

From: <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>
To: <asmith@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>, <elizabeth@your...>
Date: 3/15/2013 6:26 PM
Subject: Nomination for ~~Michael Franck Award~~
Unsung Hero

A copy of this e-mail has been sent to the State Bar of Michigan and to the nominator of the award.

Name of nominee: Susan F. Reed
Title:
Firm or Organization:
Address: 547 E. Jefferson Ave., Suite 202, Detroit
Phone: 313-468-0990
Fax:
E-mail: reedwins46@yahoo.com or reedwins@yahoo.com

Name of nominator: Elizabeth Jolliffe
Title: Owner
Firm or Organization: Your Benchmark Coach
Address: 543 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor MI 48103
Phone: 734-663-7905
Fax:
E-mail: elizabeth@yourbenchmarkcoach.com

Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.

The Michael Franck Award is presented to a lawyer who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the profession.

Criminal defense lawyer Susan Reed has the highest commitment to the rights of her clients and the quality of the legal services provided by the criminal defense bar. She works tirelessly on behalf of her clients, primarily court appointed felony cases, in which she frequently represents the toughest, most horrific ones - - those accused of murder, rape and child molestation. She is perhaps most recently well known as the attorney for defendant Joseph Gentz, the handyman in the Bashara murder proceedings in Wayne County. (Please see the Detroit Free Press article on Susan, March 14, 2012.)

Susan is the current President of the Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association and has been a leader in it for several years. The Bar focuses on advocacy for the defense bar, improved and efficient communications with the prosecutors, and high standards of representation for criminal defendants. This includes the Bar's continuing legal education program, including mandatory mentoring, necessary to receive approval as a court appointed defense lawyer via the Criminal Advocacy Program ("CAP") required to receive felony appointments in the Wayne County Circuit Criminal Division.

Please provide a complete resume that includes dates of:
-Service to and on behalf of the State Bar of Michigan
-Other service to the legal profession
-Service to the public
-Any awards the nominee may have received

Licensed in Michigan - 1976
J.D. Wayne State University

M. Edu. Wayne State University
B.A. University of Michigan 1968
Mumford High School 1964
President, Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association, 2012 - present
As an Adjunct Instructor at the Detroit College of Law, she has taught Legal Research and Writing.
Former teacher, Detroit Public Schools.
Clerked for Michigan Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen Williams.
During law school she was a legal intern for the Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services.

Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs).
State date/page and media e.g. 12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal, "Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools"

Detroit Free Press, March 14, 2012. "Veteran Detroit Attorney Susan Reed in Spotlight Again as She Takes on Bashara Case." ---- including remarks from from Presiding Judge Timothy Kenny. ""There had been information that Mr. Gentz is someone who's had some mental and emotional challenges," Kenny said. "Ms. Reed has done an exceptional job" with clients in challenging situations. Kenny said that Reed is frequently given troubled or troubling clients who have burned through one or more lawyers."

Please provide a letter written by the nominator explaining why the nominee should be considered for the award. The letter should be signed by the nominator and any additional supporters. One dated and signed letter is required, it can be e-mailed to Anne Smith at asmith@mail.michbar.org, faxed to her attention at (517) 372-2410, or sent by mail. Please note in your communication the name of the award and the nominee's name.

Ms. Anne Smith
Representative Assembly Awards
State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend St.
Lansing, MI 48933-2012
Phone: (517) 346-6374

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ELIZABETH JOLLIFFE, J.D.
YOUR BENCHMARK COACH

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March 18, 2013

Ms. Anne Smith
Representative Assembly Awards
State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933-2012

Re: Nomination of Susan F. Reed for Michael Franck Award

Dear Anne:

On March 15 I submitted an online nomination for Susan F. Reed of Reed Winters for the Michael Franck Award. The description of the award is a simple one: "This award will be presented to a lawyer who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the profession." Like the Unsung Hero Award, as written this award could be given to hundreds of members of the State Bar of Michigan. I nominate Susan F. Reed because of her leadership and commitment to the provision of quality criminal defense legal services by the defense bar in southeast Michigan.

Susan has a private practice in Detroit, Michigan. She focuses her state and Federal court practice primarily in criminal law. Much of her work consists of court appointed felony cases in which she often represents the most horrific defendants, those accused of murder, rape and child molestation. A 1964 graduate of Mumford High School in Detroit, Susan was a teacher with the Detroit Public Schools before she went to law school. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan, her Masters in Secondary Education from Wayne State University and her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Wayne State University Law School. She was admitted to practice in 1976. During law school she was a legal intern for the Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. She also served as a law clerk to Michigan Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen Williams. As an adjunct instructor at the Detroit College of Law, she has taught Legal Research and Writing.

Susan is the President of the Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar and has been an active leader in it for years with her partner Bill Winters, the immediate past president. The Bar focuses on advocacy for the defense bar, improved and efficient communications with the prosecutors, and high standards of representation for criminal defendants. This includes the Bar's continuing legal education program, mandatory

March 18, 2013

mentoring, and collaboration with the Criminal Advocacy Program ("CAP") required to receive felony appointments in the Wayne County Circuit Court Criminal Division.

As noted by Criminal Division Chief Judge Timothy Kenny in a Free Press article last year, Susan frequently receives the most troubled or troubling assignments as clients because she has done an exceptional job with clients in challenging situations. For example, in 2012 Susan was assigned to represent Joseph Gentz, the intellectually challenged handyman who confessed to killing Jane Bashara on contract from her husband Bob Bashara.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Susan F. Reed through the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Wayne County Region, the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and other activities. I respect her tireless leadership, effort and commitment to the development of the criminal defense bar in Wayne County and her effort and commitment on behalf of her criminal defense clients. Therefore, I am pleased to nominate Susan F. Reed for the Michael Franck Award.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elizabeth C. Jolliffe

Veteran Detroit attorney Susan Reed in spotlight again as she takes on Bashara case

By Joe Swickard Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News City of Detroit Grosse Pointe University Of Michigan
Mar. 13

freep.com



Susan Reed

Education

- Mumford High School in Detroit 1961
- University of Michigan 1968
- Wayne State University Law School

Career

- Detroit Public Schools teacher
- Clerked for Michigan Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams
- President of the Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association

Some significant cases:

- 1996: Represented dope dealer Arthur Massenburg, who was convicted of kidnapping 15-year-old Murada Muhammad, but acquitted of killing her for a \$20 shortage
- 2003: Defended Will Digna who, along with his father, Bill, was convicted of beating a teenage runaway girl and choking her to death with a dog leash.
- 2004: Represented Roger Thompson, convicted of strangling the mother of his daughter and then beating that child and three others to death. A fifth child, locked in a closet for 31 hours, lived.
- 2008: Defended Christopher Richardson, who was charged with killing and sodomizing his 8-day-old daughter. Those charges were dismissed at preliminary examination.

- 2010: Co-counsel for Peter Dabish, who was convicted of beating Diana DeMayo to death in the Fort Shelby Tower Apartments in Detroit.
- 2011: Represented Jason Gibson, convicted of murdering Detroit Police Officer Brian Huff.

Inmates like her. And that's a good thing, Detroit attorney Susan Reed says.

A veteran of a chilling parade of high-profile and ghastly cases, Reed is suddenly in the Detroit area's brightest public spotlight again as the court-appointed lawyer for Joseph Gentz, the handyman charged with murder and conspiracy in the January strangulation of Grosse Pointe Park marketing executive Jane Bashara.

As a criminal defense lawyer, Reed handles her share of court-appointed cases, and she knows that the jailhouse grapevine can stir client suspicion into dark cynicism and bad trial vibes.

The attorney-client relationship "often starts with mistrust," and her first chore is making sure the case doesn't plummet through the trust gap, Reed said.

That's where her cellblock cred comes in: "I think I've got a good reputation in the jail."

The Bashara case is a legal handful.

Gentz gave cops multiple accounts of killing Bashara and shared those stories with civilians who have repeated them on TV. A steady run of investigative leaks have fed intense news coverage.

It's not an easy burden for any lawyer, and Presiding Judge Timothy Kenny of the Wayne County Circuit Court said that's why he appointed Reed.

"There had been information that Mr. Gentz is someone who's had some mental and emotional challenges," Kenny said. "Ms. Reed has done an exceptional job" with clients in challenging situations.

Kenny said that Reed is frequently given troubled or troubling clients who have burned through one or more lawyers.

Reed avoids the blather and hyped hopes that some lawyers spin to calm their clients, said former Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Paul Bernier.

"She tells them what they need to hear, not what they want to," Bernier said.

Reed, an attorney since 1976 who is comfortable with courtroom renderings of horrific crimes, said the sustained news media attention is new for her.

"I like being that attorney who never talks about a pending case," she said.

Investigative leaks have died down, too, since Gentz has been locked up and undergoing psychiatric evaluation. "Anyway, I'm not leaking anything because I don't have anything to leak," Reed said.

The path to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice wound through Mumford High School in Detroit, the University of Michigan, an east-side elementary school and Michigan Supreme Court chambers.

Her parents were a Detroit bus driver and a public school teacher, and she tested into advanced placement programs.

Cass Tech High School was an option, but a little too big: "Mumford felt right."

Reed, a 1964 graduate, was part of a wave of Mumford students who excelled in law, medicine and other professions.

Even though an area trial can have alumni on the bench and at the defense and prosecution tables, Reed swears the courts aren't run by a secret Mumford Mafia.

Steve Fishman -- a top criminal defense attorney, Mumford grad and tireless Mustang booster -- said Reed was so reserved, she didn't go to sporting events.

After U-M, Reed followed her mother's career path and taught early grades at Nichols Elementary near Indian Village.

She followed her older brother's move from teaching into law school.

Reed later worked with Neighborhood Legal Services and taught legal writing. She also clerked two years for Supreme Court Justice G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams -- an experience that sparks a faraway look.

"What a great man," she said, and working with him was like getting paid for an extraordinary mentorship.

Going into practice, she was office-mates with Fishman and other Mumford grads Elizabeth Jacobs and future U.S. District Judge Arthur Tarnow.

She maintains a teacher's bearing and could probably hush a riot by folding her arms and peering over her glasses.

Reed doesn't glamorize her work days: "When I meet someone, I tell them I represent murderers, rapists and child molesters."

However, defending clients doesn't mean inviting them to Sunday dinner: "I've had some I truly didn't like as a person. I'm careful not to let that interfere with my work."

And she leaves the crimes at the office: "I can't let them keep me awake."

She said she fights stress with regular exercise, science fiction and mysteries.

Colleagues say that trials can take frightening tolls.

Bill Winters, who preceded her as president of the Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association, said he found her 18 months ago in the attorneys' lounge on a sofa exhausted and bleeding from the nose in the midst of a serial rapist case.

"I was ready to call EMS," Winters said. "That's the pressure and stress people don't see."

Fishman said Reed cares about her clients, "but it doesn't overcome her professionalism."

She doesn't shrink from emotions, said Wayne County Circuit Judge Brian Sullivan.

"Sometimes you have to pound the table," he said. "But it's not her only tool, and she knows when to use it."

She hasn't shed all her teacher tricks, though.

Teachers have to memorize and sort out two or three dozen students' names and faces, so recalling 14 jurors' names is easy.

The memory is not infallible. She has not recognized some former students who have shown up in jury pools or police uniforms.

One former student was excused from jury duty after telling the judge that "Miss Reed would never lie to me."

It's not hard to work viewers into a lather in the high-octane arena of cable crime shows, especially those that demonize suspects and defendants. It's a trend that disturbs Reed.

Those threatening the Florida jurors who acquitted Casey Anthony are "the ones who hurt the system."

Detroit, she said, is a good city going through a cruel and painful period.

"So many children being shot, it's like people don't care or it's beyond careless," she said.

"You just want to grab people and ask, 'Why so angry?'"