Legal Researcher • Legal Secretary • Lobbyist • **Mediator** • Nonprofit Organization • Of Counsel • Paralegal • **Police Officer** • **President of the United States** • Probation Officer • Public Policy Analyst • Real Estate Broker • Regulatory Compliance Official • Risk Management • Sports Law • **Supreme Court Justice** • Tax Preparer • Accountant • **Activist** • Advocate • Board Member • Case Investigator • Child Protective Services • CIA Analyst • Client and Witness

Interviewer • Community Le Negotiations • Contracts • ( Document Preparation • El Scientists • Government • Law Professor
 Legal & Mediator • Nonprofit Orga the United States • Proba Compliance Official • Risk M • Accountant • Activist • Services • CIA Analyst • Clic Officer • Member of Congres Administration • Criminal Agent • Firm Associate • International Affairs • Judge Legal Researcher • Legal Se Paralegal
 Police Office Policy Analyst • Real Estate I \_aw • Supreme Court Ju Member • Case Investigator Interviewer • Community Le Negotiations • Contracts • ( Document Preparation • Elde



# FACE OF JUSTICE

ber of Congress . Contract ation • Criminal Attorney • Firm Associate • Forensic ffairs • Judge • Juvenile Law Legal Secretary
 Lobbyist ce Officer • President of Il Estate Broker • Regulatory **purt Justice** • Tax Preparer restigator • Child Protective ty Leadership • Compliance Corrections Officer • Court der Law • Family Law • FBI Information Technology • gal Aid . Legal Assistant . fit Organization • Of Counsel • Probation Officer • Public Risk ManagementSports ctivist • Advocate • Board nalyst • Client and Witness ber of Congress • Contract ation • Criminal Attorney • ssociate • Forensic Scientist

• Government • Information Technology • International Affairs • Judge • Juvenile Law • Law Professor • Legal Aid • Legal Assistant • Legal Researcher • Legal Secretary • Lobbyist • Mediator • Nonprofit Organization • Of Counsel • Paralegal • Police Officer • President of the United States • Probation Officer • Public Policy Analyst • Real Estate Broker • Regulatory Compliance Official • Risk Management • Sports Law • Supreme Court Justice • Tax Preparer • Accountant • Activist • Advocate • Board Member • Case Investigator • Child Protective Services • CIA Analyst • Client and Witness Interviewer • Community Leadership • Compliance Officer • Member of Congress • Contract Negotiations • Contracts • Corrections Officer • Court Administration • Criminal Attorney • Document Preparation • Elder Law • Family Law • FBI Agent • Firm Associate • Forensic Scientist • Government • Information Technology • International Affairs • Judge • Juvenile Law • Law Professor • Legal Aid • Legal Assistant • Legal Researcher • Legal Secretary • Lobbyist • Mediator • Nonprofit Organization • Of Counsel • Paralegal • Police Officer • President of the United States • Probation Officer • Public Policy Analyst • Real Estate Broker • Regulatory Compliance Official • Risk Management • Sports



Equal Access Initiative of the Committee on Justice Initiatives
Law Related Education and Public Outreach Committee



Welcome to the Face of Justice program. This is a unique opportunity for you as a student to learn more about the legal profession. The program is designed to give you several types of information that we hope you find useful as you consider your options for a profession after you have completed high school.

The tour of the Learning Center will introduce you to some concepts that are a part of the legal system through the interactive displays.

The tour of the courtroom will give you a chance to see where some decisions are made when cases reach the level of the Supreme Court.

The "jet" mentoring sessions will allow you to ask questions and hear from professionals in several different areas within the legal field. This is your opportunity to find out more about the steps involved in becoming a lawyer or other legal professional, discuss the types of work people do, and gain knowledge that may help you decide what you want to do when you graduate from high school.

Please enjoy this opportunity and take advantage of each of the sessions you are participating in today. We hope your day is thought-provoking and constructive as you learn more about the courts and the legal profession.

Thank you,

Gregory P. Conyers Director of Diversity, State Bar of Michigan gconyers@mail.michbar.org



October 25, 2016

# Agenda

#### 9:00 Welcome and Introductions

Gregory P. Conyers, Director of Diversity, State Bar of Michigan Hon. Michelle M. Rick, Circuit Court Judge, 29th Circuit Court Justice Bridget M. McCormack, Michigan Supreme Court

#### 9:30 Panel Presentation

Hon. Michelle M. Rick, Circuit Court Judge, 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court
Takura N. Nyamfukudza, Associate Attorney, Alane & Chartier, PLC
Arturo Alfaro, Associate Minister, Mt. Zion Church
Sergeant Dwayne L. Gill, Recruiting Coordinator, Michigan State Police

#### 10:00 Jet Mentoring

#### Hall of Justice Learning Center and Courtroom Tours

Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder, Court of Appeals, First District Rachael Drenovsky, Learning Center Coordinator, Michigan Supreme Court

#### 12:00 Final Remarks, Lunch, and Networking





#### Arturo Alfaro

Education: Baker College, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Current Employment: Associate minister, Mt. Zion Church, www.mtzion.org

As a minister I coordinate outreach efforts and serve the community as a certified interpreter, working with families as they interact with government agencies, public organizations and private businesses. I meet with families and attorneys to ensure clear and accurate communication, and to help people understand what they face through the legal system.

**When I was younger I dreamed of being:** A navy pilot and officer! The idea of flying a jet and going around the world in the aircraft carrier always appealed to me.

One thing that best prepared me for law school: As a minister working with families, I learned how to serve and meet their needs with understanding and compassion. Many people already feel judged by their circumstances as they face the legal system They need effective counsel who can listen, educate, and guide without judgment.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** This is one profession where your actions truly have a direct impact on people's lives. Working as an attorney you have the privilege of helping people and making a difference in their lives. In many instances, your counsel and expertise will result in life-changing decisions. Join those who choose to be the difference!

Face of Justice



#### **Christine Cameron**

Education: Olivet College, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**Current Employment:** Attorney/partner, Grand Rapids Legal Advocates, PLC, www.grlegaladvocates.com. Family law & criminal defense.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: Lawyer

**One thing that best prepared me for law school:** The ability to distinguish the problem from the people best prepared me for a legal occupation. It is important to be sure that you

are attacking the problem and not a person. The ability to work with people, find the real issue, work toward the resolution, and communicate all steps along the way are very important. Clients will come to you with very tough life issues. You need to be able to have tough conversations with your clients, other attorneys, judges, and other people in almost every legal matter.

If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation: There is never a dull moment!

Face of Justice

# Syeda F. Davidson

Education: University of Michigan—Dearborn, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Current Employment: Associate attorney,

Burgess, Sharp & Golden, PLLC, www.bsglawfirm.com

I represent individuals who have experienced employment discrimination and retaliation, as well as those who have suffered police or other governmental misconduct.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: My mom has a book that she filled out with me when I was about three or four. I guess around that time, I told her I really wanted to be a lion when I grew up. I suppose, however, that some would say that being a lawyer isn't that different.

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Honestly, it was experiencing my own hardships within the legal system that did it, because it made me empathetic. Aside from this, it was working in the service industry, which made me tough.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Don't ever sell yourself out. Try to find work in areas of law that encompass what you are passionate about, instead of those that just pay well.

Face of Justice

#### Christina (Tina) DeMoore

Education: Michigan State University, Wayne State University Law School

Current Employment: Attorney/mediator, Law Offices of Christina L. DeMoore

After being a civil litigator for many years, I primarily use my legal training now to help people solve legal problems outside of the courtroom using facilitative mediation. This involves person-to-person problem-solving supported by legal professionals.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: in a position to serve the community at large both as part of my profession and outside of my profession.

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Outside of my legal training, participation in speech, policy debate and student leadership activities best prepared me for the legal profession. These endeavors taught me how to research, how to problem-solve difficult issues, and how to find my own unique voice. I also learned how to work with people who thought differently from me and, most importantly, to learn from them.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Never limit yourself or allow others to do so. You can accomplish whatever you put your mind to as long as you dedicate all of your efforts to that endeavor. And, be prepared to persist through difficulty to reach your goals.

FACE OF JUSTICE



Nicole A. Evans

Education: Olivet College, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**Current Employment:** Court administrator, 54B District Court, www.54bdistrictcourt.com. Responsible for all non-judicial aspects of the court

When I was younger I dreamed of being: A writer

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Working as a court probation officer

If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation: Take advantage of internships, externships

and mentorships.

Face of Justice	



# Carmen Gressa Fahie

Education: Michigan State University, Michigan State University College of Law

**Current Employment:** Administrative law judge, state of Michigan, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs—Michigan Administrative Hearing System (LARA-MAHS)

I conduct hearings for the Department of Health and Human Services based on their policies and procedures.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: A lawyer or a doctor

One thing that best prepared me for law school: My passion for reading

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Sometimes you have to be selective and choose your friends who will inspire and uplift you to another level.

Face of Justice



# Sergeant Dwayne L. Gill

**Education:** Business Management

Current Employment: Sergeant, Michigan State Police, mi.gov/mspjobs

I am the recruiting coordinator for the Michigan State Police. I assist young men and women in becoming state troopers.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: A career military man

One thing that best prepared me for law school: The time I served in the military prepared me the best for my career with the Michigan State Police.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Work hard in school. You do not get a do-over. Always do your best. Find a mentor in your chosen field to help you succeed.

Face of Justice



#### Helen Mae Haessly

Education: Texas Woman's University, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**Current Employment:** Coordinator of development and alumni services, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, www.cooley.edu

I maintain alumni records in our main database, accept donations, process all written communication with alumni and donors, and coordinate the alumni association meetings. I also assist in planning and holding alumni events. I prepare PowerPoint presentations to new students and report monthly to the leadership group. I worked for 10 years as a real estate

attorney and at a title insurance company handling claims and making underwriting decisions.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: A teacher or business professional like accountant or attorney.

**One thing that best prepared me for law school:** My undergraduate degree was in library science and I did an internship at a large law office. That was the best preparation for me to become an attorney.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Read books that are classics, or non-fiction like biographies. Take a class in philosophy or study logic. If you love to analyze and solve problems, then law is a great choice.

Face of Justice



# Robert R. Hendrix

Education: Michigan State University & University of Phoenix

Current Employment: First lieutenant, Michigan State Police, www.mi.gov/msp

I am the commander of the Michigan State Police Recruiting and Selection Section. The section was created to actively recruit qualified individuals for all positions, with special focus on key specialty positions to include trooper, motor carrier officer, forensic science, biometrics, cyber security, emergency management, and homeland security. Recruiting and Selection Section's goals include increasing the diversity of applicants, developing an integrated

marketing campaign, and reducing the length of the entire hiring process.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: An electrical engineer

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Good reading and comprehension skills

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation**: Stay focused and do not give in to negative peer pressure. Keep moving toward your goals.

FACE OF JUSTICE



# **Phoenix Hummel**

**Education:** University of Southern Indiana, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School **Current Employment:** Legal editor

Michigan Supreme Court Office of the Reporter of Decisions, www.courts.mi.gov I edit the published opinions of the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: A medical lab technician or an international political scientist.

**One thing that best prepared me for law school:** My unceasing attention to detail and my fascination with language (two things!)

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Bring your best self to everything you do—your educational opportunities, your recreational activities, and your relationships with other people.

Face of Justice



# Monica Nuckolls

Education: Michigan State University, University of Michigan Law School

Current Employment: Professor, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, wmich.edu/law

I am a law professor and I teach Torts I, Torts II, and Equity & Remedies. I also supervise students who take general practice externships. I serve as the chair of the Torts Department and I also serve as a faculty advisor to the Christian Legal Society.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: A doctor

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Reading and writing

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Read and write as much as you can. As long as you are willing to work hard, you can do anything you put your mind to!

Face of Justice



# Takura Nyamfukudza

**Education:** Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**Current Employment:** Associate attorney at Alane & Chartier, P.L.C., http://www.alanechartier.com/

I am a criminal defense attorney.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: I simply wanted to be rich when I was a young boy. I realize now that there is much more to life.

**One thing that best prepared me for law school:** I served a dozen years in the United States Army. As an attorney, I rely on many of the values that were instilled during my time in uniform on a daily basis.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Courts are open to the public. Go and watch attorneys in action. Speak with them. Volunteer at a law firm if the opportunity presents itself. Do all that you can to immerse yourself in what it truly means to be an attorney. Remember that being an attorney, no matter the area of law, is all about helping people. Also, if your heart believes it, and your mind can conceive it, then you can achieve it.

Face of Justice



# Alisa Parker

**Education:** Fisk University, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**Current Employment:** Supervising attorney, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, http://miadvocacy.org/

I represent clients facing eviction, sue landlords who may not be making repairs, or assists clients who may be facing housing discrimination. I also supervise other attorneys.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: An astronaut

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Not giving up in tough times helped me learn patience, empathy and creativity.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Don't be afraid to try something new; you may find your passion.

Face of Justice

# Michelle M. Rick

Education: Michigan State University, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

**Current Employment:** Circuit court judge, Clinton & Gratiot counties, www.clinton-county.org

I hear the following cases: Criminal, family law, and civil cases where the amount in controversy is more than \$25,000.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: I always dreamed of being a lawyer so that I could give a voice to people who needed assistance.

**One thing that best prepared me for law school:** In high school I was active in performing arts, debate, and forensics. These things helped me to think quickly, and intelligently, on my feet.

If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation: The practice of law requires discipline, drive, and compassion.

Face of Justice



# Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder

Education: University of Michigan, University of Michigan Law School

Current Employment: Michigan Court of Appeals First District, courts.mi.gov/courts/coa

Court of Appeals judges hear appeals from decisions made by lower court judges and tribunals.

**When I was younger I dreamed of being:** Through 11th grade, I did not have a specific dream, but beginning my senior year I wanted to be a lawyer and eventually a judge.

One thing that best prepared me for law school: I learned to be an excellent writer and communicator. Without these skills, you cannot excel in the legal profession.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Well-trained lawyers who care about people, care about justice, and care about their communities can make a lasting difference. If this is your motivation, you will have a satisfying career.

Face of Justice



# Edwar Zeineh

**Education:** Michigan State University, WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School **Current Employment:** Attorney, Law Office of Edwar A. Zeineh, PLLC, Zeinehlaw.com

I am the guy you call when you're in trouble.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: Lawyer

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Interacting with people.

**If you can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Keep your head up and walk a straight path. Remember your ethics and reputation.

Face of Justice



# Erica Zimny

**Education:** Hilbert College (Hamburg, NY), WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School **Current Employment:** Managing attorney, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, www.lsscm.org

We assist low-income persons facing homelessness, with domestic violence prevention, and assistance accessing health care and food, and needs-based programs.

When I was younger I dreamed of being: I never knew what I wanted to do.

One thing that best prepared me for law school: Being an organized and prepared person.

**If I can provide one piece of advice or motivation:** Do the best you can every day and volunteer, volunteer, volunteer.

Face of Justice

# FACE OF JUSTICE

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# FACE OF JUSTICE



We would like to give special thanks to Hon. Michelle M. Rick and the National Association of Women Judges, Justice Bridget M. McCormack for program support and venue assistance, Justice Richard H. Bernstein and Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder for their ongoing support, and the Lansing School District's Executive Director of Student Learning, Delsa D. Chapman for helping the students attend. This program wouldn't be possible without the extraordinary efforts of those listed.

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