

From: <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>
To: <asmith@mail.michbar.org>, <webmaster@mail.michbar.org>
Date: 1/13/2011 11:28 AM
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: KAREN GULLBERG COOK
 Title: Attorney at Law
 Firm or Organization:
 Address: 18149 Kirkshire Street, Beverly Hills, MI 48025
 Phone: (248) 644-7678
 Fax: (248) 644-3871
 E-mail: karenmi@earthlink.net

Name of nominator: Robert C. Gardella (& Stacey M. Combs - See below)
 Title: Attorneys at Law
 Firm or Organization: Robert C. Gardella, PLLC
 Address:
 Phone:
 Fax:
 E-mail:

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

 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

 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"

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

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



ROBERT C. GARDELLA
ATTORNEY AT LAW

ROBERT C. GARDELLA, PLLC

134 N. FIRST STREET, SUITE 201, BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN 48116-1264
TELEPHONE (810) 220-4200
FACSIMILE (810) 225-7730

January 11, 2011

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
Representative Assembly
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933-2012

Re: Unsung Hero Nomination for Karen Gullberg Cook

Dear Representative Assembly:

The purpose of this letter is to nominate Karen Gullberg Cook for the Unsung Hero Award. This important award is intended to recognize members of the legal profession who have exhibited the highest standards of legal practice and a commitment for the benefit of others. This award has traditionally been given to practicing attorneys who have worked diligently for the betterment of society without substantial recognition. Attorney Karen Gullberg Cook, of Beverly Hills, Michigan, is deserving of recognition by the Representative Assembly for her leadership role in children's law matters in Michigan.

Children of Southeastern Michigan who find themselves entangled in the court system have a strong advocate: Karen Gullberg Cook, a state-wide leader in matters involving children's law, protective services law, adoption law and probate law.

Graduating from Duke University with a B.A. and from Wayne State University with her J.D., Karen Cook was admitted to the Michigan State Bar in 1976. She practices family law, probate law and consumer law in Oakland County. She has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan Children's Law Section. Karen was on the advisory board to prepare the Lawyer-Guardian Ad Litem Protocol Handbook published by the Michigan Judicial Institute. The Sixth Circuit Court judges and Oakland County Probate Court judges frequently appoint Attorney Karen Gullberg Cook as a guardian and guardian ad litem for children. Protecting minor children is the priority in her legal career.

While serving as a guardian ad litem for children, Karen is known as a thorough investigator and for being diligent in her efforts to make sure the children's physical, emotional and academic needs are being satisfied by the children's guardians, foster parents and parents. Often devoting uncountable hours tending to her duties without pay on weekends and

Letter to Representative Assembly
re: Unsung Hero Nominee Karen Gullberg Cook
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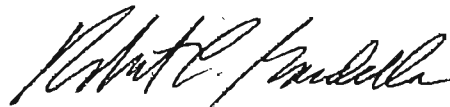
evenings, Karen carefully co-ordinates supervised parenting time sessions and seeks to comprehensively implement the orders of the Court.

It is not uncommon for Karen to donate blankets and other items for needy children in Oakland County who have been involved in guardianship proceedings. She often does things quietly and behind-the-scenes for the benefit of the children of Southeastern Michigan. While Attorney Cook does not seek the limelight for her tireless work on behalf of the children, she is not afraid to confront government agencies and state governmental units who may, at times, fail to follow the law. Karen has established a high standard of excellence as a lawyer guardian ad litem without any fanfare and as an outstanding lawyer.

Because of her many years of experience, Karen Gullberg Cook serves as an information resource for other Michigan attorneys who handle child protective service matters. Her counsel is clear, complete and wise. Known for her unselfish commitment to protect the quality of life for Michigan's children involved in the legal system, Karen Gullberg Cook never deviates from her focused goal: to make a difference in the way our judicial system operates for the protection of children often involved in difficult circumstances due to no fault of their own.

The Unsung Hero Award would be an excellent tribute for Karen Gullberg Cook, based on her commitment as an advocate for the children of Southeastern Michigan.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. GARDELLA
Attorney at Law

RCG/ss

LAW OFFICE OF STACY M. COMBS

**ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 711
HIGHLAND, MI 48356
PHONE: (248) 882-0501**

February 19, 2010

State Bar of Michigan
Representative Assembly
306 Townsend
Lansing, MI

Re: Unsung Hero Nomination for Karen Gullberg Cook

Dear Representative Assembly,

I am writing this letter to nominate Karen Gullberg Cook for the Unsung Hero Award. Karen Cook has been serving the Children of the State of Michigan for over 20 years in the area of Child Welfare Law. She continually goes above and beyond for her clients. She is truly a very deserving candidate for this award.

I met Karen Cook in 2003 and was awed by her knowledge of Child Welfare Law and Practice. I have worked with many attorneys having served as a juvenile prosecutor, juvenile court referee and guardian ad litem attorney in the past ten years, but Karen truly stands out among the attorneys in this field. Karen Cook has dedicated her career to helping children and families that are involved in the system.

Karen Cook practices as an attorney primarily in Oakland County, MI. She handles a large amount of Neglect/Abuse cases, Delinquency cases, Guardianship cases and Appellate cases. Karen has also handled many appeals to remove parents from the central registry and filed licensing complaints against licensed agencies that were not complying with the law.

Karen Cook is expert when it comes to Child Welfare Law and DHS ("Department of Human Services") policy. Karen can sight case names, citations and statutes off the top of her head. When any attorney has an issue, Karen is always willing to help and can give advice without even opening a book. Karen is always willing to help other attorneys who have questions or need advice in Child Welfare Law.

Karen Cook is also an expert on DHS policy and continues to hold DHS to the requirements of their policy. She consistently takes the extra step and tries to right the wrongs of the children and parents in the system. Instead of taking the easy way out and just letting things go when children are not provided with the services that were ordered, Karen makes a complaint to DHS administration. She has filed

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licensing complaints to make sure that the agencies that provide services are following the state laws, rules and regulations.

One of the amazing things that Karen does for the children that she represents at Christmas is to give each of them a blanket. She is always prepared for court and always visits the children that she represents. She is just as strong of an advocate when she represents parents and guardians in these cases.

I believe that Karen has truly made a difference in the lives of many children in this State. Karen Cook has been a zealous advocate for many years and deserves recognition for her service to the Children and Families of the State of Michigan. Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions, you can write directly to me at the above listed address.

Sincerely,



Stacy M. Combs

