

All information must be shown on this application form and on any additional sheets in the same format. Submit this form online, by facsimile, or mail to:

Attention: Ms. Anne Smith
Representative Assembly Awards
State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend St.
Lansing, MI 48933-2012
(517) 346-6374
Fax: (517) 372-2410
asmith@mail.michbar.org

The deadline for application is Friday, February 22, 2008. All applications must be received no later than this date.

This form may be downloaded from www.michbar.org. Click on Media Resources, then Events and Awards.

Criteria

This award will be presented to a lawyer who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the profession.

- The recipient must be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan.
- The recipient's contribution may have been made during the past year or by virtue of cumulative effort or service.
- The recipient is selected by the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly Nominating and Awards Committee.

Name of nominee: Justice Thomas Brennan, Sr. Name of nominator: Lawrence P. Nolan (P25908)
 Title: _____ Title: PRESIDENT
 Firm or organization: _____ Firm or organization: Nolan, Thomsen & Villas, P.C.
 Address: 6151 Park Lake Road, E. Lansing, MI Address: 239 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
 Phone: (517) 339-1387 Fax: _____ Phone: 517-663-3306 Fax: 517-663-4300
 E-mail: _____ E-mail: boardmem15@aol.com

A. Please use the space provided to explain the merits of your nomination along with all supporting materials for your nominee where possible. Give specific examples. _____

Thomas E. Brennan (born May 27, 1929) is an attorney, former jurist and educator in the U.S. state of Michigan. He served as the 81st Justice and Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Justice Brennan was born in Detroit, Michigan, and graduated from the private Detroit Catholic Central High School, where he excelled in forensics. He attended the University of Detroit and earned a LL.B from the University of Detroit Law School in 1952. In 1951, he married Pauline M. Weinberger. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives from the Wayne County 1st District in 1952 and from the 6th District in 1954. In December 1955, he was the Republican Party candidate in the special election for the U.S. Representative from Michigan's 15th congressional district to fill the seat of John Dingell, Sr., who had died in office. Justice Brennan lost to Dingell's son, John Dingell, Jr.

In 1953, he joined the law firm of Waldron, Brennan, Brennan, and Maher, with whom he worked until 1961, when he was elected to a seat on the Common Pleas Bench. In 1963, he was appointed by Michigan Governor George W. Romney to the Wayne County Circuit Bench, and in 1964 he was elected to that same position.

In 1966, at the urging of Governor Romney, Justice Brennan, sought the nomination of the Republican Party as Associate Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Justice Brennan won the nomination, and the election. In 1969 and 1970, Justice Brennan served as Chief Justice, the youngest Justice to serve in that capacity.

During his service on the Bench, Justice Brennan received many requests for law school recommendations. This was the basis of his vision for a new, private, law school in Lansing, Michigan. In 1972, he incorporated the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Justice Brennan left the Supreme Court on December 6, 1973, to dedicate his professional career to the newly-formed law school.

Justice Brennan served as first Dean of Cooley Law School until 1978, when he became its first president. Today, Cooley Law School has over 11,000 alumni and 3,600 students enrolled at its three campuses in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, located in Grand Rapids, Lansing and Auburn Hills. In 2008, Cooley Law School will celebrate its thirtieth year of American Bar Association accreditation.

B. News/magazine articles/radio/TV programs about the nominee's accomplishments *(do not submit articles/tapes)*

| Date/Page | Media |
|----------------------|---|
| E.g. 12/12/01, p. 12 | Lansing State Journal, "Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools" |

C. Awards nominee has received

| Date | Award |
|-----------|--|
| E.g. 2002 | Marquette Chamber of Commerce Athena Award |
| | Too numerous to list. |

D. Supporters of nomination *(attach signed letters; identical letters from different supporters should be signed on one sheet rather than attaching multiple copies of the same letter)*

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>WALLACE RILEY</u> | <u>JOHN L. COTE'</u> |
| <u>JAMES RYAN</u> | |
| <u>JOSEPH REID</u> | |
| <u>JUSTICE MICHAEL CAVANAUGH</u> | |
| <u>CHIEF JUSTICE CLIFFORD TAYLOR</u> | |
| <u>LOUIS A. SMITH</u> | |

E. Date: 2-25-08 Signature of nominator Lawrence P. Nolan

Deadline Friday, February 22, 2008. All applications must be received no later than this date.

I first met Justice Brennan when I was notified that I was accepted into the first class of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School beginning in January of 1973.

I would go to his office at the end of every semester and thank him for giving me the opportunity to go to law school, not just to obtain a law degree but to fulfill my life's dream.

There is no one who stands taller in my eyes for having been solely responsible for thousands of people like myself being given the same opportunity to pursue their dreams.

He is without question an ICON in the legal profession, the State of Michigan, the American Bar Association and American Jurisprudence and Legal Education.

I was President of a Board of Directors where Michael Franck and Thomas Brennan, Sr. were fellow board members. If either was to have any greater of an admiration for the other it was indiscernible. They were equally aware of what each other had done.

Aside from the fact that Michael Franck would be embarrassed if he were alive today and knew that the State Bar of Michigan had named an award after him, I am certain that Mike Franck would say that he would be most honored and pleased if Thomas Emmett Brennan, Sr. were the recipient of this most prestigious award.

He would further tell you that no "one" attorney has made more outstanding contributions to the improvement of the legal profession in the State of Michigan, or to the American Bar Association than Tom Brennan. And if you knew Michael Franck, when he said "NO ONE," he meant "NO ONE!"