

# Citizen Lawyer: Reginald M. Turner

By Francine Cullari

**G**ive Reggie Turner a call or send him an e-mail. Any time, any day, any reason. He is one lawyer who will always respond, and respond quickly. It must have to do with so much free time on his hands. After all, he is no longer president of the National Bar Association or president of the State Bar of Michigan.

Being named in the peer-review guide, *The Best Lawyers in America*, is not time-consuming; simply be greatly admired by your colleagues and the selection is sure to follow. The same is true for Reggie's membership as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honor reserved for less than one percent of lawyers in each state.

Granted, he does spend a bit of time as chairperson of the City of Detroit Board of Ethics. He attends a few meetings now and then as a director of Comerica, Inc.; vice chairperson of the Detroit Institute of Arts; vice chairperson of the Detroit Police Foundation; board member of the American Society of Employers; and director of the Hudson-Webber Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, and the Josephson Institute. No problem—he can respond to your e-mails while sitting at meetings.

Or call him on his cellular telephone on his way to the State of Michigan Board of Education, on which he serves as a board member, being elected after an initial appointment by Governor Jennifer Granholm. Kathleen Strauss, president of the Board, finds that “Reggie Turner is a valuable—and valued—member of the State Board of Education. He brings incredible insight and experience to our discussions and policy decisions that affect students throughout the state. His participation in so many other community activities and organizations brings additional knowledge and per-



Reggie Turner taking yet another call.

spective to the Board's table.” You might also try Reggie on his way home from a meeting of the United Way of Southeastern Michigan Board, on which he serves as vice chairperson.

Reggie is never too busy to speak with you, give advice, share a joke, or provide deep insight into a problem. He is always accessible, even when representing Detroit mayors, debating as a member of the Detroit Board of Education, sitting on former Governor John Engler's Blue Ribbon Commission on Michigan Gaming, serving

on the City of Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Advisory Committee, managing a Presidential Task Force as a White House Fellow, or assisting former Housing and Development Secretaries Henry Cisneros and Andrew Cuomo.

True, another dozen bar and community activities have demanded time from Reggie over the years, but he managed to juggle them with ease and still be available for calls.

While he continues to participate in many volunteer activities, he is an important member of Clark Hill PLC in Detroit—counseling clients in negotiations; writing and administering public and private labor and employment contracts; conducting a wide range of federal and state litigation, as well as grievance and interest arbitrations; handling health care industry matters; lobbying legislatures; resolving school and municipal problems; and addressing other governmental issues. Reggie is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Employers, and he has served on the State Bar of Michigan's Labor and Employment Section Council. He is also a member of the Labor and Employment Sections of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, as well as the American Arbitration Association's Michigan Employment Advisory Council. He is

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certified in arbitration by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Combining superior legal service with outstanding community service has led to many accolades, including praise from Dennis Archer, former mayor of the city of Detroit and former president of the American Bar and Michigan Bar Associations, who states: “Reggie, like so many others, recognizes that the practice of law is ‘a calling’ to public service that extends beyond providing legal services to clients. He continues to give back by participating in the important affairs of our state and his community.”

Here’s the best part—Reggie not only makes his time available, he follows through on any request. David Egner, president and chief executive officer of the Hudson-Webber Foundation, reports that Reggie provides valuable and often instantaneous information for the Board of the Foundation, on which Reggie serves. The Foundation is a private entity with a \$175 million endowment, providing charitable grants to improve the quality of life in Detroit—assisting economic development, physical revitalization, arts and culture, safe communities, and the Detroit Medical Center.

Reggie provides much service on the Foundation’s Program Committee. He “con-

nects the dots” between the community and the Foundation when applications arrive in isolation. Reggie brings a world of information from the community to give the Committee and Board perspective when reviewing a request. Egner finds Reggie, the second youngest Board member, to be “an outstanding Board member.”

Tom Sweeney, another member of Clark Hill PLC, summarizes the many qualities of Reggie Turner, stating that “Reggie is the consummate citizen lawyer. He is dedicated not only to being an outstanding lawyer, but also an outstanding citizen, always giving his time to improve the communities around him.”

As you can see, if you need information or advice—in fact, wisdom—and want a responsive attorney, a knowledgeable community leader, a highly respected individual, Reggie Turner is the person to call. ■

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*Francine Cullari practices real estate, estate planning, and business law in Grand Blanc. She serves on the State Bar of Michigan Board of Commissioners and is vice chairperson of the Publications and Website Advisory Committee, where she is responsible for the Michigan Bar Journal. She teaches business law at the University of Michigan, Flint campus.*

### Turner Memberships

American Arbitration Association,  
Michigan Employment Advisory Council  
Michigan Bar Association, Labor and  
Employment Section  
American Bar Foundation, Fellow  
American Society of Employers,  
Board of Directors  
Blue Ribbon Commission on Michigan  
Gaming, former Member  
City of Detroit Board of Ethics, Chairperson  
City of Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment  
Advisory Committee, former Member  
Comerica, Inc., Director  
Detroit Board of Education, former Member  
Detroit Institute of Arts, Vice Chairperson  
Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association,  
Labor and Employment Section  
Detroit Police Foundation, Vice Chairperson  
Federal Mediation and Conciliation  
Service, certified in arbitration  
Hudson-Webber Foundation, Director  
United Way of Southeastern Michigan,  
Chairperson  
Wayne County Economic Development  
Corporation, Secretary  
State Board of Education, Board Member  
National Bar Association, Past President,  
Labor and Employment Section  
State Bar of Michigan, Past President;  
Labor and Employment Section Council  
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