

# UpFront

By Naseem Stecker and Samantha Meinke

## Just The Beginning Foundation's Summer Legal Institute Comes to Michigan

Photos by John Meiu, courtesy of Detroit Legal News Publishing LLC



Summer Legal Institute speakers: Judges Julian Abele Cook Jr., Marianne O. Battani, Victoria A. Roberts, Denise Page Hood, and Sean F. Cox with students from 16 metropolitan Detroit schools.

Twenty-four students from 16 metropolitan Detroit high schools spent July 11–15 learning about the law and the legal profession at the first Summer Legal Institute presented in Michigan by Just The Beginning Foundation (JTBF). At Detroit's Levin Courthouse, students received an introduction to the rule of law, the federal courts, the life of a lawyer, financial literacy and college admissions, and oral arguments in a high-school search case.

JTBF is a Chicago-based nonprofit that has worked to increase diversity in the legal profession for 20 years by inspiring young men and women from minority groups underrepresented in the profession to consider law as a career. JTBF will conduct the week-long program in cities across the country this summer. The program was brought to Michigan by the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Oakland University, and Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Funding was provided by the SBM Young Lawyers Section, Wal-Mart, Oakland University, D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and Cooley Law School. Dickinson Wright, Miller Canfield,

and Oakland University also hosted various events for the students.

The program was made possible through the efforts of Hon. Victoria Roberts, a former SBM president, and John Nussbaumer, dean of Cooley's Auburn Hills campus, who serve as co-chairs of the State Bar Presidential Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group. ■



Dickinson Wright hosted a networking reception for Summer Legal Institute students, giving them the opportunity to meet and interact with lawyers and judges recruited by SBM President W. Anthony Jenkins, who hosted the reception. Pictured, left to right: Cooley Auburn Hills Campus Dean John Nussbaumer, President Jenkins, Hon. Victoria Roberts, SBM Director of Diversity Gregory Conyers, and JTBF Executive Director Paula Lucas.

## U-M Law-Supported Center for Family Advocacy Celebrates Second Year in Service

Since it opened two years ago, the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy (CFA) has helped every one of the more than 225 children in its program stay with their families and out of the foster care system. The CFA, currently operating as a three-year pilot program, provides legal representation and social work services to low-income families in Wayne County, which handles a third of the state's foster care cases and half of the state's permanent wards. It is funded by grants from private foundations and individuals, including Wayne County Family Services, and is affiliated with the University of Michigan Law School's Child Advocacy Law Clinic. ■

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