

# UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

## Newest Justice Joins Michigan Supreme Court



Photo courtesy of Rich Kotarba at Ultimate Images

*Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr. swears in Justice Bridget Mary McCormack.*

Bridget Mary McCormack became Michigan's newest Supreme Court justice on January 23 at the Michigan Hall of Justice. Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr. administered her judicial oath. Speakers at the ceremony included University of Michigan Law School Dean Evan Caminker; Justice Michael F. Cavanagh; Justice Mary Beth Kelly; McCormack's brother, William McCormack Jr.; and her husband, Steven Croley.

The speakers praised McCormack for being "endlessly bright," "unceasingly fair-minded,"

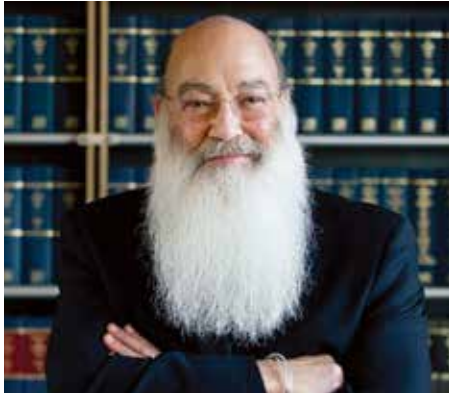
and "an Energizer Bunny with an extra battery pack."

Before her election to the Michigan Supreme Court, McCormack worked with New York City's Legal Aid Society and New York's Office of the Appellate Defender. She also worked as a faculty fellow at Yale Law School before joining the University of Michigan Law School faculty, where she served as associate dean for clinical affairs and founded the Michigan Innocence Clinic.

"I believe in the power of law and in the legal system that distinguishes our country from so many other places," McCormack said. "Of course, anyone familiar with the legal system knows that perfect justice is not achieved in every case. But what is distinct about our system is that where attorneys do their jobs and judges do theirs... justice might be achieved." ■

## Joseph A. Golden Wins Distinguished Service Award

Courtesy photo



Joseph A. Golden, recipient of the SBM Labor and Employment Law Section's 2013 Distinguished Service Award.

The State Bar of Michigan Labor and Employment Law Section presented its 2013 Distinguished Service Award to Joseph A. Golden, an attorney with Pitt McGehee Palmer Rivers & Golden in Royal Oak. Golden received the award for advancing the development of the practice of labor and employment law, reflecting the highest ethical principles, having a long-established commitment to excellence, and being recognized and respected by all constituencies in the section.

"For more than 40 years as a labor and employment lawyer, he has been a true legal trailblazer," said Section Chair Timothy Howlett. "Most importantly, Joe has done everything in his power to ensure that his clients are treated with justice and fairness. At the same time, he has been uniformly respected by his opponents." ■

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Samantha Meinke, State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933-2012  
e-mail: [smeinke@mail.michbar.org](mailto:smeinke@mail.michbar.org)  
phone: (517) 346-6332

## MLK Forum at Michigan Law School



Photo by lizzie Kassab

Karthy Govender, a visiting professor at the University of Michigan Law School.

University of Michigan Law School Visiting Professor Karthy Govender spoke on Martin Luther King Jr. Day about how Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi made an impact on Nelson Mandela and helped South Africa develop its Constitution. His speech focused on King's ideas about creating a more caring society based on equality, enabling people to realize their potential and worth, and to become more productive.

Professor Govender is a full-time faculty member at South Africa's University of KwaZulu-Natal and has served as a commissioner on the South African Human Rights Commission and as an acting judge on the High Court of South Africa. He has been a supportive partner of the University of Michigan Law School's South Africa Externship Program, which has enabled more than 100 U of M law students to work to increase human rights in South Africa since 1996. ■

## MLK Presentation at Cooley Law School



Courtesy photo

Cooley students met with speaker and author Joyce A. Baugh, a professor of political science at Central Michigan University. From left: Stephanie Menezile, Salina Choice, Adner Marcelin, Dr. Baugh, Yasmeen Qadimasil, Nemer Baki, Chelsea Abend, and Kate Mortensen.

Thomas M. Cooley Law School marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a presentation by Central Michigan University Professor Joyce Baugh on "The Color Line in Metropolitan Detroit: Segregated Housing and Segregated Schools." Baugh wrote "The Detroit School Busing Case, *Milliken v Bradley* and the Controversy over De-

segregation," an in-depth look at the case that became the State Bar's 36th Michigan Legal Milestone.

Cooley students, faculty, and staff also spent the day performing community service at organizations in Lansing. ■