

2026 Unsung Hero Award Nomination - Samuel H. Pietsch

From: [State Bar of Michigan](#)
To: [Carrie Sharlow](#)
Subject: Unsung Hero Award
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026 1:54:20 PM

Name of Nominee: *	Samuel H. Pietsch
Title:	Senior Trial Attorney
Firm or Organization:	Ven Johnson Law
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Name of Nominator: *	Ven Johnson
Title:	Founder and President
Firm or Organization:	Ven Johnson Law
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

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

Samuel H. Pietsch has practiced law on behalf of plaintiffs since 1979 and brings more than four decades of experience to the Michigan legal community. He currently serves as a Senior Trial Attorney with Ven Johnson Law, practicing across the firm’s offices in Detroit, Flint and Kalamazoo.

Over the course of his career, Sam has appeared in nearly every circuit and probate court in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. His legal practice has focused on serious injury and wrongful death cases, particularly matters involving automobile, motorcycle and truck collisions. He has also represented Michigan families in complex cases involving medical malpractice, product failure, improper highway design, workplace injury, police misconduct and insurance disputes, reflecting his long-standing interest in the medical, technical and scientific issues that frequently arise in complex litigation.

Sam has also represented clients in litigation matters outside Michigan, including cases in Illinois, California, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida. He is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

During his career, Sam has secured verdicts and settlements totaling more than \$150 million on behalf of his clients. In addition to his work as a trial attorney, he has mediated or facilitated the resolution of more than 3,000 personal injury cases, helping countless attorneys and clients resolve complex disputes efficiently and fairly.

Respected by his peers for his fairness, preparation and knowledge of personal injury law, Sam has frequently been called upon by the Wayne County Mediation Tribunal Association and Oakland County Circuit Court Mediation programs to assist other lawyers in bringing their cases to resolution through negotiated settlements.

Sam is a Sustaining Member of the Michigan Association for Justice and a past and current recipient of the Super Lawyers distinction, an honor granted to the top 5% of practicing attorneys in Michigan. He is also rated AV Preeminent, the highest peer rating awarded by Martindale-Hubbell.

Outside of his legal practice, Sam has remained deeply committed to service in his community. He recently volunteered with Forgotten Harvest, an organization that collects and distributes food to individuals experiencing hunger and homelessness. He has also volunteered with a multi-denominational religious consortium that provides shelter and job-search assistance to employable but disadvantaged adults.

Sam has also contributed to his community through athletics and mentorship. For more than 30 years, he has served as a sports and fitness coach in his home city, a role he continues to hold today. Within the legal profession, he has mentored numerous younger attorneys, offering guidance and support to new practitioners entering the field.

Sam's influence within the legal profession extends to his own family as well, as two of his children have followed his path and become attorneys.

Outside the courtroom, Sam is also a certified fitness instructor and a classically trained musician with a background in musical performance.

Through decades of advocacy, mentorship and service to both the legal profession and the broader community, Samuel H. Pietsch embodies the spirit of the State Bar of Michigan's Unsung Hero Award.

Education

- Wayne State University Law School — [REDACTED]
- University of Michigan — Master of Public Health Administration
- University of Michigan — Bachelor of Arts

Leadership, Membership & Honors

- Michigan Association for Justice - Sustaining Member
- Oakland County Mediation Board
- State Bar of Michigan - Negligence Law Section
- Wayne County Mediation Board
- State Bar of Michigan - Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee
- Martindale-Hubbell A-V Rated Attorney
- State Bar of Michigan - Master Lawyers Section
- Super Lawyers Award

Service to the Public

- Volunteer work with Forgotten Harvest, helping collect and distribute food to individuals experiencing hunger and homelessness
- Volunteer work with a multi-denominational religious consortium that provides shelter and job-search assistance to disadvantaged adults

