

All's well that ends well

To the Editor:

Carrie Sharlow's Michigan Lawyers in History article about Elmer H. Groefsema in the February 2019 issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* recalled the significant role his family played in my life. I intended to go to Olivet College in 1948. That year, in response to the McCarthy hysteria, the president of the school discharged a beloved teacher who was kind of a harmless Christian socialist. I was part of a group that led a student strike to get him reinstated.

The Detroit Lawyers Guild formed a subcommittee to look into the strike. The subcommittee—consisting of Walter Nelson, a great trial lawyer; Elmer H. Groefsema; and Alfred McClung Lee, a Wayne State University sociologist—supported the strike.

Fast forward to approximately 1954 when I applied for admission to the Bar. I had been a member of an anticommunist socialist organization that had been improperly listed by U.S. Attorney General Herbert

Brownell Jr. as a subversive organization. The Character and Fitness Committee required this information on its application. Cornelia Kennedy, daughter of Elmer Groefsema, was a member of the committee.

Judge Kennedy gave her vote to a member to vote proxy, as she did not attend my appearance. The committee voted 3–2, including her proxy vote, to deny me admission on account of my politics. I secured the pro bono services of William T. Gossett, and after almost two years of struggle, was admitted to the Bar.

Sometime later I appeared at the Sixth Circuit, and Judge Kennedy was presiding. She made a special point of welcoming me to the court. I like to think that as a result of my experience, others with dissident

viewpoints were permitted into the practice of law.

All's well that ends well.

Bruce A. Miller, Detroit

An opposing view

To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Carrie Sharlow's Michigan Lawyers in History article about Walter Morrow Nelson in the March 2019 *Michigan Bar Journal*.

Over the years, I have read a lot of information about the House of David and the many legal cases (some true and accurate), but the focus was always on the House of David. It was interesting to see a well-researched article highlighting the opposition!

Mary Ellen Drolet, Niles



Notice to Members

VACANCIES

The State Bar Board of Commissioners is seeking names of persons interested in filling the following agency vacancies:

Institute of Continuing Legal Education Executive Committee—One vacancy for a four-year term beginning October 1, 2019. The role of committee members is to assist with the development and approval of institute education policies; formulate and promulgate necessary rules and regulations for the administration and coordination of the institute's work; review and approve the institute's annual budget and the activities contemplated in support of the budget; and generally promote the activities of the institute. The board meets three times a year, usually in February, June, and October.

Michigan Indian Legal Services Board of Trustees—Two vacancies for three-year terms beginning October 1, 2019. The MILS bylaws require that a majority of the board be American Indians. The board sets policy for a legal staff that provides specialized Indian law services to Indian communities statewide. The board hires an executive director. The board is responsible for operating the corporation in compliance with applicable law and grant requirements. Board members should have an understanding and appreciation for the unique legal problems faced by American Indians. Board members are responsible for setting priorities for the allocation of the scarce resources of the program. The board is accountable to its funding sources. The board meets on Saturdays, on a minimum quarterly basis, in Traverse City.

Deadline for responses is July 5, 2019

Applications received after the deadline indicated will not be considered. Those applying for an agency appointment should submit a résumé and a letter outlining the applicant's background and nature of interest in the position.

Interested persons should write:

**Nominating Committee, c/o Marge Bossenbery, State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933-2012
mbossenbery@mail.michbar.org**

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