

**From:** <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>  
**To:** <asmith@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>, <elizabeth@your...>  
**Date:** 3/15/2013 6:41 PM  
**Subject:** Nomination for Unsung Hero Award

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: James E. Brenner  
 Title:  
 Firm or Organization: Clark Hill PLC  
 Address: 500 Woodward Ave., Ste. 3500, Detroit MI 48226  
 Phone: 313-965-8814  
 Fax:  
 E-mail: jbrenner@clarkhill.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

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 Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.  
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Jim Brenner attempts to balance his paid practice of law with pro bono practice including representation of death penalty defendants and service on the board of directors of Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services a/k/a Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan where he is currently board chair. He also serves as a hearing referee for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. He also handles pro bono cases through his firm Clark Hill's participation in the legal services clinics via the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association.

Jim is currently working on his third pro bono death penalty case. He received it in October 2007. In 2009 he was successful in getting the death penalty reversed in the case. However, the appeal process continues as he fights for a reversal of the original conviction since the state of TN hid a video for 16 years that was helpful to the defense.

Jim's first death penalty appeal case, also in TN which was ultimately successful in reversing the death penalty, took 17 years to go through the process of appeals. The second case, out of TX, was successful as well.

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 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  
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James E. Brenner is an attorney with Clark Hill PLC in its Detroit offices and heads its Appellate Practice Department. He received his legal education from The University of Michigan Law School in 1972 and was admitted to the practice of law that same year. Between 1967 and 1969, he served as an officer in

the U.S. Army.

Michigan Lawyers Weekly Lawyer of the Year recipient, 2007.  
Pro Bono award through the DMBA, exact year uncertain at this time.

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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"

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To be submitted.

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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](mailto: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

543 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
Office: 734.663.7905 Fax: 734.527.6351  
[www.YourBenchmarkCoach.com](http://www.YourBenchmarkCoach.com)

March 18, 2013

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

Re: Nomination of James E. Brenner for Unsung Hero Award

Dear Anne:

On March 15 I submitted an online nomination for James E. Brenner of Clark Hill PLC for the Unsung Hero Award. The description of the award is a simple one: "This award will be presented to a lawyer who has exhibited the highest standards of practice and commitment for the benefit of others." As written, this award could be given to hundreds of members of the State Bar of Michigan. Some are unsung heroes, some are not unsung. Jim Brenner is a perfect unsung nominee for this award.

From his basic resume, Jim looks like hundreds if not thousands of other corporate defense lawyers. Jim is a lawyer at Clark Hill and head of the firm's appellate practice department, specializing in insurance, commercial and benefits law. He has also acted as a commercial arbitrator for the AAA and a hearing referee for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Admitted to practice in 1972, Jim received his undergraduate education from the University of Detroit, his Master of Arts from Wayne State University, and his legal education from the University of Michigan. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and in DBusiness 2013 Top Lawyers for his appellate practice. He was selected as a Michigan Lawyer of the Year for 2007 by Michigan Lawyer's Weekly, one of only twelve chosen.

Yet because Jim is so quiet, gentle and unassuming, his pro bono death penalty appeal work takes people by surprise as much as his sly sense of humor. This work involves the defense of death row inmates in states still utilizing the death penalty as punishment for crimes. Jim began his work in 1989 and has successfully advocated for three defendants in the final stages of their respective appeals processes because of the denial of adequate assistance of counsel. In his first case, which took 17 years to go through the appellate process, Jim saved the Tennessee man's life by introducing important information his appointed counsel failed to present. Jim's second case was out of Texas, and his third case is out of Tennessee. Jim was assigned the third case in

2007 and succeeded in reversing the death penalty sentence in 2009. He is currently fighting the original conviction by pursuing the State's failure to disclose a video for sixteen years that was helpful to the defense. Jim does not choose which death penalty appeal cases he will take based on the merits. They are assigned to him.

In addition to his quiet and powerfully effective work on death penalty cases for the last twenty four years, Jim has served as Chair of the Board of Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services for the last ten years and he continues to do so.

I had the pleasure of being partners with Jim Brenner for twelve years at Clark Hill. I knew what we had in our midst but I always enjoyed when our newer colleagues discovered this hidden jewel in the firm. I consider him a hidden jewel in our profession as well. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I nominate Jim for the Unsung Hero Award.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elizabeth C. Jolliffe

**From:** <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>  
**To:** <asmith@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>, <barbara.mcquad...>  
**Date:** 3/15/2013 4:58 PM  
**Subject:** Nomination for Unsung Hero Award

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: Elizabeth Stafford  
Title: Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Firm or Organization: U.S. Attorney's Office, E.D. Michigan  
Address: 211 W. Fort St., Ste. 2001, Detroit MI 48226  
Phone: 313-226-9692  
Fax: 313-226-3265  
E-mail: elizabeth.stafford@usdoj.gov

Name of nominator: Barbara McQuade  
Title: United States Attorney  
Firm or Organization: U.S. Attorney's Office  
Address: 211 W. Fort St., Ste. 2001, Detroit MI 48226  
Phone: 313-226-9500  
Fax: 313-226-4609  
E-mail: barbara.mcquade@usdoj.gov

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Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.  
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Elizabeth Stafford is a career prosecutor who has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office for over 10 years. She has tried numerous cases ranging from bank robberies and firearms charges to multi-state drug conspiracies. She currently serves in the office's Public Corruption unit where she oversees investigations involving allegations of criminal activity among elected, appointed and career government officials. Elizabeth has also argued extensively before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Beyond her excellent courtroom skills, Elizabeth has contributed substantially to the bar here in Michigan. In addition to serving on the Executive Board of the Federal Bar Association, she has co-chaired the FBA Diversity Committee for a number of years. During that time, Elizabeth spearheaded the FBA Diversity Mentoring initiative, which pairs newer members of the bar with more seasoned members to help them successfully develop a federal practice. She also partnered on behalf of FBA with the Just the Beginnings Foundation, a judge-led effort to create a pipeline to the legal profession beginning with high-school students of color. She also co-chaired the FBA Diversity Summit, held on March 6, 2013, which brought together lawyers from various firms and organizations to share ideas about advancing the cause of diversity in the legal profession

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Please provide a complete resume that includes dates of:  
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-Other service to the legal profession  
-Service to the public  
-Any awards the nominee may have received  
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ELIZABETH ANN STAFFORD  
211 West Fort Street, Suite 2001  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
(313) 226-9692

elizabeth.stafford@usdoj.gov

EXPERIENCE:

United States Attorney's Office,  
Eastern District of Michigan  
Assistant United States Attorney - April 2002 to Present

- Prosecute violators of federal criminal laws. Assigned to the Public Corruption Unit in June, 2010; prior practice has primarily been in the areas of narcotics and firearms.
- Responsibilities include handling jury trials and evidentiary hearings, writing district court and appellate briefs, conducting district and appellate court oral arguments, supervising criminal investigations and presenting matters for grand jury indictments.
- Have tried fifteen cases as sole counsel and four as lead counsel; defended approximately 20 motions to suppress, with about half requiring an evidentiary hearing; resolved approximately 90 cases by plea; and handle upwards of 100 sentencings.
- Received extensive training in federal criminal law and practice at the National Advocacy Center, including courses pertaining to Basic Criminal Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, Criminal Federal Practice, Title III, Evidence for Criminal Litigators, Financial Investigations and Working with Cooperators.
- For years 2005 through 2011, received the highest evaluation ("substantially exceeds expectations" in 2005 and "outstanding" for years 2006 through 2011) for my overall performance.

The Chambers of the Honorable Victoria A. Roberts  
United States District Court, Detroit, Michigan  
Law Clerk - August 1998 to April 2002

- Began judicial clerkship at the initiation of Judge Roberts' tenure as an United States District Judge. Assisted Judge Roberts in establishing policies and procedure for her chambers that promoted the effective and efficient management of the docket.

•Researched and wrote bench memoranda and drafted opinions regarding a wide variety of legal issues, including alleged employment discrimination; personal injury; contract and other commercial litigation; patent, trademark and copyright litigation; ERISA litigation; social security appeals; prisoner civil rights and habeas corpus matters; constitutional challenges to state laws; tribal disputes; insurance claims; civil discovery disputes; and criminal matters.

- Prepared original drafts of several published opinions, including two published Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals opinions.

•Assisted Judge Roberts during bench trials, and drafted findings of facts and conclusions of law.

Goodman, Eden, Millender & Bedrosian, Detroit, Michigan  
Associate - November 1993 to February 1998; Law Clerk -September 1991 to November 1993

- Was one of a limited number of law clerks hired to become an associate of this historic law firm.

•Practiced in various areas of personal injury litigation including automobile negligence, products liability, civil rights, governmental immunity, wrongful discharge and general negligence.

•Performed all functions of civil practice, including case development; extensive writing of legal briefs to trial and appellate courts, as well as mediation summaries; oral arguments in trial courts and the Michigan Court of Appeals; discovery practice, including depositions, interrogatories and requests for production of documents, and motions to compel the same; alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation, facilitation and arbitration; and trial work.

=CEDUCATION:

Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, Michigan  
Juris Doctor, May 1993

Honors and Activities:

- Bodman, Longley & Dahling Scholarship Recipient (1992 to 1993)
- Kenneth Cockrel Scholarship Recipient (1992 to 1993)
- Wolverine Bar Association Scholarship Recipient (1992 to 1993)
- Law Alumni Scholarship Recipient (1990 to 1991 and 1991 to 1992)
- Book Award Recipient for highest grade in Constitutional Law (1991)
- Third Place Award in Moot Court Appellate Brief Competition (1991)
- President, Black Law Student Association (1992 to 1993)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan  
Bachelor of Arts, June 1989  
James Madison College  
Dual Major - Urban Policy Problems; Minority/Majority Intergroup

Relations

OTHER  
INVOLVEMENT:

- Adjunct Professor, Federal Courts Practice, Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills, Michigan (January 2010 to April 2010)
- Instructor, Intermediate Criminal Trial Advocacy Seminar at the National Advocacy Center (March 2013)
- Instructor, Basic Criminal Trial Advocacy Seminar at the National Advocacy Center (January 2007, November 2007, May 2009 and September 2012)
- Member, American Constitution Society (2008 to present)
- \*Member, State Bar of Michigan United States Courts Committee (2011 to present)
- Member, State Bar of Michigan Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (2010 to present)
- Life Member, Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference (2006 to present)
- Member, Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation (2007 to present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Federal Bar Association (2007 to 2012); Co-chair, Diversity Committee (2009 to present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Wolverine Bar Association (1996-2003)
- Member, Board of Directors, Jack and Jill of America, Detroit Chapter (2005 to 2011)
- Member, Board of Directors, Barristers of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association (1993 to 1995)
- Member, Board of Directors, Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (1996 to 1998)

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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"

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January 2013, Laches, Oakland County Bar Association, ""Five Questions" with Elizabeth Stafford," pp. 25-26

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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](mailto: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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U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan

Barbara L. McQuade  
United States Attorney

211 West Fort Street, Suite 2001  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3211  
Telephone: (313) 226-9501  
Facsimile: (313) 226-9609  
E-mail: [barbara.mcquade@usdoj.gov](mailto:barbara.mcquade@usdoj.gov)

March 15, 2013

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

Dear Ms. Smith:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to nominate Elizabeth Stafford for the State Bar of Michigan Unsung Hero Award for 2013. Elizabeth has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in this office for eleven years. During that time she has distinguished herself as an outstanding trial attorney, prosecuting everything from violent crimes and large-scale drug conspiracies involving complicated money laundering schemes to public corruption by government officials. During one murder-for hire case that she prosecuted, she fell and broke her shoulder in the middle of trial, yet completed examinations of her witnesses before seeking medical treatment. The jury convicted the defendant.

Elizabeth has not limited her professional aspirations to prosecuting cases. She has contributed mightily to the bar with both her academic pursuits and her service to the bar. For two years, Elizabeth taught a very well-received Federal Practice course at Cooley Law School - even taking her students on a field trip to the U.S. Attorney's office and U.S. District Court to meet with practicing lawyers and judges. Additionally, as Co-Chair of the Federal Bar Association Diversity Committee, Elizabeth has done yeoman's work in opening the bar to historically under-represented groups. She spearheaded the FBA Mentoring program and she developed and organized the FBA Diversity Summit, which has been held for the last two years. The goal of the most recent summit was to develop the Metropolitan Detroit Pipeline Coordinating Council, a group to facilitate the development of young Detroiters into desirable candidates for the legal profession.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara L. McQuade".

Barbara L. McQuade  
United States Attorney

**From:** <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>  
**To:** <asmith@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>, <sjgobbo@gobbol...>  
**Date:** 3/13/2013 10:28 PM  
**Subject:** Nomination for Unsung Hero Award

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: Martin "Marty" P. Krohner (Posthumously)  
Title: Member  
Firm or Organization: SBM Representative Assembly  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Name of nominator: Stephen J. Gobbo, Esq.  
Title:  
Firm or Organization:  
Address: PO Box 24222, Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: 517-241-9267  
Fax:  
E-mail: sjgobbo@gobbolaw.com

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Explain the merits of your nomination, submit any supporting materials for your nominee by email, fax, or mail. Give specific examples.  
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This nomination is submitted to honor the life-long efforts of Attorney Martin Krohner (deceased). Looking back at Marty's work with the State Bar of Michigan and the Representative Assembly, and his many years as an attorney in public service, it is only fitting to consider him as an "unsung hero." He served the citizens of the State of Michigan as an assistant prosecuting attorney -- public service that oftentimes is not fully appreciated and sometimes misunderstood. Prosecutors serve as ministers of justice, having a unique responsibility well beyond obtaining a conviction. Marty served in this role for many years of his legal career until his "retirement" and transition to the private practice of law in circa 2005. Marty also willingly and frequently served the SBM. It is evident from looking at records and publications of the SBM that Marty committed his time and interest for the benefit others. The following are some of his contributions to enhance the legal profession and the justice system in Michigan:

- Standing Committee on Justice Policy, 2010-11 (and service back to 2004)
- Custodial Interrogation Recording Task Force, 2006
- Task Force on Attorney-Client Privilege
- Representative Assembly member (6th Circuit), 2007-10; re-elected in 2010 for a term ending 2013
- Standing Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice, circa 2005-2012 (Co-chair)
- Criminal Issues Initiative, circa 2011 (Co-chair); Vice-chair, back to 2007

For a clearer illustration of the scope of Marty's contributions, I refer the nominations committee to an article in the November 2008 Michigan Bar Journal entitled: "Criminal Issues Initiative: Toward Bridging the Civil-Criminal Divide." See pages 19-22. At least one of the issues discussed in this article, and while Marty served in a leadership role on the Criminal Issues Initiative (as a part of a greater whole) has now come to the forefront of policy-makers in the State. That is an effective system of indigent defense.

Much of Marty's contributions were part of a larger group effort, whether it was an office, committee, task force, or a representative assembly. I am certain, except for Marty's untimely death, he would have

continued to devote considerable time and effort on the behalf of others. The reason for this conclusion is evident when you look back at his career.

I respectfully submit the nomination of Martin "Marty" Krohner as an Unsung Hero of our profession.

Sincerely,  
/s/Stephen J. Gobbo, Esq.

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- Other service to the legal profession
- Service to the public
- Any awards the nominee may have received

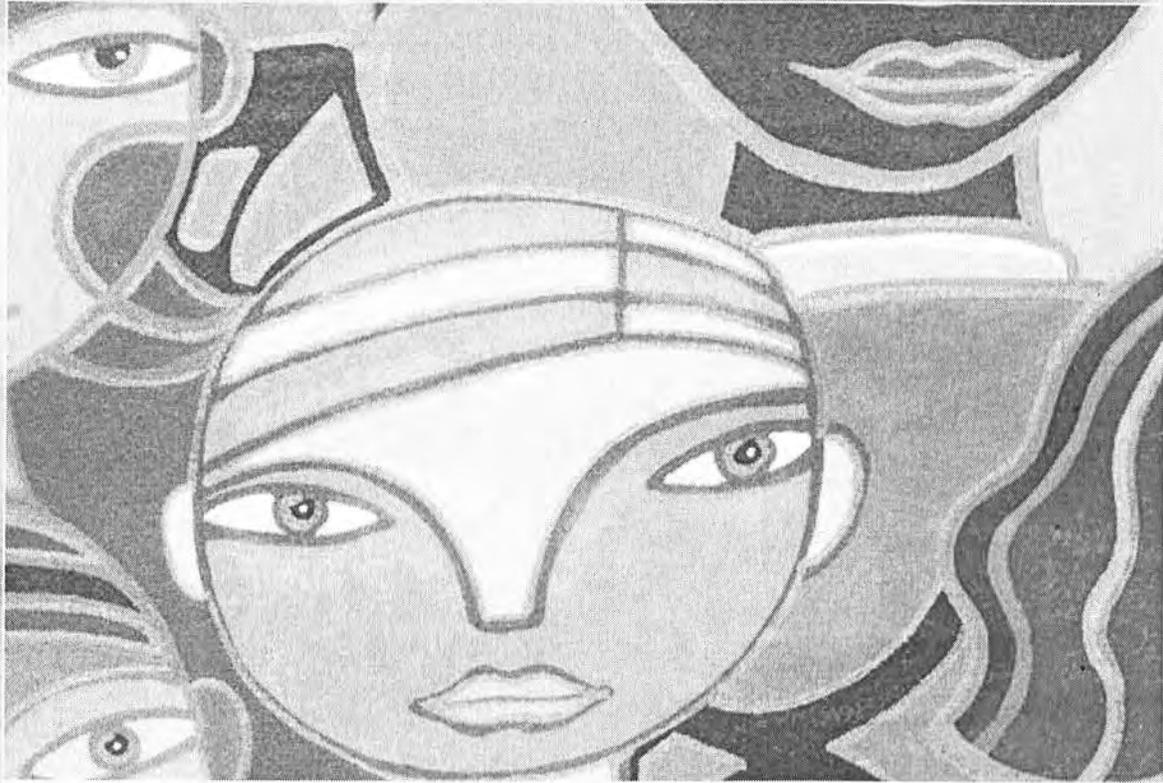
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See above.

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Optional: List news, magazine, radio, and TV features about the nominee's accomplishments (do not submit actual articles or DVDs).  
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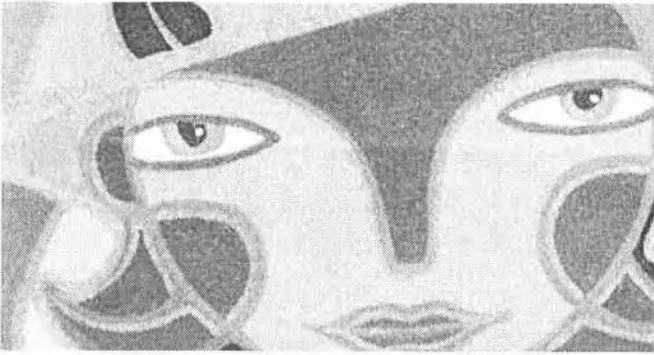


## Toward Bridging the Civil-Criminal Divide

Establishing the State Bar Criminal Issues Initiative

By Linda K. Rexer and Anne M. Vragman

Roosevelt Smith wanted to go back to school to become a nurse, but the nursing school rejected him because Michigan law bars persons with criminal records from joining the profession. Years earlier, police had stopped him for a traffic violation and found a duffel bag containing a gun in the back seat of his truck. Though Roosevelt had a permit to own the gun, this was not a legal way to carry it (he had moved the duffel bag from its usual place earlier in the day when cleaning the truck in preparation to sell it). He pled no contest to carrying a concealed weapon and served two years' probation. Despite a nursing shortage and Roosevelt's excellent grades, the school was prohibited by law from evaluating his credentials and aptitude for such work. The statute simply prohibits those with criminal records from becoming nurses.<sup>1</sup>



### The Intersection of Civil and Criminal

Stories like Roosevelt Smith's are all too common. When those charged with crimes (and sometimes their lawyers) are unaware of the civil ramifications of a conviction, the collateral consequences are often more severe than the sentence imposed by the court. For some clients, the conviction imposes a life sentence of barriers to employment, education, housing, government benefits, and lawful citizenship. These collateral consequences often feed a downward spiral that spawns recidivism.

With a national focus on crime in the 1990s, large numbers of people came into the criminal justice system. (Some estimate that more than 1.3 million persons have felony records in Michigan.) Criminal defense offices faced with burgeoning caseloads and very limited resources typically could not address their clients' noncriminal matters beyond the "core mission" of criminal defense. At the same time, funding for civil legal aid to low-income persons was cut drastically, and restrictions on services for prisoners by the Legal Services Corporation resulted in many providers not being able to serve the civil needs of criminal offenders. People with overlapping criminal and civil legal issues were left without adequate assistance that encompassed a broader view of their legal and social needs. More people began to recognize the complexities facing those who make valiant efforts to become productive in society rather than return to prison.

Several partnerships were forged to address these issues. The Michigan Prison Reentry Initiative (MPRI)<sup>2</sup> seeks to equip those released from prison with "the tools needed to succeed in the community" because "successful re-entry [has] great benefits to the community including improved public safety, a tremendous cost savings by reducing the chances for recidivism, and the long-term reintegration of the former prisoner."

Some civil legal aid programs, including Legal Aid of Western Michigan, have also obtained funding to help ex-offenders or those charged with a crime with civil legal matters to facilitate their success in society. For example, selling a car before entering prison helps an ex-offender avoid being burdened with so much

debt that he or she cannot subsist on wages earned from a job obtained after release. Establishing a guardianship can help children get needed care until they are reunited with a parent.

These providers were instrumental in posting information on the Internet to educate clients, lawyers, and others about overlapping civil and criminal issues. See [reentry.mplp.org](http://reentry.mplp.org).

Fortunately, some of the people involved in the MPRI, legal aid, indigent criminal defense, and other arenas encountering these issues were also part of the State Bar Committee on Justice Initiatives (CJI). The CJI had gone through an overall planning process in which discussions highlighted the growing importance of bridging the civil-criminal divide. In 2005 in response to a recommendation of the CJI planning process, Judge Cynthia Stephens, CJI chair, appointed the Criminal Issues Workgroup (CIW) to consider whether the CJI, which had traditionally focused its work on indigent civil legal aid, should expand its work to address criminal issues.

The CJI recognized that to truly address the complex issues that had been raised, the solutions had to come from the collaboration of many stakeholders—some within the justice system and others within the human services community. The appointed CIW represented the viewpoints of public schools, prisons, immigration lawyers, public defenders, prosecutors, juvenile judges, appellate judges, court administrators, family services, civil legal services, and criminal defense attorneys. We were privileged to serve as chair (Linda Rexer) and consultant (Anne Vrooman) of this talented group.

Using a consensus model for decision-making, the CIW quickly moved beyond its main charge—considering whether a new civil-criminal initiative should be formed—to a much deeper discussion of issues at the intersection of criminal and civil matters and how to address them in a multidisciplinary and holistic manner. The resulting proposals truly embodied the principle of collaboration; the final product was indeed greater than the sum of its parts.

### Establishing the State Bar Criminal Issues Initiative

In recommending that a Criminal Issues Initiative (CII) become part of the work of the Committee on Justice Initiatives, the CIW selected two areas of focus: (1) promoting a better understanding of the intersection of civil and criminal issues, as previously highlighted; and (2) the representation of indigent defendants, which is relevant to the collateral consequences topic because criminal defense attorneys who are knowledgeable about the civil consequences of specific crimes can produce better results for their clients through case-handling strategies and linking defendants to other community resources. Additionally, the CIW identified the importance of good representation in all aspects of indigent defense: a statewide system for providing effective indigent defense, standards related to the quality of representation, mandatory training for criminal defense attorneys and the provision of tools to



The appointed CIW represented the viewpoints of public schools, prisons, immigration lawyers, public defenders, prosecutors, juvenile judges, appellate judges, court administrators, family services, civil legal services, and criminal defense attorneys.

assist in key areas, and identifying data that should be collected to help evaluate and improve the system. The new CII would define its efforts and projects with these representation needs in mind as well as the related collateral consequences issues.

The CIW used the following key principles to guide its work:

- Many unmet legal needs and systemic problems in the criminal arena have severe consequences for individuals and the justice system.
- Civil and criminal issues are inextricably intertwined.
- Problems should be addressed in a more holistic way, through coordination and integration of services and training among multidisciplinary stakeholders.
- The needs in this area will remain great and the population who cannot afford to pay for legal assistance will continue to grow.
- Resources are likely to be flat or constricted.
- The State Bar of Michigan, as a justice system leader, should work on these issues through an entity of the State Bar that provides leadership and allows for multidisciplinary participation.

The CIW identified the following goals:

- Educate justice system stakeholders about civil collateral consequences of convictions and share data and research on the impact of these consequences.
- Address issues through multidisciplinary collaboration; increase capacities of communities to provide services and promote greater integration between components of the system.
- Promote a statewide indigent criminal defense system to provide competent and fair representation of indigent defendants.

### Members of the Criminal Issues Initiative, 2007-2008

**Frank D. Eaman, Chair**

Attorney, Frank D. Eaman PLLC

**Martin P. Krohner, Vice Chair**

Attorney, Law Office of Martin Krohner PLC

**Miriam J. Aukerman**

Reentry Law Project, Legal Aid of Western Michigan

**Sheila Spalding Blakney**

Senior Assistant Public Defender, Washtenaw County  
Office of Public Defender

**Hon. Patrick C. Bowler**

Judge, 61st District Court

**Caridad Pastor Cardinale**

Attorney, Pastor & Associates PC

**Hon. Alton T. Davis**

Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals

**Anthony A. Derezinski**

Director of Government Relations, Michigan Association  
of School Boards, Retired

**Stuart J. Dunning III**

Ingham County Prosecutor

**Martin D. Glista**

Attorney, Glenn D. Steeg & Associates PC

**Laura M. Graham**

Assistant Public Defender, Washtenaw County

**Rodrick K. Green**

Attorney, Law Office of Rodrick K. Green

**David C. Koelsch**

Director, Immigration Law Clinic, University of Detroit Mercy

**Hon. Mabel Mayfield**

Judge, Berrien County Probate Court

**Sharon McPhail**

General Counsel, City of Detroit

**Nelson P. Miller**

Associate Dean/Associate Professor, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**James R. Neuhard**

Director, State Appellate Defender Office

**Valerie R. Newman**

Assistant Defender, State Appellate Defender Office

**Linda K. Rexer**

Executive Director, Michigan State Bar Foundation

**Frank H. Reynolds**

Partner, The Reynolds Law Firm PC

**Hon. William G. Schma**

Circuit Court Judge, Retired

**Hon. Angela Kay Sherigan**

Associate Judge, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

**Regina Daniels Thomas**

Chief Counsel, Legal Aid & Defender Association Juvenile Law Group

**Serah E. Wiedenhoefer**

Attorney, Private Practice

**Kym Worthy**

Wayne County Prosecutor



- Develop and promote standards for criminal indigent defense systems and for ensuring that the collateral consequences of criminal convictions are understood and disclosed to relevant justice system stakeholders.
- Develop and conduct research on indigent defense systems to identify and evaluate current practices, best practices, and model systems.
- Develop and promote training and education for attorneys handling specific case types.
- Develop and propose systemic methods and tools to provide information and guidance related to collateral consequences that can be used by stakeholders at all stages of the criminal justice and post-release processes.
- Identify areas for policy consideration.

The themes resonated with the overall CJI and the State Bar Board of Commissioners, and the Criminal Issues Initiative was born. Frank Eaman was appointed the CII's inaugural chair and quickly led the group to an impressive and concrete list of projects to realize the above goals. See sidebar for a list of CII members. For information about the CII and its current projects, visit [www.michbar.org/programs/criminalissues.cfm](http://www.michbar.org/programs/criminalissues.cfm).

### Conclusion—Collaboration is Key

The model for an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach is not new. Universities and the private sector have led the way in recognizing the value of many stakeholders working together to address complex issues, increasing mutual understanding and working with shared responsibility. Collaboration shifts the focus from competition between entities to building consensus among them, and from short-term fixes to long-term solutions.

Our criminal justice system does not easily lend itself to collaboration. Typically, in both the adult and juvenile systems, cases end at sentencing or adjudication, with little attention given to what comes next and how one action affects another. But a growing movement recognizes that the larger social issues of juve-

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nile crime, domestic violence, and prisoner assimilation require new dynamics between our institutions. Partnerships with multiple stakeholders, including those outside the criminal justice system, are becoming more frequent as a strategy to address those issues.

Collaboration in the justice system has great potential as the framework to create long-term solutions to the challenging issues confronting our communities. However, it must go well beyond networking and cooperating—it must have at its core the shared desire to work together to achieve a common goal that could not be achieved without the efforts of others. This is challenging work, but the difficulties should not deter us from expanding our efforts. The State Bar Criminal Issues Initiative is a collaboration we can all be proud of and learn much from. Not only are its efforts already moving toward improving our indigent defense system and helping ex-offenders reenter society as productive citizens, but the ongoing involvement in CII of leaders from many parts of the justice system and many other disciplines will no doubt deepen and expand the partnerships needed to make a difference in the future. ■

*Linda K. Rexer, JD, has been executive director of the Michigan State Bar Foundation since 1987. The Foundation makes \$10 million in grants annually for civil legal aid and other charitable purposes. Ms. Rexer serves on the ABA's Commission on IOLTA and the State Bar Justice Initiatives Committee. She was president of the National Association of IOLTA Programs and received the 2005 Michael Franck Award from the State Bar Representative Assembly.*

*Anne M. Vrooman is director of research and development at the State Bar of Michigan. Before joining the State Bar, she was the director of intergovernmental relations for the Michigan Supreme Court.*

### FOOTNOTES

1. Adapted from Gerritt, *Minor Convictions Shouldn't Turn Into Life Sentences*, Detroit Free Press, February 23, 2007, available at [http://reentry.mplp.org/reentry/index.php/Minor\\_Convictions\\_Shouldn%27t\\_Turn\\_Into\\_Life\\_Sentences](http://reentry.mplp.org/reentry/index.php/Minor_Convictions_Shouldn%27t_Turn_Into_Life_Sentences) [accessed October 13, 2008].
2. Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative <http://www.michpri.com> [accessed October 13, 2008]. The MPRI is a statewide collaborative effort administered through a public and private partnership, including the Department of Corrections, Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Department of Community Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Education, Public Policy Associates, and the Michigan Council on Crime & Delinquency.



STATE OF MICHIGAN



THE CIRCUIT COURT

8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IONIA AND MONTCALM COUNTIES

DAVID A. HOORT  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

March 21, 2013

TRACY SZYMANSKI  
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Anne M. Smith  
Executive Office  
State Bar of Michigan  
Michael Franck Building  
306 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Michael Franck Award

Dear Ms. Smith:

It is my understanding that Marty Krohner has been nominated for the Michael Franck Award. The purpose of this letter is to add my support for his recognition. The Criminal Law Section Council has also voted unanimously to support his nomination.

I was fortunate to meet Marty as a member of the Criminal Jurisprudence and Practice committee when he and Valerie Newman chaired the committee. Both Val and Marty led by example and dedication to the cause of justice. It was my first SBM committee and I was lucky to have them as my chairs.

I next had the pleasure to serve with Marty on the Criminal Law Section when he returned to the Council; and again appreciated his knowledge, sense of humor, compassion and dedication. Ironically, shortly before he died we sat next to each other at a council meeting and, again, just talked. When the news came of his death, we were just in the process of setting up a 'reunion' of CJ&P chairs to say good bye to Elizabeth as she was beginning her next life in Washington, D.C.

Marty was a lawyer's lawyer; and one of the truly good ones, personally and professionally. I will always remember the stories at Marty's funeral, and the kindness he always showed to me, and just what a good person and lawyer he truly was. In today's world I don't have a whole lot of heroes, but I am proud to say he was a hero to me. I really looked up to him and appreciated what he stood for and what he did as a lawyer and a person.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. If not, thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Hoort".

David Hoort