
From: "State Bar of Michigan" <no-reply@wufoo.com>
To: <csharlow@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>
Date: 3/18/2016 12:34 AM
Subject: Unsung Hero Award [#2]

Name of Nominee:	Jerrold E. Schrotenboer
Title:	Chief Appellate Attorney & Special Assistant Attorney General
Firm or Organization:	Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
Address:	312 S.Jackson Street, Jackson, MI 49201
Phone:	517-788-4283
E-mail:	jschrote@co.jackson.mi.us
Name of Nominator:	Jennifer Veronica Lamp
Title:	Attorney
Firm or Organization:	Jennifer V. Lamp, Attorney at Law, PLLC
Address:	PO Box 1937
Phone:	517-937-2444
E-mail:	lawoffice@jennifervlamp.com

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

This nomination is for his mentoring and being a resource to others over the course of his career.

Jerry Schrotenboer is one of the most ethical and generous lawyers I know. He has mentored countless numbers of new lawyers and law students. He makes time for anyone walking into his office with a question, regardless of what he has going on (and he always has A LOT of work going on). Did I mention that he also is remarkably intelligent? It is not uncommon in Jackson County to argue a motion (especially when it is on an obscure issue) and have the court listen to both sides and then ask: "What does Jerry Schrotenboer think?" It is for those reasons that I think he is a perfect candidate for the Unsung Hero Award.

He is, by his own selfless giving of his time and talent, a huge asset to the members of the Michigan Bar who have the pleasure of knowing him. Jerry's wife, Karen Lewthwaite (also an exceptional attorney), describes his zeal to help other members of the bar as being rooted in his honest belief that justice is best served when everyone knows what they're doing. In other words, if everyone does their job well, a just outcome is more likely.

When I was a brand new attorney in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, in 2002, Jerry was kind enough to mentor me. He oversaw my first appellate brief and my first oral argument. Jerry makes sure that everyone in the prosecutor's office has a chance to do an appellate brief and argument.

Jerry does not believe in wasting time with extra language or extra words. For example, on one of his appellate cases, his oral argument was essentially: "You read the brief. Any questions?" Whenever I find legalese trying to sneak its way into a brief I am writing, I think "Jerry Schrottenboer would not approve." When he mentors people, he teaches them to say things in simple language that everyone can understand. He also has a great sense of humor – but the funniest jokes are the times when you don't know if he's joking or not.

Jerry Schrottenboer, in a nutshell, is an attorney without an inflated sense of self. He is genuinely interested in helping other attorneys do a better job. He makes people feel at ease. If you make a mistake, he doesn't beat you over the head with it either – he helps you figure out how you can do better in the future.

Jerry has spent his career almost entirely in public service. He graduated from UCLA Law School, along with his wife, in 1981. With the exception of four years, Jerry has worked in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office since 1986. During the four years he was in private practice, he donated 100 or more pro bono hours to Legal Services – giving them the benefit of an exceptionally gifted and persuasive appellate attorney.

In addition to mentoring attorneys, providing ethical guidance, and managing the entire appellate docket for the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office (among other duties), he also is a member with the National Association of Extradition Officials. Jerry used his expertise in this area of law, in working with the Governor's Office, to help re-write the extradition laws in Michigan in order to streamline the process for the benefit of all involved in extradition proceedings.

It has been, for me, both a pleasure and a privilege to have had Jerry Schrottenboer mentor me and continue to provide ethical guidance. He has inspired me to want to be the best attorney I can be – and I know that there are many other people who feel the same way. It is my hope that you will consider awarding him the Unsung Hero Award as I believe he would be an appropriate and deserving recipient.

I have attached some additional letters of nomination. I expect that I may receive some more tomorrow and will forward them on.

Thank you for your consideration

Reason for Nomination: Extraordinary mentor of many attorneys and law students. Exceptional generosity of time and talent in answering questions for attorneys in and out of the Prosecutor's Office, and also a resource to our local judges. He is very intellectual and shares his knowledge generously. Additionally, he is a gifted attorney with outstanding skills of persuasion.

Graduated from UCLA Law School in 1981.

Public Service: He has worked in the prosecutor's office since 1986 (with the exception of 4 years in private

practice). During his time in private practice he donated over 100 pro bono hours to Legal Services.

Member of the National Association of Extradition Officials. He used his expertise, in working with the Governor's Office, to streamline Michigan legislation to make our process more efficient for everyone involved.

United States Supreme Court: He has argued here.

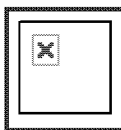
Award: 2010 Evelyn Holt Award Recipient for his extradition work.

Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs). Feel free to include any hyperlinks to these stories, if they are still online.

He has been named in several newsworthy publications including the Jackson Citizen Patriot, Mlive.com, Legal News, etc.

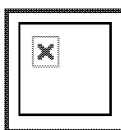
State date/page and media e.g.
12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal,
"Lawyer Begins TLC Program in
Schools"

Attach Document (Optional)



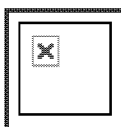
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Attach Additional Document (10MB
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Phone/Text: (517) 937-2444
Fax (866) 620-1275

March 18, 2016

State Bar of Michigan
ATTN: Carrie Sharlow
Representative Assembly Awards
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933-2012

RE: Nomination of Jerrold Schrottenboer for Unsung Hero Award 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Jerry Schrottenboer is one of the most ethical and generous lawyers I know. He has mentored countless numbers of new lawyers and law students. He makes time for anyone walking into his office with a question, regardless of what he has going on (and he always has A LOT of work going on). Did I mention that he also is remarkably intelligent? It is not uncommon in Jackson County to argue a motion (especially when it is on an obscure issue) and have the court listen to both sides and then ask: "What does Jerry Schrottenboer think?" It is for those reasons that I think he is a perfect candidate for the Unsung Hero Award.

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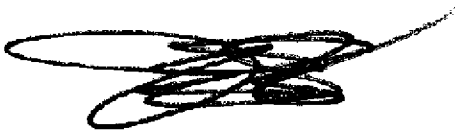
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I will attach and/or forward some of the other endorsements which I have received for his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer V. Lamp". The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer V. Lamp

I met Jerry Schrottenboer in my second year of law school, in 2003. I'd been told by a professor that Jerry was requesting a student to help him with research for a case he was arguing before the Michigan Supreme Court. I knew that he'd won a case at the U.S. Supreme Court, and I was suitably nervous on the drive to the prosecutor's office. I knew—*knew*—that someone with his reputation had to be a high-powered, no-nonsense type. If I made any mistakes, my law career would be over before it began.

When he came out of his office to meet me, it wasn't with the brisk no-time-for-small-talk stride I'd expected. He walked out easily, nodded at me amiably and waved me back for me to follow him without saying anything. He had a relaxed manner and spoke casually, which helped to put me at ease. I quickly figured out that Jerry didn't need "help" with the case, he was just curious to see what a student at the new law school could do. I was fortunate to find some case law that bolstered the argument he would be making, and he was generous enough to let everyone concerned know that I'd been the one to come up with that particular point.

After that, I did some more work for him. That led to working in the district court in Jackson County as an intern. When I graduated, I stayed in touch with Jerry. He was an excellent mentor, and in fact, he hasn't stopped being one. Since graduating, I've called him with questions, and if it had anything to do with criminal appellate law, that was all the research I needed to do. If it was an area of law that wasn't within his realm of expertise, he could recommend someone who would be able to give me an answer.

To anyone who asked me if I've profited from knowing Jerry, I would answer that I continue to do so. I'm now living in Cincinnati, so that twelve years after graduating from law school, whenever he's in town to argue at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and I'm able to leave work I still go to see him. And whenever I do, I pick up something new. I've been an attorney for a while now, and I'm still learning from my first mentor.

Joseph Corey

josephcorey@hotmail.com

513-578-7737

I support the nomination of Jerry Schrottenboer for the Unsung Hero award. While I am not an attorney, I am educated and trained as a paralegal. Jerry was my supervisor in my first “official” position.

In 2000 I was hired by then-prosecutor John McBain as an Asset Forfeiture Paralegal, working directly under Jerry Schrottenboer. Although I had the education and degree, I had very little actual work experience. Upon coming in to the Prosecutor’s Office, I was immediately impressed with the knowledge Jerry had, regarding both the substantive and procedural areas of the law. While I had been trained in legal research using both books and electronic means, Jerry was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge! He had more information in his head than I could find with hours of research.

As a supervisor, and mentor, Jerry was the best! He taught me to use “common English” rather than the “legalese” I had learned in school. He showed me by example how to be ethical and yet, professional. Jerry trained me well, making sure I knew exactly what needed to be done and the proper way to do it, then let me do my job without unnecessary “micro-managing.” While as the supervising attorney, he was the one ultimately responsible for my work product, he trained me so well that eventually I was the one doing most of the work in the Asset Forfeiture department. There were occasions that he actually deferred to me as the person with the knowledge of a particular case. While many attorneys are afraid to admit they don’t know everything, Jerry was quick to give credit to someone else when warranted. He had a way about him that even when he was correcting a mistake, I never felt demeaned or criticized. I can honestly say that was my favorite job and he was one of my favorite supervisors.

I truly believe that Jerry Schrottenboer is definitely an Unsung Hero.

Dawn Nicoson

dnicoson@justice.com

517-250-0570

Unsung Hero Award Nomination

March 17, 2016

Dear Ms. Sharlow,

I am writing you today to nominate Jerrold Schrottenboer for the Unsung Hero Award. Although Jerry ostensibly works only for the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, he has been a mentor to a whole generation of young attorneys, prosecutors, defense counsel, and court staff alike.

When I first began working for the Jackson County Courts, Jerry immediately took me under his wing, giving me practice advice, assisting me with research, and giving me invaluable career contacts. He always has time for young lawyers, and I can say for certain that I have learned more from Jerry about practical lawyering than I ever did in law school. Indeed, there were many days in which I interrupted him at work to ask him questions; there were many days, too, during which he stayed late to help me or discuss files. He was always more than willing to spend time with me. His wealth of knowledge and his drive to impart that knowledge on me is something for which I will be forever grateful.

Through it all, Jerry has been nothing short of a consummate professional. Even when we have sometimes disagreed as to the correct course of action the Court should take as to a motion on its desk, I have never doubted Jerry's honesty and integrity in his work. If he believes a mistake has been made, he works diligently to correct it. If he believes a defense motion is correct, he moves to have it granted. I have personally known him to prepare letters on his office letterhead to assist members of the public who, having had their convictions set aside, were having issues finding jobs and housing due to these convictions still appearing on their criminal background checks. Jerry went out of his way to ensure that these people, having worked to better their lives, would not now suffer because of bureaucratic sloth. He routinely goes above and beyond to do justice and to serve his community, both of Jackson and of the lawyers therein.

I know that I am not alone in my respect and admiration for Jerry. He has endeared himself to every other law clerk in the building, judges, court staff, and the local legal community for his giving nature and tireless dedication to our profession. I can think of no better recipient of this award, and no one more deserving.


Thank you for your consideration,



Megan A. Smith (P79626)

Law Clerk

Co-Signed by:


Melissa Kyllonen (P78223)
Anika Widgren (P78009)
Bruce W. Crews (P75276)
Joni A. Davis