accomplishments. During the last year, grants of nearly \$9.7 million were awarded to nonprofit civil legal aid agencies and for projects which improve the administration of justice. President Margaret J. Nichols said: "Because of the Foundation's grants, there are young people who know how to resolve problems; there are new publications about Michigan law; there are teachers who have innovative ways to engage students about legal principles; there are senior citizens who did not lose their homes to unscrupulous contractors; there are children who no longer fear family violence; and there are indigent families who have somewhere to go for legal help." Officers and Trustees for 2007-2008 are:

**Margaret J. Nichols** was elected as Trustee and President. 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.

**Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh** of St. Joseph was elected Vice President. Judge Butzbaugh is Chief Judge of Berrien County. He is Chair of the Foundation's Legal Services Grants Committee which manages the Foundation's largest grant program. Judge Butzbaugh spearheaded 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 Trustee and Treasurer. A senior shareholder in 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 defense trial associations, is a former commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan and has been a panelist on the Attorney Discipline and Grievance Committee.

**Stefani A. Carter**, was elected as Trustee and Secretary. Ms. Carter, of Stefani A. Carter JD, PD in 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: **Hon. Harold Hood** of Detroit and **Hon. Wendy L. Potts**, Chief Judge, 6th Circuit Court, Pontiac. Additional Foundation Trustees include: **Michael G. Harrison**, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC, Lansing; **Hon. William B. Murphy**, Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids; **Jon R. Muth**, Miller Johnson, Grand Rapids; **Richard K. Rappleye**, The Kresge Foundation, Troy; **Peter H. Ellsworth**, Dickinson Wright, PLLC, Lansing; **Julie I. Fershtman**, Zausmer, Kaufman, August & Caldwell PC., Farmington Hills; **Hon. Victoria A. Roberts**, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit; and **Richard A. Soble**, Soble Rowe Krichbaum, Ann Arbor. Ex-Officio Trustees include **Hon. Clifford W. Taylor**, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court; **Ronald D. Keefe**, President, State Bar of Michigan, and **Edward H. Pappas**, President-Elect, State Bar of Michigan.

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 has awarded more than 700 grants totaling over \$93 million. For more information, see [www.msbf.org](http://www.msbf.org).

*(see photo)*



Michigan State Bar Foundation Officers: *(left to right)* Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh, Vice President; Margaret J. Nichols, President; Stefani A. Carter, Secretary and Lamont E. Buffington, Treasurer.