

Julie I. Fershtman

Julie I. Fershtman is the 77th president of the State Bar of Michigan and the fifth woman to lead the organization. Her one-year term as president of the more than 41,500 members of the legal profession begins on September 15, 2011 when she will be sworn in by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Young at the State Bar's Annual Meeting in Dearborn.

A shareholder with Foster Swift Collins and Smith PC in its Farmington Hills office, Ms. Fershtman practices in the areas of commercial litigation, insurance defense and coverage, and equine law, for which she is nationally known. She has successfully tried cases before juries in 4 states and has been admitted as *pro hac vice* counsel in state and federal courts in 12 jurisdictions.

Ms. Fershtman has been involved in State Bar work for over two decades serving on many committees and groups. Notably, she was Chair of the Representative Assembly in 2001-2002, and chair of the Young Lawyers Section from 1995-1996. She served her first term on the State Bar Board of Commissioners in 1994. She is also active in the American Bar Association where she is a member of the ABA House of Delegates and a vice-chair of a committee of the Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section. Ms. Fershtman is a Trustee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the American, Michigan, and Oakland County Bar Foundations.

A frequent writer and speaker, she has authored over 200 published articles and three books — the third was published by the ABA in 2009. Ms. Fershtman also lectures frequently on topics such as liability, insurance and risk management at seminars and conferences nationwide.

A graduate of Emory College (1983) and Emory Law School (1986), she is married to Robert Bick, also an attorney. They have a daughter, Kathryn and reside in Franklin.