

better serve our clients and society.



orientation, gender, and expression, religion, nationality, language, age, disability, marital and parental status, geographic origin, and socioeconomic background.

Diversity creates greater trust and

law schools, law firms, corporate counsel, solo and small firm lawyers, judges, government agencies, and bar associations must cooperatively work together to achieve diversity and inclusion, and

of Michigan's and in the el attorneys to positions wi organization and the prof

*Andrew Lipin General Motors
HAMMOND BEHR*



Design by Michael Maurer Smith
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and Samantha Meinke

2011 Annual Meeting



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1. Angelique Strong Marks and Lambro Niforos.
2. *Milliken v Bradley* Michigan Legal Milestone Dedication—L to R: Julie Fershtman, Jeffrey Paulsen, John Mogk, George Roumell, William Saxton, Joyce Baugh, Tony Jenkins, Brandy Robinson, Daniel Ray, Thomas Costello, Janet Welch, and Frank Kelley.



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3. Andy Segovia from General Motors at the Diversity Reception.
4. Victoria Radke, Unsung Hero Award winner Karen Gullberg Cook, and new RA Chair Stephen Gobbo.
5. Hon. Dennis Archer made the case for diversity and inclusion in the legal profession at the Diversity Reception.
6. Julie I. Fershtman is sworn in as SBM president by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr.
7. John W. Reed, the namesake of the newly created Michigan Lawyer Legacy Award, with the inaugural winner Harold Norris.

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke



Janet Welch is Michigan Lawyers Weekly's 2011 Woman of the Year

The State Bar of Michigan congratulates Executive Director Janet K. Welch for being named 2011 Woman of the Year by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*. Welch was presented the award at the annual Women in the Law luncheon on Monday, September 26 at the Detroit Marriott in Troy. Woman of the Year was the highest honor presented at the luncheon, which also recognized 19 other women, including SBM Commissioner Jennifer Grieco, for making meaningful and inspiring contributions to the legal community. Honorees had to meet a number of other criteria, including committing to excellence in the practice of law, serving as inspiring and accomplished leaders in the profession, mentoring other women, and contributing significant time to volunteering and pro bono efforts.

Welch became the first woman to lead the State Bar as executive director in 2007, after serving as SBM's general counsel for six years. *Lawyers Weekly* said her most visible effort as executive director has been her hands-on work organizing the Judicial Crossroads Task Force, which was comprised of 29 voting members and four committees, with a combined total of 98 voting members. The four committees conducted in-depth analyses of access to justice, business impact, court resources and structure, and technology. The task force used that information to create a report filled with concrete, practical, and innovative recommendations

for the future of Michigan's justice system. The report is recognized nationally as a model for reforming the justice system in the face of changing economic and demographic conditions.

Welch credits the task force's success to its co-chairs, Barry Howard and Ed Pappas, and to "a remarkable ensemble of volunteer lawyers, judges, and staff."

Before joining the State Bar, Welch served as Michigan Supreme Court counsel for four years and as an analyst for both the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House of Representatives. She worked as an executive analyst in the Office of the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, and in that capacity served as reporter for the Commission on the Courts in the 21st Century, and as staff to the Michigan Justice Project. In 1998, the Council of State Governments named her a Toll Fellow for outstanding achievement and service to state government.

She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Albion College and the University of Michigan Law School. She is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's Kennedy School and was a Fulbright Scholar in comparative literature at the University of Zagreb in the former Yugoslavia. ■

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