

UpFront

By Samantha Meinke

SBM Hosts the “Future of Legal Services” Forum in Lansing

More than 50 prominent members of Michigan’s legal community, including the chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, the president of the State Bar of Michigan, and the president of the American Bar Association, convened in Lansing on November 10 to discuss the future of legal services in Michigan. Other attendees included the directors of Michigan’s attorney discipline agencies, the Michigan State Bar Foundation, and the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, as well as law school deans and past presidents of the ABA and the State Bar.

The “Future of Legal Services: Changes and Challenges in the Delivery of Legal Services” forum opened a new chapter in the work started by the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Crossroads Task Force. The task force’s 2011 report contributed to a number of transformational and cost-saving changes now underway in Michigan’s court system. ■



SBM photos

American Bar Association President William Hubbard spoke at the forum on “Our Justice System at an Inflection Point.” Under Hubbard’s leadership, the ABA formed a Commission on the Future of Legal Services to address how the legal profession can develop a new model to meet the needs of the underserved while enhancing the opportunities for lawyers to thrive in their practices. The commission’s reporter is Prof. Renee Knake, co-director of Michigan State University College of Law’s Kelley Institute of Ethics & the Legal Profession.



Participants in the “Future of Legal Services: Changes and Challenges in the Delivery of Legal Services” forum

Retired Justice John Paul Stevens Honors President Gerald Ford

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum in Grand Rapids commemorated the 40th anniversary of President Ford's pardon of President Richard Nixon by hosting an October 20 symposium honoring Ford's constitutional legacy.

The symposium, co-hosted by the National Constitution Center and the Economic Club

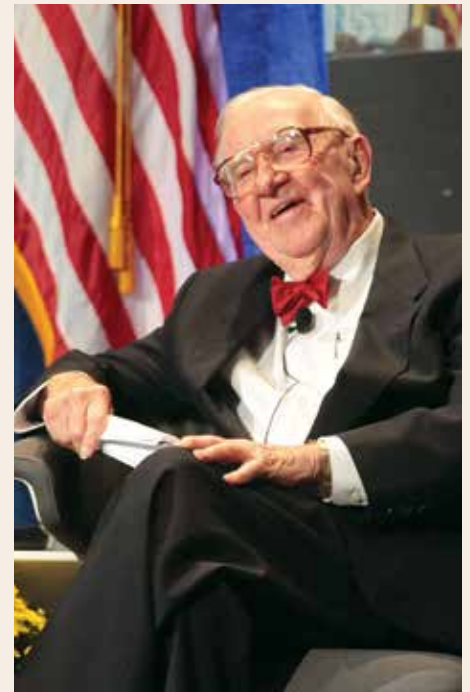
of Grand Rapids, presented two panel discussions featuring retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens; National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeff Rosen; former United States Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill; Benton Becker, who served as special counsel to President Ford; and President Ford's son, Steve.

The first panel discussion focused on "President Ford and the Rule of Law." The second discussion addressed "President Ford and the Pardon of Richard Nixon." ■

Photos by Jim Hill for the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Pictured from left to right: Ken Gormley, constitutional expert and dean of Duquesne University School of Law; Hon. John Paul Stevens; Jeff Rosen, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center; and Paul O'Neill, former secretary of the treasury and deputy director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget during Ford's administration.



Retired United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens



community service

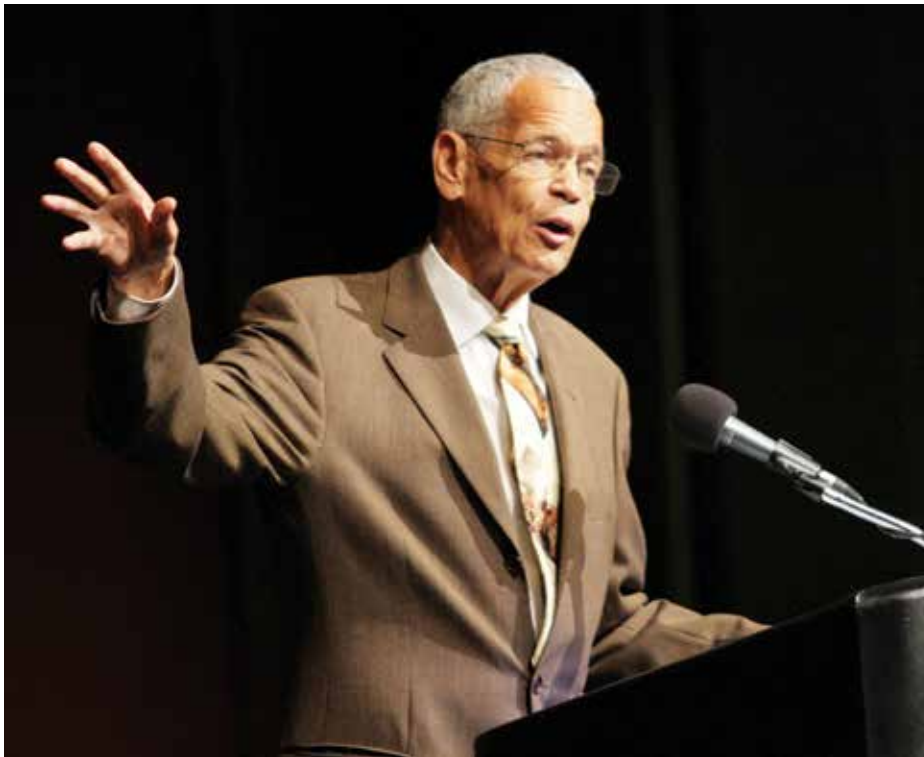
access to justice

pro bono



Julian Bond Presents Damon J. Keith Biennial Lecture in Detroit

Activist Julian Bond presented Wayne State University Law School's sixth Damon J. Keith Biennial Lecture on October 23 at the school's Community Arts Auditorium in Detroit. Bond's presentation, "Under Color of Law," addressed the role the law has played in encouraging and thwarting the civil rights movement. Bond helped establish the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and served as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. He was chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1998 to 2010. ■



Photos courtesy of Wayne State University Law School



Activist Julian Bond

Pictured from left to right: Wayne State University Law School Dean Jocelyn Benson; Julian Bond; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit Judge Damon J. Keith; and Professor Peter J. Hammer, director of the Keith Center.

Judge Matthew Sabaugh Honored by Macomb Homeless Coalition

The Macomb Homeless Coalition honored 37th District Court Judge Matthew Sabaugh November 20 in Sterling Heights. Judge Sabaugh initiated the Eviction Diversion Program, a voluntary program designed to help landlords and tenants resolve back-rent situations without credit-damaging court judgments in an effort to prevent homelessness.

Started in February 2014, the program is a collaboration of the 37th District Court, Michigan Department of Human Services, Macomb County Community Services Agency, Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Macomb Homeless Coalition, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, and many other Macomb County charitable groups. ■



Courtesy photo

37th District Court Judge Matthew Sabaugh