

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
JUSTICE INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

16th ANNUAL SPRING PRO BONO WORKSHOP

*Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Strategic Engagement:
Unlocking New Pathways to Access to Justice*

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Format: In-Person & Limited Zoom Access

- 9:00 **Registration & Networking Breakfast (Atrium)**
- 9:30-9:35 **Call to Order & Overview of the Day (Board Room)—Robert Mathis, *State Bar of Michigan***
- 9:35–10:00 **Welcome & Participant Introductions**
Please share your name, organization, and one way you believe AI is already impacting the legal field—positively or negatively—or how it might in the near future.
- 10:00–11:30 **AI and the Law: Advanced Legal Challenges and Opportunities in 2025 (Board Room)**
This advanced session builds on last year’s program, diving deeper into the evolving intersection of AI and the legal landscape. Participants will explore current legal challenges, regulatory shifts, and forward-looking strategies to navigate this fast-changing area.
- **Patrick Barry, *University of Michigan Law School, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Director of Digital Academic Initiatives***
- 11:30-12:00 **AI and the Law: Mastering Advanced Legal Strategies & Future Applications (Board Room)**
Expanding on the insights and practical applications from the previous session, this session delves even deeper into the evolving challenges and opportunities at the intersection of artificial intelligence and the law. Additionally, it features an exclusive networking component, offering attorneys a structured setting to connect, collaborate, and cultivate strategic relationships with peers and industry experts.
- **Patrick Barry, *University of Michigan Law School, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Director of Digital Academic Initiatives***
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch – Rooms 1 & 2**

- 1:00-1:50** **Fostering a Strong Pro Bono Culture Through Strategic Communication (Board Room)**
Building a successful pro bono program starts with clear, compelling communication. This session will equip attendees with strategic insights and best practices for promoting pro bono opportunities to law firms and private attorneys. Learn how to craft messages that resonate, tailor outreach to diverse audiences, and leverage communication channels to strengthen engagement. The session will also explore ways to align pro bono partnerships with firm values and professional goals. Attendees will gain practical tools to increase visibility, inspire participation, and position pro bono as an essential part of access-to-justice efforts.
- Elizabeth Durham-Adragna, *DTE Energy*
- 1:50-2:10** **Networking Break & Afternoon Cookie Break! (Atrium)**
- 2:10-3:00** **The Balance Between Ethics & Artificial Intelligence (Board Room)**
As artificial intelligence becomes more prevalent in legal practice, it brings complex ethical considerations to the forefront. Attorneys must assess how AI tools align with their professional duties, including competence, diligence, confidentiality, billing, and avoiding the unauthorized practice of law. This session will examine how AI fits within current ethical frameworks and where additional guidance may be needed. Participants will explore how to uphold ethical standards while using AI to improve efficiency and expand access to justice—striking the right balance between innovation and responsibility.
- Alecia Chandler, *State Bar of Michigan*
 - Delaney Blakey, *State Bar of Michigan*
- 3:00–3:30** **Closing Session (Board Room)**
- Wrapping Up: Reflections and Feedback on the 2025 Pro Bono Workshop**
As we conclude our 2025 Pro Bono Workshop, it's time to pause and reflect on the insights gained, lessons learned, and the collective impact we've made as a community committed to advancing access to justice. This session provides an opportunity for participants to ask questions, provide feedback, and offer suggestions for future workshops.
- Amy Sankaran, *University of Michigan Law School*
 - Heather Herbert, *Lakeshore Legal Aid*
 - Robert Mathis, *State Bar of Michigan*
- 3:30** **Adjournment**