

UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke

A TIME TO HONOR OUR BEST

Share the joy and celebrate with our 2010 award winners on Wednesday, September 29.
The place: The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. The time: 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
This banquet is held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting.

State Bar of Michigan 2010 Award Winners

Roberts P. Hudson Award

James C. Cotant
Partner, Bensinger, Cotant
& Menkes, P.C.



Attorney Margaret Cotant learned the most valuable lessons about what makes a lawyer great from her father, James C. Cotant.

"He used to tell me, 'You have to do anything you do with a good heart,'" she wrote in support of his nomination. "This was never just a platitude. . . . He is vocal about the fact that to be an attorney is a privilege; that privilege imposes upon each of us responsibilities. We must treat our colleagues with courtesy and respect. We must mentor younger lawyers whenever and wherever the need arises. We must act as an example of integrity to the public."

He taught her these lessons not just by saying them, but by living them.

Cotant has improved his profession by serving as chairman of the Attorney Grievance Board Gaylord Hearing Panel since 1980 and as a member of the SBM Alternative Dispute Resolution Section since 2000. He has served on the SBM Representative Assembly and is past president of the 46th Judicial Circuit Bar Association. He was elected to the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel on the fast-track process.

In his role as an attorney at Bensinger, Cotant & Menkes, P.C., Cotant emphasizes insurance coverage issues, fire and casualty losses, wrongful discharge employment claims, government and municipal corporations, and automobile negligence. His trustworthiness, discretion, patience, and consideration have made him one of the top civil probate mediators in northern Michigan; he has mediated over 150 cases since 2002.

"He litigates vigorously without rancor," wrote Timothy Cronin. "He treats all parties with patience and consideration. His reputation as a mediator is second to none."

Cotant has also provided significant service to the public as board member, vice president, and past president of the Otsego Memorial Hospital; on the Gaylord Industrial Development Commission; as chairman of directors for Alpine Regional Education Center; on the board of directors of the Otsego County United Way; on the board of directors for Big Brothers-Big Sisters; and on the Gaylord Rotary Club for 25 years.

"When asked to participate in local education programs or community service activities, he unfailingly responds—he is glad to sacrifice his own time to do so," wrote the Hon. Dennis Murphy. "He is always willing and ready to provide assistance or advice to all lawyers, young and old alike, without obligation or expectation. . . . His level of commitment and dedication to his community and profession is truly unusual and extraordinary."

Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award

Hon. Donald A. Scheer
Magistrate Judge,
United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Michigan



Judge Donald A. Scheer has devoted his entire life to serving the public.

When he retires on September 30, he will conclude a career of public service that began 43 years ago when he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Since then, he has served as a law clerk for the Monroe County (Ind.) prosecutor's office; city attorney for Fremont, Ind.; and as a felony court trial deputy with the prosecutor's office in Grant County (Ind.) before becoming a public defender for Grant County. He joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Michigan in 1986 and was appointed magistrate judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in 1994.

"Magistrate Judge Scheer is a most humble man; a quiet, diligent public servant who prefers to toil outside the spotlight," said his nominator and former law clerk Sandy Lillard. "He is a man who exhibits the highest standards of integrity, fairness, leadership, excellence, and dedication to the principle and to the ideals of democracy."

More important than his longevity in public office is the quality of the work he has done there.

"I have had the pleasure of appearing before Judge Scheer on many occasions, and even when he has ruled against me, he has always given my arguments a fair hearing and due consideration," wrote U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade in a letter of support.

Judge Scheer's service doesn't end in the courtroom. He volunteers for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, something he aspires to continue throughout his retirement.

"This volunteer post is not without risk, as auxiliary members fly their own planes in search-and-rescue missions seeking persons and boats in distress," wrote Gov. Jennifer Granholm in a letter of support. "Don is a man of the utmost integrity and dedication to principles and to his work."

Edward M. Zelenak
City Attorney, Lincoln Park
and Southgate



To Edward Zelenak, there's no place more important than home.

Home is Lincoln Park, but home has also always included his family's native land, the Slovak Republic. He has dedicated his career to serving both.

Zelenak's lifelong involvement with his ancestral country has grown over the years, forming ties high in the Slovak Republic's new government. In 2001, he was named honorary consul for the Slovak Republic in Michigan and Wisconsin and legal advisor for the country's embassy in Washington, D.C., and consular offices in New York. In these roles, for which he is unpaid, Zelenak acts as a representative of the Slovak Republic in the U.S., strengthening ties between his two homes.

Locally, Zelenak has served as city attorney for Lincoln Park since 1978, city attorney for Southgate for 18 years, and special city attorney for Ecorse in 1999 when the city was under the control of a court-ordered receiver. He has used a 25-year second career as a Michigan-based broadcaster and public affairs director to inform the public about the law and criminal justice. He has also been very active in local charities, including the Kiwanis Club, Rotary International, the Salvation Army, and Wayne State University.

A pioneering municipal attorney, Zelenak drafted the first DWI cost recovery ordinance in Michigan. His handling of a high-profile adult zoning/First Amendment case didn't win him popularity contests with members of the Lincoln Park city council, but saved his city from losing a costly court battle.

"Mr. Zelenak has not hesitated to perform the most difficult task for an attorney for a governmental body—that of telling the body what it does not want to hear," wrote Wayne State University Professor Robert Sedler. "Any time a lawyer does that, the lawyer puts his or her position at risk. . . . Mr. Zelenak serves as a public official in a way that inspires public confidence in the rule of law."

Champion of Justice Award

Charles W. Borgsdorf
Partner, Hooper, Hathaway, Price,
Beuche & Wallace



Ann Arbor's Charles Borgsdorf is a top-notch lawyer and an expert in legal ethics with an "unparalleled reputation for mediating and facilitating the most difficult cases and resolving the most intractable legal problems." He's been with Hooper, Hathaway, Price, Beuche & Wallace for 34 years, serving as the firm's ethical overseer while also managing significant aspects of its business. An early promoter and provider of alternative dispute resolution, Borgsdorf has served as a case evaluator in the Washtenaw County Circuit Court for more than two decades.

While these are outstanding achievements in and of themselves, it is the depth and breadth of his 40 years of pro bono and community involvement and commitment to legal services for the poor that make him an outstanding champion of justice. In a letter endorsing Borgsdorf for this award, the judges of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court noted, "We do not achieve justice in our

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society unless all, without regard to financial resources, can have access to legal services. Charlie has been a crucial contributor to the achievement of that goal.”

Borgsdorf currently serves on the board of the Legal Services of South Central Michigan and has chaired that group 11 times. The organization has thrived under his leadership, growing from a four-county program with a \$200,000 budget to a 13-county regional program that also administers two statewide programs with an annual budget of just under \$6 million.

As the regional chairperson, he helped the State Bar to raise funds through the Access to Justice Campaign from 2000 to 2006 and is a leading donor himself. Many other organizations, including the University of Michigan Musical Society, Dawn Farm (a drug and alcohol treatment program), Child and Family Services of Washtenaw County, the C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital Advisory Board, and the Arbor Hospice Foundation have also benefitted from his devotion to help sustain and enhance the missions of these groups.

John J. Conway and Gerard Mantese

Were it not for the determination, compassion, skill, and insight of Gerard Mantese and John Conway, autistic children and their parents would very likely still be struggling with exclusionary insurance coverage practices.

The duo’s outstanding legal work successfully prosecuting a class-action lawsuit in favor of autistic children resulted in a landmark settlement last June requiring Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to reverse its policy and provide applied behavioral analysis therapy for autistic children. Such therapy, previously denied because Blue Cross considered it experimental, has been shown to be beneficial and needed early in life. Delaying treatment can prevent autistic children from ever achieving their full potential. Autism is a developmental disorder that appears in the first three years of life and affects one in 10 American children. The disorder affects the normal development of social and communication skills.

John Conway, a solo practitioner in Royal Oak, has been a passionate advocate for children’s healthcare for many years. He has given freely of his time, working pro bono during hours convenient to his clients—early mornings, evenings, and weekends. Since the settlement, he and co-counsel Mantese have responded to scores of inquiries from around the nation from families wanting to access insurance coverage for the treatment of their autistic children. Conway has also served in various bar leadership roles including past chair of the SBM Young Lawyers Section.



Gerard Mantese is the founding partner of Mantese Honigman Rossman and Williamson, P.C. In addition to the litigation causes that he takes on, he spent more than 300 pro bono hours in the 1990s establishing the First Step legal advocacy project, which provides free legal advice to those who have suffered domestic violence. He’s been a panelist for the Attorney Discipline Board for over a decade and a member of the SBM Publications and Website Advisory Committee for 15 years.



John R. Nussbaumer Associate Dean, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Attending law school can be an elusive goal for certain segments of the population. Research has shown that African Americans and Mexican Americans are increasingly being shut out even though their scores and grades are improving and are close to those of white applicants. Over the years, this has had the effect of producing a predominantly white corps of lawyers and judges in a nation that is increasingly more diverse.



Thomas M. Cooley Law School Dean John Nussbaumer has been working actively to change the status quo. He often analyzes, writes, and lectures about such issues and seeks out every avenue that will facilitate change. One recent effort involved hosting the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Sophomore Summer Institute—a national program to help disadvantaged groups build the skills and confidence they need to succeed in law school. To date, CLEO has helped more than 8,000 low-income and minority students become successful lawyers. The summer session at Cooley’s Auburn Hills campus was the first such program to be offered in Michigan.

Dean Nussbaumer has often cited high LSAT requirements as a reason why so many minority applicants get shut out of law schools. The fact that Cooley graduates more minority students than all but one other law school in the country is proof that it doesn’t have to be that way. In a January interview with the *New York Times*, Nussbaumer said, “Those students with slightly lower LSAT scores can graduate, pass the bar, and be terrific lawyers.”

Increasing diversity in the legal profession and access for the unrepresented are goals that lie at the heart of Dean Nussbaumer’s 33-year legal career. He works passionately and tirelessly to innovate and to make a difference—whether it’s mentoring law students, participating in pro bono or community service projects, or overseeing clinics that help domestic violence victims, families, seniors, and soldiers.

James M. Olson
Senior Principal Attorney,
Olson, Bzdok and Howard P.C.



He has been described as the “godfather of environmental law” in Michigan, a “visionary and tireless advocate,” and “protector of the legal concept of public trust.” A Traverse City native, James Olson realized early in his career that he could use the law as a tool to preserve and protect what makes northern Michigan so unique—the woods and water and way of life that are his passion. Since then, he has been in the forefront of environmental policy. Through his legal cases he has protected the Crystal River in Leelanau County, preserved the Cedar River in Antrim County, helped redevelop the historic Traverse City State Hospital into the largest adaptive re-use project in the country, and guided the creation of the most successful Brownfield Redevelopment Authority in the state.

Perhaps his hardest earned legal victory was an epic 10-year legal battle in *Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation v Nestle Waters North America*. Often described as a David and Goliath story, Olson and his citizen group clients took on one of the world’s largest corporations, one that decided it wanted to tap into Michigan water, bottle it, and sell it. Despite the extraordinary disparity in resources—Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation actually held bake sales to try and raise funds—Olson prevailed. On appeal, Nestle was able to chip away at parts of the court’s decision, but the integrity of the ruling was left standing and Nestle was forced to significantly reduce its pumping to a level that did not impair the surrounding natural resources. Olson sacrificed financial gain and donated countless hours without knowing if he would be paid or not. His long-time friend and law firm partner Michael Dettmer has remarked, “Any lawyer who has practiced as long as Jim and drives a rusted out 1992 Dodge Dakota pickup is not working in his own self-interest!”

Far from winding down, Olson is now in the center of what could turn out to be the hardest and most important achievement of his life yet: formally and legally codifying that the Great Lakes are held in the public trust for current and future generations.

Hon. Wendy L. Potts
Circuit Court Judge



Judge Wendy Potts has been described as “one of those rare individuals who sees the opportunity in a crisis.” Her leadership, innovative solutions, and ability to mold and hold together fragile coalitions have led to major victories that have improved the administration of justice not only in Oakland County where she finished a six-year stint as chief judge earlier this year, but throughout the state.

Last January, when the county was reeling under the strain of a severe budget crisis, funding was being pulled from the drug treatment courts. Without county support, these alternative treatment courts could not survive. Judge Potts had already worked hard to get legislation to help judges deal with the increasing jail overcrowding problems. Elimination of the drug treatment courts would exacerbate a condition that she had just worked to resolve.

Judge Potts took action by creating the RESTORE Foundation to fund the drug courts. To do this, she pulled together a coalition made up of Detroit’s best known and most involved citizens. The new board of directors obtained IRS approval for nonprofit designation and raised more than \$100,000 in donations within six months of RESTORE’s creation. Oakland County’s drug courts were on life support one year ago; they are alive and well today because of the judge’s efforts. Judge Potts was also instrumental in funding a scholarship for drug court graduates who wanted to complete their formal education.

Judge Potts has been active in many professional, public service, and community activities. Notably, she served on Gov. Engler’s Task Force on Domestic Violence in 1994. The work of that commission resulted in statutes creating the personal protection order—language that has now become part of our law.

Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award

Ingham County Bar Association
David Lick, Immediate Past President



The Ingham County Bar Association (ICBA) has made its community a priority by stressing programs that aid access to justice and mentoring young lawyers and students.

For nearly 20 years, ICBA has held an annual Bench-Bar Conference to strengthen Ingham County’s justice system.

“This conference enables participating lawyers to gain judges’ perspectives on what makes a successful lawyer in the courtroom and it allows lawyers to provide judges with feedback regarding accessibility, scheduling, and courtroom procedures,” wrote Nancy Wonch in ICBA’s nomination. “Educating our lawyers to facilitate our clients’ equal access to justice is the best way to assure it.”

ICBA also reaches out daily to the public by staffing an office in the Grady Porter Building in Lansing with volunteers to answer questions about the legal system. It partners with the Ingham County Bar Foundation to expand the availability of legal services, promote legal education of the public, and support at least 17 local charities. Specifically, their contributions have helped Legal Services of South Central Michigan provide free counseling

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services to the poor and St. Vincent Catholic Charities send representatives to an immigration conference to aid local refugees.

ICBA has also made mentoring of young students, law students, and young lawyers a priority. In 1994, ICBA established a program to bring lawyers into schools to teach elementary students conflict management skills. This program evolved into Teen Court, which gives young people with first-time misdemeanor offenses an alternative to criminal court proceedings.

John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award

Eric I. Frankie
Principal, Law Office of
Eric I. Frankie PLC;
Of Counsel, Rasor Law Firm



The numbers are truly impressive: 150 cases; 131 hours in 2009; more than 300 hours since 2003.

That's the amount of voluntary pro bono work Eric I. Frankie has taken on from Legal Services of South Central Michigan since 2003. And while the numbers are impressive, they are only the surface of Frankie's contributions.

"The majority of his disability cases are closed with the 'fully favorable decision' outcome," wrote Elizabeth Wharton, LSSCM supervising attorney and pro bono coordinator, in a letter supporting his nomination. "Staff frequently receive unsolicited client testimonials to Eric—almost always remarking on how pleasant he is to work with and how pleased they are with the outcome of their case."

That's no small feat considering 145 of his cases have been social security disability cases, which typically go to complex administrative hearings since the decision is based on medical evidence and testimony of vocational experts. The other five cases have been difficult, contested, post-domestic-violence family law cases, almost all of them high-conflict litigation cases.

In addition to all the time he devotes to pro bono work, Frankie also makes top-tier financial contributions to LSSCM and holds regular office hours at its Ann Arbor location. It's no wonder nobody there has anything bad to say about him.

"Our one criticism of Eric is that he underreports his hours," Wharton wrote. "He goes 'above and beyond' in the fullest sense of those words.... It is also important to note that Eric's pro bono service and donations are all his own personal contributions."

Frankie, a solo practitioner, doesn't have partners to support his efforts. He focuses on labor law, social security disability, and worker's compensation litigation, and he is of counsel to the Rasor Law Firm in Royal Oak.

The Liberty Bell Award

Audrey Nesbitt Gray

Audrey Nesbitt Gray believes in filling needs.

"The importance of sharing my time and talents in community commitment was instilled in me at an early age," Gray said. "I was raised to give back if you are able."



For many years, Gray has been more than able.

Since 1967 she has been the driving force behind a booklet called "You and the Law." Created jointly by the State Bar and the Michigan Lawyer's Auxiliary (MLA) and currently in its eighth edition, this 32-page manual is distributed to ninth-grade classrooms across Michigan to help teenagers understand how the legal system directly relates to them. It touches on such topics as driver's licenses, voting, bullying, technology, and drugs and alcohol.

It's not the only way Gray has helped teens. When she heard about a reading program in a juvenile detention center in California, Gray and her late husband, attorney Llewellyn Gray, traveled there to investigate it. She then introduced "The Late Show" in the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home in 1993. In this program, adults read to children in the home two evenings a week. Because of its success, a library named for her was established in the home in 1995, and, with Gray acting as an advisor, the program expanded to South Haven, Kent County, Midland, and Saginaw.

During Gray's 25-year career as a teacher, she also went beyond her duties in the classroom, serving on Gov. Blanchard's Advisory Board on Drug-Free Schools and as the only nonlawyer on SBM's Task Force on Substance Abuse, and spearheading an anti-drug rally at the Silverdome. She has spent decades on the MLA board, serving as its president and chair for juvenile services. She was also president of the American Lawyers Association from 1993 to 1994 and received its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 for her work with children. ■

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Representative Assembly Award Winners

The Representative Assembly's Michael Franck and Unsung Hero awards will be presented on Thursday, September 30, during the RA's general meeting.

Michael Franck Award

Sheldon J. Stark
Director of Specialty Programs,
Institute of Continuing Legal Education



Sheldon J. Stark has always inspired his peers.

Since 1999, Stark has done so as education director and director of specialty programs for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE). In these roles, he founded ICLE's annual Solo and Small Firm Institute as well as many seminars for family law, health law, labor and employment law, probate and estate planning, advanced negotiation, business and litigation for new lawyers, and mediation training.

"Shel has reached and inspired literally thousands of Michigan lawyers with his educational and mentoring activities," wrote ICLE's lawyers in a letter of support. "From day one, he had a vision for more in-depth, engaging continuing education and worked tirelessly to make his vision a reality."

Before joining ICLE, Stark practiced employment law for 26 years. He became one of the foremost experts on employment discrimination, wrongful discharge, civil rights, and personal injury law in Michigan and helped shape state law itself.

"His knowledge and leadership in the area of employment and labor law is legendary," wrote Judge David Lawson in a letter of support. "Shel Stark has improved the practice of law in this state by developing the jurisprudence in a major practice area, demonstrating that effective representation of clients can be consistent with ethical and civil conduct, and teaching these lessons by word and deed to others in the profession."

Stark has also chaired the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions: Intentional Tort and Employment Sub-Committee and appeared in front of the high court on most major employment law cases. He chaired the State Bar Labor and Employment Section, the Fund for Equal Justice, and an Attorney Discipline Board panel, and served as a hearing referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

John F. Van Bolt
Executive Director and General
Counsel, Attorney Discipline Board



John Van Bolt has fought tirelessly to improve the system of justice in Michigan and the United States.

Since 1980, he has served in Michigan's attorney discipline system, first as an associate counsel for the Attorney Grievance Commission and since 1986 as executive director and general counsel of the Attorney Discipline Board.

"He has performed in this role with exceptional competence and devotion," wrote William Danhof in his nomination. "Whether he was investigating and prosecuting misconduct, advising hearing panels and the ADB, or serving on numerous SBM committees, workgroups, task forces... John's service has always reflected... an unerring sense of fairness, a thoughtful approach to the questions at hand, and the type of vision one can only hope to see in a person charged with administering a disciplinary body."

Van Bolt is also involved in the administration of legal ethics and lawyer discipline at the national level.

He is a very active member of the National Organization of Bar Counsel, the American Bar Association's Center for Professional Responsibility, and the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers. He also helped found and was one of the first presidents of the National Council of Lawyer Disciplinary Boards and continues to serve on its board.

"John's enthusiasm for the [NCLDB], his experience in comparable organizations for disciplinary prosecutors and respondents' counsel, and his national network of attorney discipline professionals helped make the NCLDB a reality," wrote Christine McKeeman, executive director and general counsel of the Board of Disciplinary Appeals in Texas. "John continues to devote many hours every year to leading the organization."

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Unsung Hero Award

Kevin J. Moody
(posthumously)
Principal, Miller Canfield Paddock
and Stone, PLC



Kevin J. Moody always gave everything he had.

Although his work as a principal at Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone, PLC focused on Native American law, insurance, and health care, from the time he joined the firm in 1985 until his untimely death from pancreatic cancer in 2009, Moody fought tirelessly to make pro bono matters an integral part of the firm's responsibility to the community. He served as pro bono chair for 20 years.

"In that capacity, he nagged, cajoled, and begged the firm, its members, and attorneys to fulfill their obligations to those in our society unable to pay for legal services," wrote the managing partners of the firm in a letter supporting Moody's nomination. "Kevin

never sought reward or recognition for his activities... he encouraged us to do what was right."

Under Moody's direction, the firm adopted "The Miller Canfield Commitment," requiring every member of the firm to meet SBM pro bono guidelines. Because of Moody, Miller Canfield has billed more than 80,000 pro bono hours and donated more than \$750,000 to legal services organizations.

He also gave back outside of his profession by serving for 11 years on the board of directors at Gateway Community Services, which provides counseling, housing, and independent living training to homeless and troubled youth in the Lansing area. His contributions were so numerous, Gateway's youth shelter was renamed the Kevin J. Moody Youth Home in his honor.

Moody was also very devoted to his family. In the last spring of his life, while juggling a challenging career and cancer treatments, he made a point of attending every one of his son's Michigan State University baseball games. ■

John W. Cummiskey Posthumously Receives Foundation's Highest Honor

By Linda Rexer

The Michigan State Bar Foundation has honored **John W. Cummiskey** posthumously with the 2010 Founders Award. Judge Al Butzbaugh, a former State Bar president and current vice president of the foundation said, "Though John passed away in 2002, the foundation could not have this high award without John receiving it." Foundation President Margaret Nichols said, "John's leadership for the foundation and his contributions to access to justice were extraordinary. Today, we still ask 'What would John do?'"



Mr. Cummiskey was a foundation trustee and long-time chair of its Legal Services Grants Committee. A former chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense, Mr. Cummiskey was a strong voice in national, state, and local efforts to provide civil legal aid for the poor. In 1948, he helped set up legal aid organizations across Michigan. In 1965, he worked with future United States Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell and Sargent Shriver to secure federal funding for civil legal aid, which continues to this day.

The State Bar created the John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award in his honor in 1982; it's given annually to a Michigan lawyer for exemplary pro bono service. Mr. Cummiskey was a founding member of the State Bar Access to Justice Task Force in 1996. In 1997, in conjunction with the foundation and legal aid programs, he began the Access to Justice Campaign, which raises funds state-

wide for legal aid. He helped develop the state's first legal self-help center, the Legal Assistance Center in Grand Rapids, which was dedicated in his honor in 2002. He was a member of the Kent County Aeronautics Board and trustee of Aquinas College, among many other community roles.

Mr. Cummiskey graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in 1938 and a JD with distinction in 1941. He served in the U.S. army from 1941 to 1945, achieving the rank of major. He was the youngest-ever president of the State Bar of Michigan from 1956 to 1957 and received the State Bar's highest honor, the Roberts P. Hudson Award, in 1991. He served on the American Bar Association Board of Governors and was a Fellow of both the American Bar Foundation and the Michigan State Bar Foundation. He was a founding member of the Grand Rapids law firm of Miller, Johnson, Snell and Cummiskey (now Miller Johnson) and was known widely as a skilled employment law and labor relations lawyer. His Miller Johnson colleague, Jon Muth, has said, "Even in his later years, John was still a visionary. He never looked back... he was brimming with ideas and plans for their realization." He spent his 80th birthday at a State Bar Access to Justice Task Force meeting exhorting his colleagues to work until they were 80 to make justice available to everyone, offering his now much-cited quote, "Access to Justice is a dream. We must make it a reality."

"We continue to accept that challenge from John in honoring his legacy with this Founders Award," said Foundation Executive Director Linda Rexer. ■

Respected Advocate Awards

Mark R. Granzotto of Royal Oak and Paul J. Manion of Detroit are the 2010 Respected Advocate Award recipients. They will be honored at the Bar's Awards Banquet on Wednesday, September 29.

The Respected Advocate Awards are presented each year by the Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ) and the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (MDTC) to an attorney from the other side of the courtroom who has a "history of success in civil litigation matters, unfailing adherence to the highest standards of ethics and candor in dealing with the court and with counsel, and the respect and admiration of counsel on the opposing side of the bar." Both candidates are nominated "in recognition of their superb skills as courtroom adversaries, whose civility and decorum distinguishes them as outstanding advocates on behalf of their clients."

The MDTC's choice, **Mark Granzotto**, practices civil appellate law. He is a member of the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and also belongs to the Appellate Practice and Negligence Law sections of the State Bar of Michigan. He is a frequent speaker on civil appellate issues, particularly those related to personal injury. Mr. Granzotto is a former adjunct law professor at Wayne State University and a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.



The MAJ's pick, **Paul Manion**, is a trial attorney who focuses on medical-dental malpractice, product liability, property, and general civil liability. He is a panelist for the Attorney Discipline Board, council member of the SBM Negligence Law Section, defense evaluator for the Wayne County Case Evaluation Tribunal, and Fellow of the State Bar of Michigan. Mr. Manion is a frequent lecturer in the area of risk management. He is a founding member of the Incorporated Society of Irish-American Lawyers and a member of the American Constitution Society. ■

