

Marla Linderman Richelew

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Candidate for Clerk of the Representative Assembly Request for Your Support

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to ask for your support in my candidacy for Clerk of the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly.

Making sure everyone has a voice has motivated me since I was seven years old. The Clerk's role may look administrative, but I have never seen it that way. The Assembly is the final policy-making body of the State Bar — what we decide here affects every attorney in Michigan. The Clerk helps make sure the Assembly's work is recorded faithfully, that our decisions reach our members and the broader legal community, and that everyone who wants to be heard gets the chance.

I know this body from the inside. I sit in the Assembly now on behalf of the 3rd Circuit, and I served four years before that representing the 22nd. I have served the State Bar since 2008 — currently as Chair of the Civil Procedure and Courts Committee, and previously on the Domestic Violence Committee, as an advisor to the Diversity Committee, and as a Director of the Law Practice Management Section. In 2025 the State Bar honored me with its Champion of Justice award, which meant all the more to me because it came from this bar.

Chairing the Civil Procedure and Courts Committee for the last three years has also given me a working fluency with how rules actually get made and amended. Last year I taught an ICLE seminar on exactly that. Procedure is not a chore to me — it is how a body like ours makes sure its decisions mean something.

I am also not afraid of the work itself. For over 20 years I ran my own firm, where I was the intake clerk, the bookkeeper, the paralegal, and the lawyer, sometimes all in one afternoon. I learned to be organized and reliable because there was no one else to be. As membership chair for the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, I grew statewide membership by forty percent. I have helped a number of nonprofits rewrite their bylaws and turn their finances around, several from the red into the black. What I have taken from all of it is simple: when people feel genuinely welcomed, they bring their best work.

That is what I would bring to this office — accessibility, follow-through, and real care about making sure every member of this Assembly feels seen and heard.

I would be honored to serve, and I am grateful for your consideration. If you have questions or would like to talk about my candidacy, please reach out anytime.

Sincerely,



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AWARDS

- Champion of Justice, State Bar of Michigan, 2025
- Outstanding Attorney Award, Washtenaw Association for Justice, 2023
- Top Go-To Employment Lawyer, Michigan Lawyers Weekly, 2021
- Pacesetter, Michigan Association for Justice, 2020
- Leaders in the Law, Michigan Lawyers Weekly, 2018
- Top 25 Women Consumer Lawyers, Super Lawyers
- Top 50 Women Lawyers, Super Lawyers
- Top 20 Women in the Law, Michigan Lawyers Weekly
- Michigan Super Lawyers, 2009-present
- Fellow of the State Bar of Michigan Foundation, 2008
- Up and Coming Attorney, Michigan Lawyers Weekly, 2007
- Regeana Myrick Award, State Bar of Michigan, 2005-2006
- Outstanding Young Lawyer, Washtenaw County, 2006

EDUCATION

Indiana University School of Law — *Bloomington, IN*

Doctor of Jurisprudence, May 1996

- Dean's Honors: I Semester 1993-94 and II Semester 1994-95
- Highest Grade, Evidence, II Semester 1994-95

Michigan State University — *East Lansing, MI*

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Prelaw, 1993

- Graduated from the Honors College

ADMISSIONS

- State of Michigan, November 1996
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

EMPLOYMENT

Michigan Department of Attorney General — *May 2024-present*

Assistant Attorney General, Appellate Specialist for Civil Rights and Election Law.

Linderman Law PLLC — *Ann Arbor, MI, 2016-May 2024*

Practice in employment, business, and civil rights law, with an emphasis on litigation.

Atnip & Associates / Romanzi Atnip P.C. — *Rochester, MI, 2013-2016*

Managed personal injury firm; RICO, employment, civil rights, and business litigation.

Linderman Law PC — *Brighton, MI, 2003-2013*

Practice in employment, business, and civil rights law, with an emphasis on litigation.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Civil Rights Actions*, Michigan Causes of Action Formbook, ICLE, 2000-present
Author of the Civil Rights chapter for 25 years. Current chapter includes instructions on bringing claims under 42 USC 1983, 42 USC 1985, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA), the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act (PDCRA), prisoners' rights, and the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act.

- *Setting the Standard of Care in Advising Businesses: How to Reopen Safely in a COVID-19 World*, Westlaw, July 2020
- *Beat the Clock: 14 Days to Write Your COVID-19 Plan*, Michigan Lawyers Weekly, June 2020
- *COVID-19 Plan Template and Forms Guide*, National Guide, 2020
- *COVID-19 Plan Template and Forms Guide*, Michigan Guide, 2020
- *Eleven Truths of Michigan Employment Law*, ICLE, Top Tips in Ten Minutes, 2013
- *What Aspects of Employment Law Are Misconceived? Plenty*, 22 Mich. L.W. 160, December 24, 2007
- *Clients Wiretapping Their Own Conversations*, Michigan Association for Justice Journal, Spring 2008
- *What Everyone Should Know About the FMLA*, Res Ipsa Loquitur, September-October 2006
- *Religion, Liberty and Justice for All*, Res Ipsa Loquitur, March-April 2006
- *Position Against Bills to Curtail AG's Power*, 14 Mich. L.W. 25, November 8, 1999
- *Michigan's Equal Protection Rights 'Eroding'*, 13 Mich. L.W. 1875, October 18, 1999

SPEAKER / PRESENTER

- *Court Rules Update 2025*, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, on-demand seminar, July 2025
- *Offers of Judgment*, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, September 2024
- *Actions Speak Louder Than Words*, Oakland County Bar Association, December 2021
- *Navigating Noncompetes*, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, September 2021
- *Disaster Planning*, Philo Seminar, September 2021
- *Standards of Care: OPS Con 21*, MSAE, 2021
- *Corporate and Economic Crimes Presentation*, Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office, February 2021
- *Washtenaw County Bar Association Rapid Fire*, presenter, moderator, and coordinator, December 2020
- *The Ballot Coach: Vote Like a Victor*, University of Michigan Athletics, October 2020
- *The Employment Law Survival Guide*, People's Law School, October 2020
- *Standards of Care: How to Safely Reopen in a COVID-19 World — Michigan Edition*, Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce, August 2020
- *Know Your Employment Rights*, Novi/Oakland County, 2020
- *Standards of Care: How to Safely Reopen in a COVID-19 World*, Thomson Reuters/Westlaw National Webinar, July 2020
- *Ask a Lawyer: Employee Rights During Reopening*, Michigan Association for Justice, 2020
- *Ask a Lawyer: Your Rights as an Employee*, Michigan Association for Justice, 2020
- *Furloughed or Fired? Your Rights as an Employee*, CultureShift, WDET, May 29, 2020
- *Employment Law for Workers' Compensation Attorneys*, MAJ Workers' Compensation Seminar, 2020
- *Hall of Fame Presenter, Inaugural Class*, Michigan Lawyers Weekly, 2020
- *Women in the Law Presenter*, Michigan Lawyers Weekly, 2019-present
- *The Difference Between Exempt and Non-Exempt Employees and Independent Contractors*, Seminar in the Snow, 2015
- *The ABCs of Employment Law for Workers' Compensation Attorneys*, MAJ Workers' Compensation Seminar, 2014
- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Forum*, Cooley Law School, Auburn Hills, 2013
- *The Basics of the Family and Medical Leave Act*, Women Lawyers Association Annual Meeting, 2012
- *Taking Expert Depositions*, ICLE commentator, 2009
- *FMLA Updates*, Washtenaw County Bar Association

- *Marketing on a Budget*, 2008 State Bar Annual Meeting and Solo & Small Firm Institute
- *Hot Topics in Discovery*, commentator, June 2008
- *The Art of Screening*, panel member, ICLE 29th Annual Labor & Employment Law Institute
- *Nuts and Bolts of Successful Law Practice Management*, panel member, State Bar of Michigan Law Practice Management Section, Spring 2006
- *Rapid Fire Seminar*, employment law speaker, Washtenaw County Bar Association, Winter 2006
- *Nuts and Bolts: ADR*, panel member, Washtenaw County Bar Association, ADR Section, Spring 2005
- *The ABCs of Employment Law*, Washtenaw County Trial Lawyers, Fall 2003
- *Civil Depositions and Motion Practice*, ICLE commentator

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

State Bar of Michigan

- Representative, 3rd Circuit, Representative Assembly, 2025-present
- Representative, 22nd Circuit, Representative Assembly, 2020-2024
- Chair, Civil Procedure and Courts Committee, 2023-present
- Member, Civil Procedure and Courts Committee, 2020-present
- Member, Domestic Violence Committee, 2015-2017
- Advisor, Diversity Committee, 2013-2014
- Director, Law Practice Management Section, 2008-2011

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

- Immediate Past President, April 2014-April 2015
- President, April 2013-April 2014
- President-Elect, March 2012-April 2013
- Vice President, March 2011-March 2012
- Treasurer, September 2010-September 2011
- Candidate Rating and Endorsement Chair, 2012-2014
- Membership Chair, 2009-2012
- Legal Affairs/Legislative Chair, 1999-2000; 2008-2010
- Director-at-Large, 2005-2010

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan — Washtenaw Chapter

- President, 2004-2005
- Regional Director, 1999-2000
- Member, 1997-present

Federal Bar Association

- Co-Chair, Pro Bono Project, 2019-2024
- Co-Chair, Federal Pro Bono Committee Subcommittee on Marketing: Organizations and Firms, 2014-2016

Washtenaw County Bar Association

- Co-Chair, Federal Bar Committee, 2020-2024
- Director-at-Large, 2007-2009
- Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee, 2006-2007
- President, Young Lawyers, 2005-2006
- Chair, Solo and Small Firms, 2003-2004

Washtenaw Association for Justice

- Executive Director, 2020-2024
- Immediate Past President, 2013-2015
- President, 2011-2013

- Member, 1997-present

Michigan Association for Justice

- Member, 1997-present
- Executive Committee, 2010-2024
- Amicus Committee, 2008-2024; Co-Chair, Employment and Civil Rights, 2010-2024
- Legislative Committee, 2009-present; Co-Chair, 2021-2024
- Membership Committee, 2009-2012; Co-Chair, 2017-2021
- New Lawyers Committee, 2010-2012

American Association for Justice

- Member, 2017-present

Thomas M. Cooley Law School — Ann Arbor

- Adjunct Professor, Law Office Management, Hilary 2014

Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Corporate Crimes and Economic Justice Taskforce

- Member, 2020-2024

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

- President, 2024-2026
- Co-Vice President, 2022-2024
- Co-Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council, 2022-2024
- Board Member, 2020-present

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

- Co-Vice President of Governance, 2023-2025
- Board Member, 2021-present
- Co-Chair, Washtenaw Integrated Senior Experience Committee, 2019-present

Michigan Athletics Career Center

- Law U Advisory Team, 2020-present

Skyline High School PTSO

- President, 2021-2023
- Treasurer, 2020-2021
- Member-at-Large, 2019-2020