

# 2024 Unsung Hero Award Nomination – Hohauser, Elizabeth

Name of Nominee: *	Elizabeth Hohauser
Title:	Director of Legal Services and Policy
Firm or Organization:	The New Foster Care
Address:	1615 S Telegraph Rd, Bloomfield Twp, MI 48302
Phone:	(248) 520-2054
Email:	<a href="mailto:liz@lawyer-liz.com">liz@lawyer-liz.com</a>
Name of Nominator: *	Suzanne Hollyer
Title:	Director
Firm or Organization:	Oakland County Friend of the Court
Address:	230 Elizabeth Lake Road, Pontiac, MI 48341
Phone:	248-858-0431
Email: *	<a href="mailto:hollyers@oakgov.com">hollyers@oakgov.com</a>

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

I have known Ms. Hohauser personally for over 30 years. We have collaborated professionally for at least a decade.

By way of background, I have served as the Oakland County Friend of the Court Director for 21 years. In that capacity I have had the opportunity to confer with Ms. Hohauser on a number of cases and projects. I have been fortunate to have received a tour of The New Foster Care organization by Ms. Hohauser. I left the tour impressed with their mission of making change in the Michigan foster care system by providing meaningful assistance to children in foster care. I also left impressed by Ms. Hohauser's role within that organization.

Additionally, I am aware that Ms. Hohauser does other work with the Oakland County Bar Association. She has co-chaired the Law Related Education Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association and helps to put on a yearly law conference for high school juniors and seniors.

Ms. Hohauser has worked tirelessly in the field of child welfare for several years. Her work on behalf of children is well respected not only by me but by others in the field as well. I had the great honor to see her work recognized when she was granted the Professionalism Award by the Oakland County Bar Association at its annual meeting in 2020. The recognition was well deserved.

Oakland County Bar Association:

- Juvenile Law Committee, Member 2023.
- District and Circuit Court Case Evaluator, No Fault. Neutral.

- Youth Law Conference, host 2018–2023, presenter 2022.
- Law Related Education Committee, Member 2017–2023; Chair 2020–2021; Vice–Chair 2019–2020; Chair 2018–2019; Vice–Chair 2017–2018.
- Professionalism Award, 2020.
- Lawyer v Judges Culinary Challenge, 2015.

Super Lawyer, 2020, 2021, 2022.

Pro bono legal services provided through Joseph Project and Lake Shore Legal Aid.

Upland Hills School fundraising board member 2016–2017 and volunteer 2008–present.

Founding Member of P.O.W.E.R, a networking group for women business owners in Rochester, Michigan.

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.

Finding Meaning Through Giving Back; or, How Tequila Leads to Law School OCBA Laches, November–December 2021.  
<http://www.digitaleditions.walworthprintgroup.com/publication/?m=62405&i=725670&p=16&ver=html5> 2021

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

Attach Document (Optional)



[hohauser\\_ungung\\_hero.pdf](#)

151.38 KB · PDF

Attach Additional Document  
(10MB Limit)



[elizabeth\\_hohauser\\_resume\\_2023.pdf](#)

229.51 KB · PDF

Suzanne Hollyer

February 23, 2024

Ms. Carrie Sharlow  
Representative Assembly Awards  
State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend St  
Lansing, MI 48933-2012  
repassembly@michbar.org

RE: Nomination of Elizabeth Hohausser for Unsung Hero Award

I am writing to nominate Elizabeth Hohausser for the Unsung Hero Award

I have known Ms. Hohausser personally for over 30 years. We have collaborated professionally for at least a decade. By way of background, I have served as the Oakland County Friend of the Court Director for 20 years. In that capacity I have had the opportunity to confer with Ms. Hohausser on a number of cases and projects. I have been fortunate to have received a tour of The New Foster Care organization by Ms. Hohausser. I left the tour impressed with their mission of making change in the Michigan foster care system by providing meaningful assistance to children in foster care. I also left impressed by Ms. Hohausser's role within that organization.

Ms. Hohausser has worked tirelessly in the field of child welfare for several years. Her work on behalf of children is well respected not only by me but by others in the field as well. I had the great honor to see her work recognized when she was granted the Professionalism Award by the Oakland County Bar Association at its annual meeting in 2020. The recognition was well deserved.

Additionally, I am aware that Ms. Hohausser does other work with the Oakland County Bar Association. She has co-chaired the Law Related Education Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association and helps to put on a yearly law conference for high school juniors and seniors.

For all of the above-described reasons, I am confident that Ms. Hohausser deserves the Unsung Hero award, I wholeheartedly submit this nomination.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Suzanne Hollyer*  
Suzanne Hollyer

# ELIZABETH HOHAUSER

(248)520-2054

[Liz@Lawyer-Liz.com](mailto:Liz@Lawyer-Liz.com)

Attorney licensed in Michigan. Highly effective communicator with excellent interpersonal skills. Diverse background including domestic relations, juvenile justice, child welfare, personal injury, criminal, landlord tenant, probate, and general civil litigation experience. Organized, detail oriented, and professional. Passionate about using legal skill set to help people, especially children.

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### THE NEW FOSTER CARE

Bloomfield Twp, MI

2023 – present

#### Director of Legal Services and Policy

- Initiated the Legal Services Department for The New Foster Care, an existing non-profit.
- Create processes and protocols for The New Foster Care Legal Services Department.
- Draft organization documents for the creation of a new legal non-profit.
- Track client outcomes and produce monthly reports for The New Foster Care’s Executive Director.
- Represent clients of The New Foster Care in a variety of matters including child welfare, landlord tenant, divorce, custody, credit repair, consumer disputes, and civil rights litigation, through Elizabeth A. Hohausser, PLLC.
- Draft legal pleadings and briefs.
- Draft and argue motions.
- Research legal and technical issues.
- Negotiate pleas and settlements.
- Litigate evidentiary hearings and trials.
- Participate in a pilot “kinship” program by representing non-respondent fathers in child welfare matters.
- Identify current and impending problems facing people with lived experience in the child welfare system.
- Collaborate with other professionals and those with lived experience to evaluate and propose solutions to the problems facing people who are in or who have aged out of the child welfare system.
- Follow legislation affecting people who are in or who have aged out of the child welfare system.
- Train and oversee support staff including paralegal and interns.
- Train The New Foster Care staff on legal issues affecting their clients.
- Attend continuing education.
- Participate in professional committees.

### ELIZABETH A. HOHAUSER, PLLC

Troy, MI

2018 - present

#### Managing Attorney

- Represent clients of The New Foster Care in a variety of legal matters.
- Managed all phases of family law, abuse, neglect, delinquency, criminal defense, attorney grievance defense, and general negligence case load.

## **ELIZABETH HOHAUSER p 2**

### **ELIZABETH A. HOHAUSER, PLLC, continued**

- Represented court appointed clients in abuse, neglect, and delinquency proceedings.
- Represented court appointed clients in misdemeanor and arraignment proceedings.
- Drafted legal pleadings and briefs.
- Drafted and argued motions, including dispositive motions.
- Represented domestic relations clients at evidentiary hearings and trials.
- Researched legal and technical issues.
- Negotiated settlements.
- Deposed witnesses.
- Served as a neutral for District and Circuit Court Case Evaluation panels.
- Speaker at OCBA Youth Law Conference, 2022.

### **COLLINS EINHORN FARRELL**

Southfield, MI

2017 - 2018

#### **Associate Attorney**

- Personal injury and attorney grievance defense.
- Drafted legal pleadings and briefs.
- Reported to corporate clients.
- Drafted and argued motions, including dispositive motions.
- Drafted case evaluation, mediation, and facilitation summaries.
- Researched legal and technical issues.
- Conducted all phases of discovery including interrogatories, requests to produce, requests to admit, depositions, and motions to compel or strike.
- Negotiated settlements.
- Deposed witnesses.

### **HOHAUSER KUCHON**

Troy, MI

2015 - 2017

#### **Associate Attorney**

- Plaintiff personal injury litigation.
- Drafted legal pleadings and briefs.
- Drafted and argued motions, including dispositive motions.
- Drafted summaries for and attended case evaluations, mediations, and facilitations.
- Drafted medical malpractice notices of intent.
- Retained qualified expert witnesses/physicians for medical malpractice affidavits of merit.
- Initiated decedent's estates for litigation pursuant to the Wrongful Death Act as creditor or with client as Personal Representative.
- Researched legal and technical issues.
- Conducted all phases of discovery including interrogatories, requests to produce, requests to admit, depositions, and motions to compel or strike.
- Developed trial strategy including the hiring of expert witnesses, exhibit preparation, witness preparation and motions in limine. Negotiated settlements.
- Deposed physicians, police officers, claims adjusters and other adverse witnesses.
- Represented our clients in criminal, traffic, or family court proceedings to protect their interests in any related personal injury litigation.

## ELIZABETH HOHAUSER p 3

### EAGLE AUTOMATION SERVICES

Oakland Twp., MI

2010 - 2014

#### Attorney / Business Manager

- Negotiated and drafted employment contracts.
- Reviewed and negotiated vendor service agreements, with special attention to non-compete and non-disclosure clauses and language.
- Reviewed and negotiated agreements concerning proprietary technology and information.
- Ensured the company's insurances were active, up to date and adequate.
- Applied for and achieved status as government contractor.
- Advised the Company as a creditor against a former customer in bankruptcy proceedings, including defending claims of preferential payments.
- Dispute resolution.
- Applied for and secured funding and lines of credit.
- Oversight and management of bookkeeper, accountant, office assistant and field service technicians.
- Maintained relationships with customers during and between projects.
- Researched and drafted business plan and revisions of business plan.
- Developed and implemented short- and long-term marketing strategies.

### HOHAUSER LAW FIRM

Troy, MI

2008 - 2010

#### Associate Attorney

- Plaintiff personal injury litigation.
- Drafted legal pleadings and briefs.
- Drafted and argued motions, including dispositive motions.
- Drafted summaries for and attended case evaluations, mediations, and facilitations.
- Initiated decedent's estates for litigation pursuant to the Wrongful Death Act as creditor or with client as Personal Representative.
- Researched legal and technical issues.
- Conducted all phases of discovery including interrogatories, requests to produce, requests to admit, depositions, and motions to compel or strike.
- Developed trial strategy including the hiring of expert witnesses, exhibit preparation, witness preparation and motions in limine. Negotiated settlements.
- Deposed physicians, police officers, claims adjusters and other adverse witnesses.
- Represented our clients in criminal, traffic, or family court proceedings to protect their interests in any related personal injury litigation.
- Prepared witnesses for deposition.

### STUTZ LEGAL, PLLC

Rochester Hills, MI

2006-2008

#### Attorney

- Managed all aspects of abuse, neglect, and delinquency court appointed case load.
- Completed training through Oakland County Bar Association.

# ELIZABETH HOHAUSER p4

## DERMATOLOGY CENTER OF ROCHESTER HILLS

Rochester Hills, MI

2002 - 2009

### Business Manager

- Negotiated and drafted employment contracts, conducted employee interviews and evaluations.
- Maintained relationships with pharmaceutical representatives.
- Applied for and received funding for business startup and equipment post startup.
- Drafted and initiated employee incentive program, resulting in increased product sales.
- Bookkeeper.
- Dispute resolution.

## MEMBERSHIPS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, PUBLICATIONS, AND AWARDS

- Collaborative for Fostering Youth Success – A Wayne County Partnership, member 2023.
- Oakland County Bar Association:
  - *Juvenile Law Committee*, Member 2023.
  - *District and Circuit Court Case Evaluator, No Fault*. Neutral.
  - *Youth Law Conference*, host 2018-2023, presenter 2022.
  - *Law Related Education Committee*, Member 2017-2023; Chair 2020-2021; Vice-Chair 2019-2020; Chair 2018-2019; Vice-Chair 2017-2018.
  - *Professionalism Award*, 2020.
  - *Lawyer v Judges Culinary Challenge*, 2015.
- *Finding Meaning Through Giving Back; or, How Tequila Leads to Law School* OCBA Laches, November-December 2021.  
<http://www.digitaleditions.walsworthprintgroup.com/publication/?m=62405&i=725670&p=16&ver=html5> 2021
- Super Lawyer, 2020, 2021, 2022.
- Pro bono legal services provided through Joseph Project and Lake Shore Legal Aid.
- Upland Hills School fundraising board member 2016-2017 and volunteer 2008-present.
- Founding Member of P.O.W.E.R, a networking group for women business owners in Rochester, Michigan.

**EDUCATION**

**RECENT CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

- SCAO-CWS:
  - *The 10 Commandments of Parent Representation*, February, 2023.
  - *Child Sexual Abuse: Identification, Intervention, Safety and Healing*, August 2019.
  - *Child Welfare Essentials and Reasonable Efforts Advocacy*, July 2019.
- Oakland County Bar Association:
  - *Trauma Informed Bonds in Juvenile Law*, March, 2023.
  - *Juvenile Advocacy Training, A Practitioner's Guide*, April, 2023.
  - *Overdue For Justice: A Review of the Juvenile Justice System in Michigan*, February, 2021.
- State Bar of Michigan, The Joseph Project, Lakeshore Legal Aid:
  - *Legal First Responders: Equipping Attorneys to Empower Human Trafficking Survivors*, October 2019.
- Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan:
  - *Spring Conference*, February/March 2019.
  - *Evidence Boot Camp*, March 2019.

**UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY**

Detroit, MI

1996 - 1999

- Juris Doctor
- Class rank: #1
- Academic scholarship
- Cum Laude
- Law Review

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

E. Lansing, MI

1989 - 1993

- Bachelor of Arts
- English and theater education
- Dean's list.



Name of Nominee: \* Elizabeth Hohauser

Title: Esquire

Firm or Organization: The New Foster Care

Address: 1615 S. Telegraph Rd. Bloomfield Twp, MI 48302

Phone: (248)520-2054

Email: liz@lawyer-liz.com

Name of Nominator: \* Erin Heeke

Address:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Email: \*

[REDACTED]

Attached

Attach Document (Optional)



[elizabeth\\_hohauser\\_resume\\_2023.pdf](#)

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Attach Additional Document (10MB Limit)



[nomination\\_letter\\_re\\_hohauser.pdf](#)

101.81 KB · PDF

Erin Heeke

February 23, 2024

[REDACTED]

To whomever it may concern,

My name is Erin Heeke and I have known Attorney Elizabeth Hohausser for several years now and can personally vouch for her personal character. Elizabeth is not only my cousin through marriage but someone whom I would consider a close friend. It is due to Elizabeth that I am a thriving survivor of domestic violence. She is also the reason I pursued a career in the field of law as a legal assistant and am continuing my education to pursue a law degree. I strongly feel that Elizabeth Hohausser is an unsung hero and is deserving of the Unsung Hero Award.

In September of 2021 I became the victim of domestic violence through the hands of my husband. It was just one month after welcoming our new baby girl into the world. I was punched, kicked, dragged, and suffocated to the point where I lost consciousness twice. My oldest two daughters were in bed sleeping at the time and awoke to see their stepfather beating their mother, and if it wasn't for them, I believe my husband would have killed me. That night my husband was arrested and was facing charges of 1) assault to create great bodily harm less than murder or by strangulation 2) Domestic violence third offense and 3) Interfering with a communications device. I was left on my own to care for not only a newborn child, but two other daughters, one with special needs, and an entire farm as well. Being that I had just had a baby, I had no source of income other than my husband's monthly VA disability check.

After Elizabeth heard about the incident through family members, she immediately reached out to me to make sure I was okay and to see if she could be of any assistance. Elizabeth was a great listener and offered me a lot of advice for when I had to meet with the Prosecutor and helped me work through the many emotions that came along with being a victim of domestic violence. Elizabeth even contacted the Prosecutor and spoke with him on my behalf, so she could help me make sense of what was going on.

Shortly after being beaten by my husband, who was still in jail unable to make bail advised his mother who had POA over him to close our marital joint checking account leaving me penniless. They had also attempted to have my phone shut off as well. With absolutely no way to pay the mortgage, buy groceries, or feed our many animals, I decided to call Elizabeth to see what I should do. She immediately said that she wanted to help me by becoming my Attorney and Representing me Pro Bono and advised me to file for divorce. She worked all that night with me on the phone gathering the information she needed to file a Complaint for Divorce, as well as a Ex Parte Motion to Maintain the Status Quo in Lapcer County. Because of the Complaint and the Motion to Maintain Status Quo it was Ordered that the marital joint checking account be

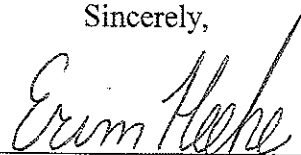
reopened and that I would have full access to monthly VA disability checks to continue to pay for the mortgage, cell phones, insurances, car notes, utilities, groceries, farm bills, and any other bill associated with a marital expense.

Although there was an Order in place to maintain Status Quo, my husband and mother-in-law would not comply. Elizabeth had to file several motions to get them to comply. Despite there being a no contact order in place my husband started sending me over a hundred letters from jail within a short amount of time causing me to be fearful and have extreme anxiety. Elizabeth made sure to inform the Prosecutor in my criminal case to make sure there would be a stop to the letters. When my husband was allowed to go to a VA hospital for inpatient care, he started harassing me on Facebook, Elizabeth put a stop to that as well. There was even a time where I was contacted by the local a Sherriff Deputy who went to pick up Brian from the hospital to bring him back to jail that he was not able to be located and may have escaped. This made me extremely scared for my life. At that time, I called Elizabeth to let her know what happened and she immediately offered me and my children a safe place to stay. I feel Elizabeth fought harder for me then the Assisting Prosecuting Attorney did, and feel that If it wasn't for her a lot of things would have gotten overlooked.

Elizabeth worked very hard and fought extremely hard to ensure I was safe, well taken care of, and got exactly what I deserved in my divorce. She went above and beyond as my attorney and did everything Pro Bono. I am extremely grateful for her, not only for fighting hard and representing me in this very difficult matter, but for also being there to support me emotionally. It is because of her that I am truly a thriving survivor of domestic violence.

Elizabeth is truly a caring, dedicated, selfless, and hardworking Attorney who is passionate about helping other people. It was that dedication to helping other people that she decided to leave her private practice and become the Director of Legal Services at The New Foster Care in Bloomfield Township. She has expressed to me numerous times how she wants to make a difference in people's lives, and I know that she will because she has certainly made a difference in mine. I strongly believe that for these reasons and many more that Attorney Elizabeth Hohausser deserves to be recognized with the Unsung Hero Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Heeke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Erin Heeke

# 2024 Unsung Hero Award Nomination – Hohauser, Elizabeth

Name of Nominee: *	Elizabeth Hohauser
Title:	Director of Legal Services and Policy
Firm or Organization:	The New Foster Care
Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Name of Nominator: *	Merri Lee Jones
Title:	former Director of Professional Development (now retired)
Firm or Organization:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Email: *	[REDACTED]
Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.	Letter of recommendation and support materials are attached.
	Resume is attached.
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.	Finding Meaning Through Giving Back; or, How Tequila Leads to Law SchoolOCBA Laches, November–December 2021. <a href="http://www.digitaleditions.walworthprintgroup.com/publication/?m=62405&amp;i=725670&amp;p=16&amp;ver=html5">http://www.digitaleditions.walworthprintgroup.com/publication/?m=62405&amp;i=725670&amp;p=16&amp;ver=html5</a> , 2021
State date/page and media e.g. 12/12/07, p. 12, Lansing State Journal, "Lawyer Begins TLC Program in Schools"	

Attach Document  
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[hohauser letter of recommendation 3.8.2024.pdf](#)  
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Document (10MB Limit)



[elizabeth\\_hohauser\\_resume\\_2023.pdf](#)  
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Document (10MB Limit)



[youth law conference programs.pdf](#)  
2.41 MB · PDF

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Merri Lee Jones



March 8, 2024

RE: STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN UNSUNG HERO AWARD

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate Elizabeth Hohausser for the Michigan State Bar Association's Unsung Hero Award. As a member and leader of the Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) Law Related Education Committee, Ms. Hohausser has demonstrated her commitment to the highest standards of practice for the benefit of others by bringing an understanding and respect of the law to Oakland County's teenagers through her dedication to the OCBA Youth Law Conference for the last seven years.

Ms. Hohausser has been an OCBA Law Related Education Committee (LRE) member since 2017 and has enthusiastically served as that committee's chair or vice chair since 2019. I had the pleasure of working with her for five years as the OCBA LRE staff liaison (2018-2022 when I retired from the OCBA). One of the primary responsibilities of LRE leadership is to create the programming for the OCBA's annual Youth Law Conference, a highly popular one-day interactive program for high school juniors and seniors during which the students discover exciting facts about the law and learn more about the legal process and profession through topics that are important to them. The Youth Law Conference has become something of a passion project for Ms. Hohausser.

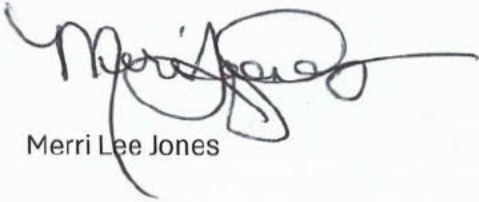
Preparation for the fall conference begins roughly nine months before the actual date. I always appreciated that from "Day One" Ms. Hohausser came to planning sessions armed with excellent ideas for hot legal topics and speakers to pique attendees' interest in the law. She was not one to offer up good ideas and then leave others to follow up. Rather, she willingly recruited prominent speakers from the bench and bar, helped to fine-tune programming and moderated breakout sessions. I have attached some past programs exemplifying the excellent topics and speakers in each year's agenda. You will note that in 2022, Ms. Hohausser headlined a session entitled "Advocacy in Real Life" in which she discussed the qualities of a good advocate and the balancing act between effective advocacy and fighting for exactly what the client wants when sometimes the two conflict.

In addition, Ms. Hohausser was awarded the OCBA's Professionalism Award in 2020, an award quite similar to the Unsung Hero Award. It recognizes an OCBA member who is the model of civility and respect in the legal profession. One of the attorneys who nominated her stated "(s)he tackles her cases with enthusiasm and works towards a fair and efficient resolution for her clients." Ms. Hohausser brings that enthusiasm to her work with the Youth Law Conference as well. Quite simply, the Youth Law Conference would not be as successful as it is without her dedication to its

continued excellence and her belief that understanding the legal process and profession fosters respect for both.

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss this nomination further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merri Lee Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Merri Lee Jones

The background of the entire page is a monochromatic blue-tinted image of the Statue of Liberty. She is shown from the waist up, holding the torch in her right hand and a tablet in her left. The text and logo are overlaid on this image.

OCBA OAKLAND COUNTY  
BAR ASSOCIATION

26th Annual

# Youth Law Conference

The Real Thing - Law in Your Life



**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**  
**8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**MSU Management Education Center**

811 West Square Lake Rd., Troy, Michigan



# Morning Sessions

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**8:30 a.m.**

**Auditorium**

## **Welcome and Conference Overview**

Elizabeth A. Hohaus, Esq.; Chair, Oakland County Bar Association  
Law-Related Education Committee

Daniel D. Quick, Esq.; President, Oakland County Bar Association

Lynn Capp Sirich, Esq.; President, Oakland County Bar Foundation

## **Keynote Address – “Canines Helping Children Get Through Court”**

Dan Cajanou and Lance, Canine Advocacy Program

The Canine Advocacy Program (CAP) provides advocacy services to child victims. Mr. Cajanou and Lance will explain how using a highly trained dog to help alleviate the anxiety associated with being involved in the criminal justice system has helped hundreds of children.

# Breakout Sessions

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**9:25 a.m.**

**Session One**

**(choose one)**

## **A Day in the Life of a Juvenile Prosecutor - Room 101**

Tricia R. Dare, Esq., Chief Prosecutor, Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office  
Juvenile Justice Division

The Juvenile Justice Division of the Prosecutor’s Office works to keep children safe in their homes and get juveniles who commit crimes back on the right path. Join us and learn how a case proceeds through the court system in the Family Court Division.

*(Breakout Sessions continued on next page)*

# Breakout Sessions (continued)

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## **Careers at the FBI - Auditorium**

David K. Porter, FBI Detroit, Squad C-3

During this breakout session, Mr. Porter will give an overview of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as his career and some of the interesting opportunities he has had with the FBI.

## **Healthy Relationships & Dating Violence – Room 102**

Alexis Reed, Victims Advocate, Common Ground

During this session Ms. Reed will discuss healthy and unhealthy dating relationships. She will explore the dynamics of abusive relationships and sexual assault. Students will learn about legal definitions and ramifications of domestic assault and sexual assault. Ms. Reed will also go over the components of consent.

**10:10 a.m.**

**Session Two**

**(choose one)**

## **Michigan's New Marijuana Laws & You - Room 101**

Paul T. Walton, Esq.; Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Oakland County  
Prosecutor's Office

Michigan legalized recreational marijuana this past July. The new rules are a bit confusing and raise some important issues. Mr. Walton will help clear the air during this breakout.

## **10 Things to Remember when Confronted by Police – Room 102**

John Freeman, Esq.

The title is self-explanatory. During this breakout session, Mr. Freeman, a former federal prosecutor, will review your rights and responsibilities when you are confronted by police.

# Breakout Sessions (continued)

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## **Careers in the Courtroom - Auditorium**

Judge Debra Nance, 46th District Court, Southfield

This program is designed for young people interested in learning more about a career as a judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, plaintiff's attorney, or even serving as a juror. Judge Nance will review the roles of everyone involved in courtroom proceedings, and highlight a number of the interesting cases that come before a District Court.

# Lunch Break

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Enjoy lunch, courtesy of the Oakland County Bar Foundation.

# Post-Lunch Sessions

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**11:35 a.m.**

**Auditorium**

## **Capturing Best Success**

Joan Vestrand, Esq.; Associate Dean, WMU Cooley Law School

Discover the biggest foe in the way of your future happiness and success, and how to arm yourself against it. Learn the truth about this mighty force, so that from this day forward, you can successfully face it down.

**12:20 p.m.**

**Auditorium**

## **The Law Dogs**

Deputy Bob Loken, Oakland County Sheriff's Department

Deputy Mike Richardson, Oakland County Sheriff's Department

We always hear about the people working in the legal profession, but our four-legged friends also play a big role in justice! Meet some of these Law Dogs and learn how they are trained to do everything from tracking criminals to searching for bombs and drugs.

# Thank You

The Law-Related Education Committee would like to give a special thank you to the teachers and school administrators for bringing your students to this event. We admire your commitment to helping your students become more informed citizens and for providing them tools for future responsible decision-making.

## Additional thanks to...

- MSU Management Education Center
- WMU-Cooley Law School student volunteers

### **Oakland County Bar Association Law-Related Education Committee Members**

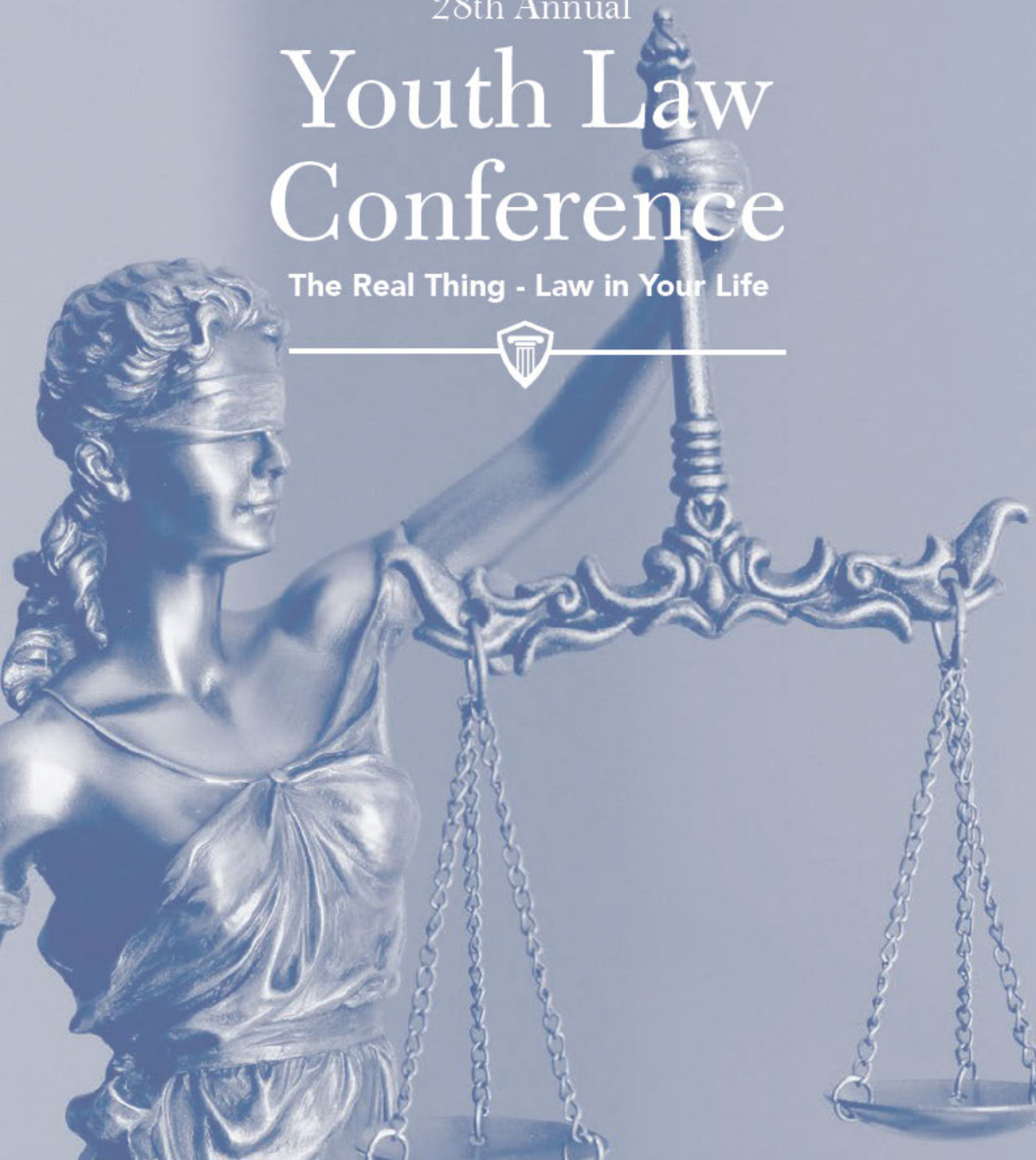
- Elizabeth Hohausser, Esq.; Committee Chair  
Elizabeth A. Hohausser, PLLC
- Mark B. Berke, Esq.; Committee Vice Chair  
Law Office of Mark B. Berke, Esq.
- Joan P. Vestrand, Esq.; Committee Chair  
WMU-Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills
- Julie A. McCowan, Esq.; Law Office of Julie McCowan
- Hon. Debra Nance, 46th District Court
- Merri Lee Jones, Esq.; Oakland County Bar Association

CCBA OAKLAND COUNTY  
BAR ASSOCIATION

28th Annual

# Youth Law Conference

The Real Thing - Law in Your Life



**Tuesday, November 1, 2022**

**8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**MSU Management Education Center | 811 West Square Lake Rd., Troy, Michigan**

# Morning Sessions

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**8:30 a.m.**

**Auditorium**

## **Welcome and Conference Overview**

Mark B. Berke, Esq., Chair, Oakland County Bar Association  
Law-Related Education Committee

Elizabeth L. Luckenbach, Esq., President, Oakland County Bar Association

Marc P. Jerabek, Esq., President, Oakland County Bar Foundation

## **Keynote Address – “Blind Justice”**

Justice Richard H. Bernstein, Michigan Supreme Court

# Breakout Sessions

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**9:25 a.m.**

**Session One**

**(choose one)**

## **How I Got From There to Here - Auditorium**

Moderator: Mark B. Berke, Esq., Law Office of Mark B. Berke PLLC

Panelists: Stephanie N. Fakh, Esq., Rights First Law, P.C.

Joseph A. Lavigne, Esq., Law Offices of Joseph A. Lavigne

Hon. Kwamé L. Rowe, Oakland County Circuit Court

In this session, high school students learn various paths that lead to law school and becoming an attorney. Panelists will share their own personal stories of becoming an attorney, including the highs and lows of their education and work experience. This workshop will better help teens, who may be interested in a career in law, understand the journey from undergrad to law school, and beyond.

*(Breakout Sessions continued on next page)*

# Breakout Sessions (continued)

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## **Advocacy in Real Life - Room 101**

Elizabeth A. Hohaus, Esq., Elizabeth A. Hohauser PLLC

One thing all lawyers have in common is that they advocate for others. Lawyers need to put aside their own beliefs, prejudices, problems and politics to try to help someone else get what they want. But what does it take to be a good advocate, and does being a good advocate always mean fighting for exactly what your client wants?

**10:10 a.m.                      Session Two                      (choose one)**

## **Criminal Law and Traffic Stops – Auditorium**

Raymond A. Cassar, Esq., Law Offices of Raymond A. Cassar PLC  
Kelly M. Collins, Esq., Oakland County Prosecutor's Office  
Jaclyn Sivers, Esq., Oakland County Prosecutor's Office

During this breakout session, a panel of criminal defense attorneys and assistant prosecutors will review your rights and responsibilities when you are confronted by police.

## **Adulthood – Room 101**

Mark B. Berke, Esq., Law Office of Mark B. Berke PLLC  
Joseph A. Lavigne, Esq., Law Offices of Joseph A. Lavigne

The purpose of this workshop is to educate teenagers regarding the legal implications once they become an adult. As adults, there is a heightened level of responsibility regarding our actions and conduct. We are able to vote, legally sign and enter into contracts, and own property. This session is designed to help teenagers think and process various aspects of life, beyond childhood, as a responsible adult.

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# Lunch Break

## **Dining Room**

# Post-Lunch Sessions

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**11:35 a.m.                      Session Three                      (choose one)**

## **Social Media and the First Amendment – Auditorium**

Alexandra M. Giuliana, Esq., Law Offices of Raymond A. Cassar PLC  
Kevin T. Sutton, Esq., Miller Johnson

What significance does the First Amendment have for you as a high school student? This workshop covers what you can say and do while at school, off-campus and online.

## **How I Got from There to Here – Room 101**

Moderator: Mark B. Berke, Esq., Law Office of Mark B. Berke PLLC

Panelists: Alec M. D’Annunzio, Esq., Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office  
Beth Greenberg Morrow, Esq., Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office

In this session, high school students learn various paths that lead to law school and becoming an attorney. Panelists will share their own personal stories of becoming an attorney, including the highs and lows of their education and work experience. This workshop will better help teens, who may be interested in a career in law, understand the journey from undergrad to law school, and beyond.

**12:20 p.m.**

**Auditorium**

## **The Law Dogs**

Members of the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office K9 Units

We always hear about the people working in the legal profession, but our four-legged friends also play a big role in justice! Meet some of these law dogs and learn how they are trained to do everything from tracking criminals and searching for bombs and drugs, to providing comfort during stressful situations.

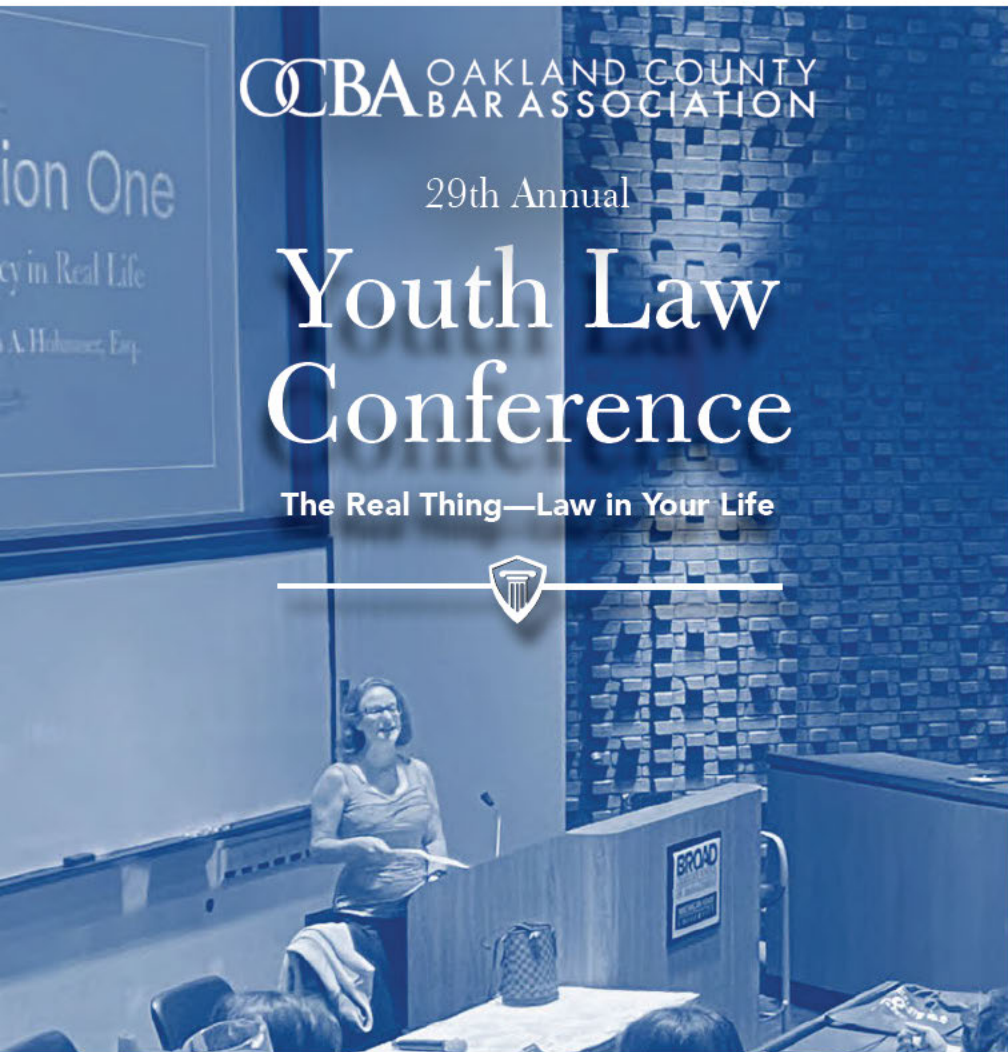


CCBA OAKLAND COUNTY  
BAR ASSOCIATION

29th Annual

# Youth Law Conference

The Real Thing—Law in Your Life



**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

**8:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

MSU Management Education Center

811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy, Michigan



## Conference Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks & Keynote Address
9:25 a.m. & 10:10 a.m.	Morning Sessions
10:55 a.m.	Lunch
11:35 a.m. & 12:20 p.m.	Afternoon Sessions

## Conference Expectations

The Youth Law Conference is a one-day event for high school juniors and seniors that features a variety of legal issues as they pertain to students. It is designed to help the students become more informed, educate them as citizens, and provide tools for future responsible decision-making.

Students should split up and attend all workshops to take back as much information as possible. Teachers and adult chaperones are expected to participate in all events and workshops with their students throughout the day.

School/classroom rules apply: If it is not allowed in the school/classroom, it is not allowed at the Youth Law Conference. All participants—students and adults—are expected to have fun!

## Welcome and Keynote Address

**8:30 a.m.**

**Auditorium**

### Welcome and Conference Overview

Alec M. D'Annunzio, *Chair, Oakland County Bar Association Law-Related Education Committee*  
Melinda N. Deel, *President, Oakland County Bar Association*  
Michael R. Turco, *President, Oakland County Bar Foundation*

### Keynote Address

#### ***Making History: The Journey to Becoming the First Female Black Justice on the Michigan Supreme Court***

Justice Kyra Harris Bolden, *Michigan Supreme Court*

## Morning Sessions

**9:25 a.m.**

**Breakout Session One**

**(choose one)**

### **The Role and Responsibilities of a Judge**

**Auditorium**

Moderator: Mark B. Berke, *Law Office of Mark B. Berke PLLC*  
Panelists: Hon. Yasmine I. Poles, *Sixth Judicial Circuit Court*  
Hon. Kwamé L. Rowe, *Sixth Judicial Circuit Court*  
Hon. Victoria A. Valentine, *Sixth Judicial Circuit Court*

We've all seen judges portrayed on TV, in movies and courtroom dramas, but how realistic are those portrayals and how much do you really know about the role and responsibilities of being a judge? This interactive session will gauge how much students already know and will provide further insight direct from a panel of three esteemed judges from Oakland County's Sixth Judicial Circuit Court.

*(Breakout Sessions continued on next page)*

## Morning Sessions (continued)

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### **Making Your Voice Heard: Civic Responsibilities, Election Laws and Your Rights**

**Room 101**

Moderator: Alec M. D'Annunzio, *Oakland County Prosecutor's Office*

Panelists: Lisa Brown, *Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds*  
Charles Thomas Jr., *When You Vote, I Win*

The right to vote is a tremendous privilege and your first year of eligibility is right around the corner. Our panelists will examine the importance of voting in any election from your local library board to the president of the United States. This interactive session will help clarify the misinformation surrounding election laws and provide you with knowledge about your rights as a citizen.

### **10:10 a.m. Breakout Session Two (choose one)**

#### **Alternative Careers in Law**

**Auditorium**

Moderator: Mark B. Berke, *Law Office of Mark B. Berke PLLC*

Panelists: Storm Kirschenbaum, *Storm T. Kirschenbaum, PLLC*  
Scott Marcus, *RSM Development & Management*  
Shannon L. Urbon, *The New Foster Care*

A law degree can open the door to all sorts of exciting and rewarding careers beyond the courtroom or a traditional law firm. Hear from three attorneys who each took very different paths after law school. Learn how they each turned their passions into diverse careers from representing professional athletes to real estate development and management, or to leading a nonprofit dedicated to improving children's experiences with the foster system.

#### **CSI: Oakland County Forensics Panel**

**Room 101**

Moderator: Alec M. D'Annunzio, *Oakland County Prosecutor's Office*

Panelists: Robert Koteles, *Forensic Laboratory Investigator*  
Rachel Scott, *Lab Chemist*

Perhaps the popular TV show CSI is before your time, or perhaps you have caught some of its reruns. In this session, you'll hear from a forensic lab investigator and a lab chemist on what exactly the Forensic Science Lab does to assist the legal system from the crime scene to the courtroom. They'll share how they get involved in a case, what they do on a scene, how they determine what evidence to collect, how they analyze the evidence, and what happens when they are called to testify.

## Lunch Break

**Dining Room**

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## Post-Lunch Sessions

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### **11:35 a.m. Breakout Session Three (choose one)**

#### **How I Got from There to Here**

**Auditorium**

Moderator: Elizabeth A. Hohaus, *The New Foster Care*

Panelists: Troy B. Ayers, *Allstate Insurance Company*  
Aaron V. Burrell, *Dickinson Wright PLLC*  
Monika Koleci, *Beier Howlett, P.C.*

In this session, learn about various paths that lead to law school and becoming an attorney. Panelists will share their own personal journeys to becoming an attorney, including the highs and lows of their education and work experience. This workshop will better help students, who may be interested in a career in law, understand the pathways from undergrad to law school, and beyond.

#### **The Role of the Conviction Integrity Unit**

**Room 101**

Beth G. Morrow, *Oakland County Prosecutor's Office*

You've read headlines along the lines of "Prisoner's Conviction Overturned After New Evidence Proves His Innocence." How is that determined? Who is involved in reviewing this evidence? What steps are then taken to rectify such situations? Learn about the role of the Conviction Integrity Unit, how often cases may be overturned, and the limits of their involvement.

### **12:20 p.m. Auditorium**

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