

# UpFront

By Mike Eidelbes

## Subject of Landmark Supreme Court Case Visits Michigan

Mary Beth Tinker, the central figure in a historic United States Supreme Court ruling that solidified public-school students' right to free speech 50 years ago, visited Lansing in April and May as a part of a tour of five Michigan cities centered around Law Day.

Tinker was one of a group of Des Moines, Iowa, students in 1965 who, despite the

principal's threat of suspension, wore black armbands to school as a silent protest of the Vietnam War. Following through on his promise, the principal suspended the students.

The students' parents sued the school, claiming the suspension was a violation of the right to free speech. The case advanced all the way to the Supreme Court, which in 1969

ruled that neither students nor teachers "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Tinker spoke to groups in Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo. Her tour was presented by the Michigan Center for Civic Education. ■

## New WMU–Cooley Law School President Assumes Duties

On July 1, James McGrath officially took over as the third president and sixth dean in Western Michigan University Cooley Law School history. The former Texas A&M law professor and associate dean for academic support and bar services replaced Don LeDuc, who retired in 2018 after 16 years as the law school's president and dean.

McGrath, whose hiring was announced by WMU–Cooley in April, had been at Texas A&M since 2005, when he started as a visiting associate professor of law. He was

promoted to professor of law in 2013 and was named associate dean in 2015.

A 2011 Fulbright Scholar who spent the year as a teaching fellow at Beijing University of Chemical Technology, McGrath earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from San Jose State University and his law degree from Howard University School of Law. He also received master's degrees from Harvard School of Public Health and Temple University. ■



Courtesy photo

### INTERESTED IN BEING UpFront?

The news, people, and events featured on this page attract notice. If you'd like to share an interesting event or law-related news, send us a few lines (not to exceed 150 words) and include a photograph or high-quality digital image. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, and the right to decline to publish. Please send your submission to:

Mike Eidelbes, State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933-2012  
email: meidelbes@michbar.org • phone: (517) 367-6429

# WMU–Cooley Law School Announces Kimble Center for Legal Drafting

WMU–Cooley announced that the newly created Kimble Center for Legal Drafting will host its first public seminar on October 11, sponsored by the State Bar of Michigan Business Law Section. Three legal-drafting experts will present the four-hour program, which will be useful to all attorneys who draft legal documents.

The center is named for Professor Emeritus Joseph Kimble, longtime editor of the *Michigan Bar Journal's* "Plain Language" column and a world-renowned expert on plain language and legal drafting.

The law school is in the process of forming a Kimble Center Board of Advisers fluent in plain language, information design, and user testing. That group will work with WMU–Cooley clinics and bar associations to identify and draft commonly used legal documents in need of a plain-language makeover.

The October 11 program is the first in what WMU–Cooley says is the plan for the Kimble Center to offer occasional drafting seminars for lawyers. To register, Google "Kimble Center for Legal Drafting." ■



Courtesy photo

# Bentley High School Junior Named Judge Marable Student of the Year

Meghan Danks, a junior at Bentley High School in Burton, was selected as Judge Herman Marable Jr. Student of the Year.

The award, which has been presented by Marable and his Citizens Advisory Commit-

tee to a Genesee County high-school student annually since 2004, comes with a \$500 prize and a trophy. Meghan's name will also be added to a winners' plaque on permanent display at McCree Courts and Human Services Building in downtown Flint.

Meghan, a varsity softball player at Bentley High and an avid photographer, intends to pursue a career as a medical examiner or mortician. ■

how you can

# help

[alawyerhelps.org](http://alawyerhelps.org)

**community service**

**access to justice**

**pro bono**

