

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

SBM Spring Pro Bono Workshop Tackles the Changing Face of Pro Bono

Leaders in the delivery of pro bono legal services from across Michigan gathered in Lansing May 23 for the ninth annual Spring Pro Bono Workshop. The workshop featured a full day of educational sessions, strategic collaboration, and networking opportunities.

Those in attendance got updates on fundraising and legal aid messaging from a statewide and national perspective; how law firms, corporate in-house legal departments, and legal aid programs can strategically collaborate; challenges facing legal aid programs; effective responses to rapidly changing issues; tech tips; and online free legal resources. State Bar staff demonstrated mi.freelegalanswers.org, a new pro bono opportunity launched in Genesee County that could go statewide.

The workshop was sponsored by the SBM Pro Bono Initiative, which is responsible for encouraging and coordinating the delivery of pro bono legal services in Michigan. It also plays a critical leadership



Photo by Samantha Meinke

Keith Morris, president of Elder Law of Michigan, presents tech tips to attendees at the SBM Spring Pro Bono Workshop.

role in promoting policies and mechanisms to support lawyers in their efforts to fulfill their ethical responsibility to assist in providing civil legal services to the poor. ■

Chief Justice Markman Lauds Kurtis Wilder as Supreme Court Pick



Courtesy photo

Hon. Kurtis Wilder

Governor Rick Snyder has appointed Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Kurtis Wilder to take former Justice Robert Young's seat on the Michigan Supreme Court.

"My colleagues and I are extremely pleased to welcome Judge Kurt Wilder to the Michigan Supreme Court," said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Stephen Markman in a statement. "Judge Wilder brings a quarter century of experience on the trial and appellate courts of this state. Equally important, he brings what has been a consistent commitment to the

equal rule of law and unwavering support for the values of the

constitutions of the United States and the State of Michigan. Governor Snyder and all of the people of our state can take great pride in this appointment."

Wilder was appointed in 1998 to the Michigan Court of Appeals by former Governor John Engler. He was subsequently elected to the appeals court in 2000 and reelected in 2004, 2010, and 2016. Before serving on the appeals court, Wilder served as chief judge of Washtenaw County Circuit Court. He also practiced law with Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith in Lansing and Butzel Long in Detroit.

Wilder earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. ■