

# Marla Linderman Richelew

## **Subject: Request for Your Support Candidate for Clerk of the Representative Assembly**

### **Dear Colleagues,**

I'm writing to express my interest in serving as Clerk of the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly. Having served alongside many of you in our shared commitment to justice and the legal profession, I believe my experience and passion for this work make me well-suited for this important role.

### **Why This Matters to Me**

The Clerk position may seem administrative, but I see it as something much more vital. As the final policy-making body of the State Bar, our Representative Assembly shapes the future of our profession and impacts every attorney in Michigan. The Clerk connects with our members helping to make sure voices are heard and our work reaches the broader legal community. It's about making sure everyone has a voice - something that's motivated and inspired me since I was seven years old.

Throughout my career, I've learned that justice isn't just about grand gestures or landmark cases. It's about showing up, doing the work right, and ensuring systems function fairly for everyone. That's exactly what the Clerk role demands.

### **What I Bring to This Role**

**Deep State Bar Knowledge**: Almost continuously since 2008, I have been honored to serve on several State Bar Committees giving me a broad background of the amazing work accomplished by our Bar. My State Bar involvement includes:

- Current Chair of the Civil Procedure and Courts Committee
- Former Advisor to State Bar committees
- Member of the State Bar Domestic Violence Committee
- Director of the Law Practice Management Section

**MRICHELEW@GMAIL.COM**



My belief in the State Bar, its importance, and what it can accomplish has never wavered. I want to continue to give back to the bar, using what I have learned during my almost two decades of service with the State Bar, to help the Representative Assembly and our profession to flourish.

**Proven Leadership with Results:** I'm proud that I can say that every organization I've led has improved under my leadership. For example, as membership chair for the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, I increased statewide membership by 40% and as President, I spearheaded and implemented a 5-year strategic plan. I've helped numerous nonprofits rewrite their bylaws and turn their finances around - taking several from operating in the red to thriving in the black. I've learned that when you bring people together in a welcoming environment, amazing things happen - everyone contributes their best work toward shared goals.

**Professional Experience:** For almost 20 years I was a solo practitioner, wearing the hats of intake clerk, administrative assistant, bookkeeper, paralegal and lawyer, all at the same time. I learned to be efficient so that both my law firm and my family thrived—I am not one to shy from rolling up my sleeves and doing the hard work. I now serve as an Assistant Attorney General, Appellate Specialist of the Civil Rights & Election Law Division. A big change but I love to learn and challenge myself.

**Crisis Leadership:** During COVID-19, I helped Michigan lawyers safely reopen their offices and conducted seminars across the state to help workers and businesses understand their rights. I've learned that in challenging times, you have to be flexible, communicate clearly, and listen to a wide variety of viewpoints and concerns with care and concern.

### **My Vision as Clerk**

I will bring the same energy and commitment that has characterized all my leadership roles. I will be accessible and help foster an environment where our members feel seen and heard. Every voice in our Assembly matters. Working together with leadership, staff and the Assembly, I want to help our Assembly operate at its highest potential.

## Why Your Support Matters

We face real challenges as a profession - from technological changes, including AI, to evolving client expectations, to ensuring access to justice for all Michiganders. Our Representative Assembly's response to these challenges will shape the future of legal practice in our state.

I've spent my career believing that when dedicated lawyers come together with shared commitment, we can change the world. I want to support that work as your Clerk, ensuring our collective voice is heard clearly and our decisions are implemented effectively.

I would be honored to serve as your Clerk and grateful for your support. If you have questions about my candidacy or want to discuss any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to our profession and the people of Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Marla Richelew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marla Linderman Richelew

Enclosure: Resume

# Marla Linderman Richelew

[mrichelew@gmail.com](mailto:mrichelew@gmail.com)

## AWARDS

- ◆ 2025, STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN, CHAMPION OF JUSTICE
- ◆ 2023, OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY AWARD, WASHTENAW ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE
- ◆ 2021 TOP GO-TO EMPLOYMENT LAWYER, MICHIGAN LAWYERS WEEKLY
- ◆ 2020 MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE PACESETTER
- ◆ 2018 LEADERS IN THE LAW, MICHIGAN LAWYERS WEEKLY
- ◆ TOP 25 WOMEN CONSUMER LAWYERS, SUPER LAWYERS
- ◆ TOP 50 WOMEN LAWYERS, SUPER LAWYERS
- ◆ TOP 20 WOMEN IN THE LAW, MICHIGAN LAWYERS WEEKLY
- ◆ 2009-PRESENT MICHIGAN SUPER LAWYERS
- ◆ 2008 FELLOW OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION
- ◆ 2007 UP AND COMING ATTORNEY, MICHIGAN LAWYERS WEEKLY
- ◆ 2005-2006 REGEANA MYRICK AWARD, STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
- ◆ 2006 OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER-WASHTENAW COUNTY

## EDUCATION

- ◆ **ATTORNEY AT LAW**, November 1996, Michigan
- ◆ 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

### **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 Honors College

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

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

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

**Linderman Law PC**, Brighton, MI 2006-2013

Practice 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 Civil Rights Chapter for 25 years. Current Chapter includes instructions on bringing claims under 42 USC 1983, 42 USC 1985, Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX, Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA), Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act (PDCRA), Prisoners' Rights, and 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, 2013**, ICLE, Top Tips in Ten Minutes
- ◆ **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 Loquitor, September-October 2006

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- ◆ **Religion, Liberty and Justice For All**  
Res Ipsa Loquitor, 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

- ◆ **Offers of Judgment**, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, September 2024
- ◆ **Actions Speak Louder Than Words:**, Oakland County Bar Association, Speaker, 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**, MAJ 2020
- ◆ **Ask A Lawyer: Your Rights As An Employee**, MAJ 2020
- ◆ **Furloughed or Fired? Your Rights As An Employee**, CultureShift WDET May 29, 2020
- ◆ **Employment Law for Worker's Comp Attorneys**, MAJ Worker's Compensation Seminar 2020
- ◆ **Hall of Fame Presenter, Inaugural Class**  
Michigan Lawyers Weekly 2020

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- ◆ **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 ABC's of Employment Law for Worker's Comp Attorneys**, MAJ Worker's Compensation Seminar 2014
- ◆ **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Forum**, Cooley Law, Auburn Hills, 2013
- ◆ **The Basics of the Family 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, Presenter**, 2008 State Bar Annual Meeting & Solo & Small Firm Institute
- ◆ **Hot Topics in Discovery, Commentator**, June 2008
- ◆ **The Art of Screening, Panel Member**,  
ICLE 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor & Employment Law Institute
- ◆ **Nuts and Bolts of Successful Law Practice Management**, Panel Member  
Spring 2006, State Bar of Michigan Law Practice Management Section
- ◆ **Rapid Fire Seminar, Employment Law Speaker**, Winter 2006  
Washtenaw County Bar Association
- ◆ **Nuts and Bolts: ADR, Panel Member**, Spring 2005  
Washtenaw County Bar Association, ADR Section
- ◆ **The ABC's of Employment Law**, Fall 2003, Washtenaw County Trial Lawyers
- ◆ **Civil Depositions and Motion Practice, ICLE Commentator**
- ◆ **Taking Expert Depositions, ICLE Commentator**

## ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **State Bar of Michigan**  
Chair, Court and Civil Procedure Committee, 2023-present  
Court and Civil Procedure Committee, 2020-present Representative, 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, Representative Assembly 2020-2024  
Domestic Violence Committee Member 2015-2017  
Diversity Committee Advisor 2013-2014  
Law Practice Management Section Director 2008-2011

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- ◆ **Women Lawyers Association of Michigan**
  - Immediate Past President April 2014-April 2015
  - President April 2013 –April 2014
  - President-Elect March 2012-April 2013
  - Candidate Rating and Endorsement Chair 2012-2014
  - Vice President March 2011-2012
  - Treasurer Sept. 2010-2011
  - 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
- ◆ **Federal Pro Bono Committee**
  - Subcommittee Co-Chair: -Marketing: Organizations and Firms, 2014-2016
- ◆ **Washtenaw County Bar Association**
  - Federal Bar Committee Co-Chair 2020-2024
  - Judiciary Co-Chair, 2006-2007
  - Director-at-Large 2007-2009
  - President-Young Lawyers 2005-2006
  - Solo and Small Firms Chair 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
  - Amicus 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 Lawyer's Committee 2010-2012



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- ◆ **American Association for Justice**, 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**, 2020-2024
- ◆ **Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor**,  
President 2024-Present  
Co-Vice President, 2022-2024  
Co-Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council, 2022-2024  
Board Member 2020-Present
- ◆ **Jewish Family Services, Washtenaw**  
Co-Vice President of Governance, 2023-2025  
Board Member, 2021-present  
Co-Chair of the Washtenaw Integrated Senior Experience Committee 2019-present
- ◆ **Michigan Athletics Career Center, Law U Advisory Team**, 2020-present
- ◆ **Skyline PTSO**  
President, 2021-2023  
Treasurer, 2020-2021  
Member-at-Large, 2019-2020