

# A Time to Honor Our Best

## STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

### 2019 AWARD WINNERS

By Mike Eidelbes

**T**he State Bar of Michigan honored exemplary representatives of the legal profession during the 2019 Inaugural & Awards Luncheon, held on September 26 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. Outgoing SBM President Jennifer M. Grieco and incoming President Dennis M. Barnes presented the following awards during the luncheon.

#### Roberts P. Hudson Award

After a rough day in court, **Lawrence P. Nolan** headed back to his Eaton Rapids office to check messages and return phone calls.

On his desk were two letters. One was from *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, congratulating him on being one of the first 20 inductees into the publication's Hall of Fame. The second was from the State Bar of Michigan, informing him that he would receive the organization's highest honor, the Roberts P. Hudson Award.

"It's not an award a small-town lawyer wins," said Nolan, who has practiced out of the same building on Eaton Rapids' Main Street since 1976. "[I was] fortuitous going back to the office after a day in court. It was a dream of a lifetime."

Growing up in the Detroit area in the 1960s, Nolan's dreams centered on becoming either an attorney or a professional hockey player. Influenced by race riots in Detroit and civil rights demonstrations in Alabama, the law won out. Still, Nolan brought to the profession a kernel of sage advice given to him by former Red Wings player Dennis Polonich: lead, follow, or get out of the way.

Nolan chose leading over following. A member of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School's inaugural class in 1973, he joined the institution's board of directors in 1983 and has been its chairman since 2012, helping Cooley grow into one of the largest and most diverse law schools in the nation. Earlier this year, Nolan and a group of Michigan delegates lobbied the American Bar Association to scrap a plan that would have severely damaged law schools like Cooley that focus on diversity and inclusion.



He started on the SBM Young Lawyers Section Council in 1980 and became chair in 1983. Over the past four decades, he has been a member of more than 20 SBM committees that have addressed issues ranging from diversity and inclusion in the profession to delivery of legal services.

On one notable occasion, Nolan led by getting out of the way. On the path toward becoming SBM president, he noticed he was in line to extend a string of white male leaders. With diversity in mind, he delayed his presidency to allow a female candidate to lead the Bar.

In a letter of support, Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School Associate Dean and General Counsel James Robb effectively summed up Nolan's impact, writing, "He has tirelessly advocated for fairness, openness, and inclusion in our profession and our society."

#### Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award

Think of **Hon. Michael J. Talbot** as a sort of judicial handyman.

During his 40-year career on the bench at the local and state levels, Talbot has displayed a knack for finding problems in the justice system and then fixing them.

"Judge Talbot is a dedicated, sincere, humble, and hardworking servant of the people," wrote Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra. "He leads by example and makes his peers strive to be exemplary and efficient public servants."



For example, as a Detroit Recorder's Court judge, Talbot noticed that victims of felonies were largely left out of the criminal justice process. He lobbied state lawmakers endlessly to come up with a solution until 1985, when the legislature enacted a law guaranteeing victims the right to receive progress reports from prosecutors regarding the crimes committed against them, the opportunity to provide input on plea bargaining, and the right to make impact statements at sentencing.

As a Michigan Court of Appeals judge, Talbot's dissent in a significant Fourth Amendment case regarding unreasonable search and seizure ended up providing the foundation for the United States Supreme Court to reverse the lower court ruling in 2009. By a 7–2 vote, the justices decided that police had the right to enter a home without a warrant after seeing blood on the hood of a truck and broken windows inside the house.

When the Michigan Supreme Court needed a special administrator to sort out a plethora of problems plaguing Detroit's 36th District Court, it looked to Talbot. Not only did Talbot fix the troubled court's finances, but he made the operation more user friendly by streamlining processes and reducing the time it took to resolve cases.

In November 2013, the state legislature passed a law that dramatically overhauled the Michigan Court of Claims. Talbot was tapped to serve as its chief judge and, as part of the reboot, was charged with establishing the court's administrative procedures. Up until his retirement in 2018, he was the only judge to serve continuously on the Court of Claims since its reorganization.

As a footnote, Talbot's former Court of Appeals colleague, Hon. Christopher M. Murray, noted that Talbot is the only judge in Michigan history to be appointed five different times.

## Champion of Justice Award

**Julie A. Gafkay** couldn't have predicted that her efforts on behalf of an African-American nurse at a Flint hospital would inspire Jodi Picoult to write *Small Great Things*. *The Washington Post* called it "the most important novel of the author's career." And there is talk of a film adaptation starring Oscar winners Viola Davis and Julia Roberts.



Those are pleasant residuals from Tonya Battle's suit against Hurley Medical Center, which was settled out of court in 2013. The primary impact is a fundamental change in the way healthcare providers deal with a growing trend in the industry: patients who demand medical services from white caregivers only.

"I think [hospitals] can have a policy and the policy can be what the law is," Gafkay told Bloomberg Law last year. "A patient can't request services based on race."

Gafkay filed a suit in 2013 on behalf of Battle, a neonatal intensive care nurse, after a Hurley employee placed a note in a

newborn's file saying African-American personnel were not allowed to touch the infant—a request made to a supervisor by the baby's swastika-tattooed father. Since then, Gafkay has become a nationally recognized voice in the battle against race and sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and retaliation against employees who report discriminatory practices in the workplace. She has taken on similar cases in Michigan and across the country.

While she has gained notoriety for facing off with healthcare providers and other entities on matters of discrimination, Gafkay has also been a leader in legal organizations at the local and state levels. She is a past president of the Saginaw County Bar Association and the Great Lakes Bay Region chapter of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, and in 2017–2018 was WLAM president as the organization moved into its second century of existence.

Her impact is best summed up by the words of former clients.

"Despite the fact that Julie was representing me from across the country, I could always trust that [she] had done the work," one wrote. "She validated my experience. The end result is that I felt empowered and vindicated."

"You are the reason I believe in humanity, in justice, in the good of all things," wrote another. "People do not address their lawyers this way, but you are not just my lawyer."

What kept **Robert F. Gillett** in his job as director of the Michigan Advocacy Program (MAP)—formerly known as Legal Services of South Central Michigan—for 35 years?

"I loved the work," said Gillett, who retired from his post in 2018 but remains involved in the organization as a consultant. "I loved the variety of work, and it was an opportunity to work with clients you find inspiring."

Gillett, meanwhile, has been an inspiration to many through leadership skills that enabled MAP to adapt to the changing needs of its low-income and vulnerable clients and his unmatched knowledge of legal services and poverty law. Under his guidance, MAP grew from a four-county legal aid agency into an organization that currently serves 13 counties and administers a half-dozen statewide programs. Among them are the Michigan Poverty Law Program, which provides case support and training to the state's legal-services attorneys and advocates; the Michigan Legal Help Program, which offers self-help litigants tools to manage their legal matters; and the Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Project. MAP also rolled out its Immigrant Rights Center, Farmworker Legal Services, and Elder Justice Initiative during Gillett's tenure.

"Laws are written to favor the rich and disenfranchise and victimize the poor," Gillett said. "The idea of equal justice under the law is not reality."

Gillett's impact hasn't been confined solely to MAP. He has been a member of many important SBM efforts addressing the quality and delivery of legal services to low-income clients. Among the dozen or so SBM committees he has worked with are the 21st



Century Practice Task Force, the Judicial Crossroads Committee, and the Committee on Justice Initiatives. He's also a longtime member and co-chair (since 2010) of the Michigan State Planning Body, a forum for coordinating the state's efforts to deliver civil and criminal legal services to the poor.

"Bob understands that equal justice under the law is a right and not a privilege," wrote U.S. District Court Judge Judith Levy, Gillett's co-chair on the Michigan State Planning Body. "He has kept the conversation alive to promote a civil right to counsel. I can think of no one who is as steadfast in the pursuit of justice as Bob Gillett."

**Marla R. McCowan** has a big job.

As the director of training, outreach, and support for the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC), McCowan is charged with unifying the 134 governmental units that fund Michigan courts—each one as diverse and unique as the state itself—as part of the effort to overhaul the state's indigent defense framework to better serve those who use it.

If that's not enough, imagine many of these units initially being openly hostile to the MIDC's mission. In fact, two of the state's largest counties filed lawsuits in an attempt to derail the effort.

"The biggest hurdle was getting them to see there's a problem and eliminating skepticism," McCowan said. "Sometimes, success is measured by getting a phone call returned."

McCowan brings a unique perspective to her job. After nearly 17 years with the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) as an assistant defender and manager of its Criminal Defense Resource Center, she's intimately familiar with the barriers facing indigent defendants. Two cases she handled—*People v Hendrick* in 2005 and *People v Osantowski* in 2008—rose all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court and set precedents regarding applying sentencing guidelines to probation violations and the definition of terrorism, respectively.

"Between my 'boots on the ground' experience with SADO and policy experience with the MIDC, I can back up data with anecdotal evidence," said McCowan, who admitted that the toughest transition in moving from SADO to the MIDC was not being able to see the individual injustices that come with being an appellate defender.

To date, the MIDC has adopted four minimum standards for indigent defense; four additional standards have been proposed. In addition to researching and drafting the standards, McCowan, along with six regional managers and six Lansing-based staff members, works with the aforementioned funding units to help them draw up plans for complying with the standards.

In a letter supporting McCowan's nomination, Jonathan Sacks, director of SADO, wrote, "Hundreds of individual indigent criminal clients, a generation of criminal defense attorneys, and Michigan's entire system of indigent defense benefit greatly from the sheer contributions and commitment of Ms. McCowan."



## Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award

Professionalism is more than just an ideal for **Michael J. Sullivan**. It's his job.

In more than 35 years as an attorney at Collins Einhorn Farrell—including a decade as the firm's president and co-managing shareholder—Sullivan has defended physicians, accountants, architects, engineers, and real-estate professionals. But he's best known as one of the nation's most highly regarded attorneys representing fellow lawyers in professional liability claims, a status confirmed by a long list of accolades.



"Whether the claim against his client was big or small, Mike knew in each case his client's reputation was on the line," wrote Collins Einhorn Farrell shareholders Daniel Collins and Theresa Asoklis. "Protecting that reputation was just as important to Mike as successfully defending the case."

Under Sullivan's direction, Collins Einhorn grew to a firm employing nearly 60 lawyers. Along the way, he was there to mentor colleagues on topics ranging from complex legal issues to the importance of active bar participation.

Taking part in bar activities is of particular importance to Sullivan. He's a former president of the Oakland County Bar Association (2007–2008) and the Oakland County Bar Foundation (2009–2010) and a past chairperson of the SBM Negligence Law Section (2017–2018).

As Oakland County Bar Foundation president, Sullivan spearheaded fundraising efforts that allowed the organization to donate more than \$137,000 to the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in support of its Mobile Law Office and Lakeshore Legal Aid to boost its efforts to provide legal assistance to indigent Michigan residents in family law matters.

Within his firm, Sullivan was instrumental in getting Collins Einhorn to participate in the pro bono program operated by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. As part of the program, the firm accepts one or two pro bono cases annually, some of which require hundreds of hours of legal work. Sullivan's contagious enthusiasm for this effort has spurred his colleagues to eagerly volunteer to accept the cases.

"I don't believe there is another lawyer in this state who has given more of his time and talents to the idea of promoting professionalism," Asoklis wrote. "Mike Sullivan exemplifies the best qualities of our noble profession."

## John W. Reed Michigan Lawyer Legacy Award

Not unlike the Batphone that connected Gotham City Police Commissioner James Gordon to stately Wayne Manor, there must be a communication device somewhere at Wayne State University Law School that links directly to **Lawrence C. Mann**. Every time the university needs Mann, he responds.





Said Tom Branigan, with whom Mann cofounded the Detroit office of Bowman and Brooke in 1991, “Every successful organization needs a Larry Mann.”

A 1980 Wayne Law graduate, Mann returned to the school in 1984 as an associate professor. A popular instructor, he earned tenure in 1990 but left Wayne State in 1991 for Bowman and Brooke, where he led a successful products liability defense practice.

Wayne summoned Mann once again in 1998 and he answered the call, coming back as a full-time associate professor with a fresh outlook on legal education; his time in private practice convinced him law schools needed to do a better job teaching practice skills, especially trial and appellate advocacy. This time he stayed until 2008, when he retired and went back to Bowman and Brooke for a six-year stint as managing partner.

When Wayne Law needed someone to oversee a massive overhaul of the way it taught trial and appellate advocacy in 2015—the school felt it wasn’t doing a good enough job of producing practice-ready lawyers—it once again turned to Mann. He designed and coordinated a new mock trial workshop course and recruited a group of experienced trial attorneys to teach it with him, and he rebooted the school’s appellate advocacy program.

“Larry went out of his way to make sure that Wayne Law’s programs produce students who have the skills to win their cases—who leave law school with a solid understanding of how to do trial and appellate advocacy and how to do it well,” wrote Wayne State University Law School Dean Richard Bierschbach.

Mann had one more role to play at Wayne Law, serving as interim director of clinical education and supervising the school’s clinical, simulation, and externship programs. He retired for good in 2017.

“Wayne empowered and enabled me,” Mann once told *Detroit Legal News*. “I just hope that no matter what happens going forward...that Wayne in general and particularly Wayne’s law school remain an access point to freedom and empowerment and equality.”

Every SBM award winner boasts an impressive list of accomplishments and glowing words from friends and colleagues on behalf of his or her nomination. University of Michigan Law School professor **Suellyn Scarnecchia** is no different—with one slight exception. Among the documents supporting her nomination are platitudes from former students.

“Suellyn motivated us to be our best selves as lawyers,” wrote one former student. “She showed us that she really believed we could be amazing lawyers, and we wanted to live up to that and prove her expectations to be true.”

Scarnecchia’s academic career began in 1987, when she became a clinical assistant professor at the University of Michigan Child Advocacy Law Clinic after responding to an ad in the *Michigan Bar Journal*. In her role working on child protection cases, she represented the Michigan couple and prospective adoptive parents in the Baby Jessica case; the supreme courts in Michigan



and Iowa ruled that the child be returned to her biological parents. The lasting impact of the case, Scarnecchia says, is that it helped states define clearer adoption laws and develop better methods of resolving adoption issues.

Outside of a five-year term as dean of the University of New Mexico Law School and four years as University of Michigan vice president and general counsel, she has been a mainstay at the University of Michigan Law School. Whether working as a professor, clinic coordinator, or associate dean, her focus has been developing lawyers with superb analytical reasoning, sound judgment, tireless work ethic, empathic communication, and a devotion to ethical representation.

“I do a lot of talking to students about not trying to predict in a hard and fast way while they are in law school what their career is going to be like,” Scarnecchia said in an interview with the U-M Law School website. “There are so many different paths they can take, and they don’t really know yet what doors will open and what will excite them.”

Her impact hasn’t been limited to the university—Scarnecchia was Women Lawyers Association of Michigan president in 1993–1994 and helped found the Michigan Poverty Law Program in 1997—but it has been felt most profoundly on the Ann Arbor campus.

“For the first time in law school, I felt like I had someone’s support,” wrote another student. “She was always willing to listen, help out, and put things in perspective.”

## John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award

On June 11, 2017, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents across the country rounded up 1,400 Iraqi nationals, intent on sending them back to their native land. Most of the detainees were Chaldean Christians who had been in the U.S. for years and, in some instances, decades, having fled Iraq to avoid religious persecution. Many lived in Michigan.

About the same time, Miller Canfield attorney **Kimberly L. Scott** waited for a pro bono case that aligned with her skills. Working on behalf of detainees seemed curious for a lawyer whose practice focuses on commercial litigation. But as someone whose cases routinely involved nuanced legal theories and complex matters, she was a perfect fit.



“It was disturbing,” Scott said, “that the government would round up hundreds of people for deportation.”

Scott jumped on board. The primary goal was freeing detainees, but the short-term mission was delaying proceedings long enough so clients, some of whom had been shipped to detention centers around the country, could file papers in immigration court showing that jeopardizing their safety by returning them to Iraq violated U.S. and treaty law.

Over the next 18 months, Scott’s team grew to 20-plus attorneys from organizations ranging from Miller Canfield to the ACLU to the University of Michigan Law School. As part of the *Hamama v Adducci* class action, they filed more than 500 docket entries,

nearly 50 status conferences and hearings, upwards of 160 orders, two U.S. Sixth Circuit appeals, and one en banc petition. Scott and her Miller Canfield colleagues alone donated more than 5,000 hours to the case. Last November, a U.S. District Court judge ordered ICE to release the detainees.

“This case is an example of Kim’s exceptional skill. It is far-reaching and complex,” said Miller Canfield CEO Michael McGee. “Yet it boils down to a simple idea: every person deserves their day in court.”

In another pro bono case that could change how individual prison policy interplays with Michigan Department of Corrections policies, Scott is representing an inmate at the Carson City Correctional Facility who was taking classes designed to help in the transition from prison to the community. Guards there ordered prisoners to stand outside the building until the instructor arrived, which is not an MDOC policy. On one occasion, prisoners had to wait outside in freezing rain; Scott’s client, whose asthma is triggered by cold weather, suffered severe health complications that lasted for months.

## Liberty Bell Award

**Stefanie Mezigian** faced a life-or-death decision. With her apartment in Ferndale engulfed in flames, Mezigian could perish in the fire that ultimately wiped out nearly all her possessions including her two cats, or she could jump from her third-story window and save herself.

She jumped.



The force of landing after a fall of approximately 30 feet left Mezigian with a broken back, a fractured ankle, and a shattered heel. During her recovery, she went through rounds of physical therapy to learn how to walk again and underwent multiple surgeries; she credits the federal Affordable Care Act for saving her life because it allowed her to pay for the things she needed to get better.

“If it wasn’t for the Affordable Care Act, I probably wouldn’t have my left foot, I’d be bankrupt,” she told the *Detroit Free Press* in 2018. “We’re talking over a million and a half dollars in medical bills.”

However, because of disabilities that resulted from the fall, Mezigian hasn’t been able to return to her job as a bartender. Instead, she has become a tireless advocate for social justice, most notably greater access to medical services and the rights of disabled individuals. She has met with lawmakers to discuss universal healthcare and represented the disability rights community at Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination hearing in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Mezigian lobbied on behalf of a process for granting residency status to qualifying immigrants who entered the United States as minors, a group more commonly known as “Dreamers”; volunteered for Voters Not Politicians in its effort to end gerrymandering in Michigan; and worked with Michigan United’s response to the Flint water crisis.

“[Stefanie] deserves this award because she used her experience to promote the rights of all citizens,” attorney Syeda Davidson wrote on behalf of Mezigian’s nomination for the Liberty Bell Award. “She fights for equality every day, and I could not be prouder to call her my friend.”

## Representative Assembly Awards

The State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly presented awards to two individuals during its general meeting on September 26.

### Michael Franck Award

If time and space were an issue here, it'd be easier to list the areas in which Okemos-based criminal defense attorney **Mary Chartier** *hasn't* made an impact. With both in relatively plentiful supply, however, we can expand on her achievements.

The breadth and depth of Chartier's accomplishments are quite remarkable. In addition to her practice, she is devoted to the community—in 2018 alone, she totaled more than 350 hours of pro bono and volunteer service.

She's one of the few attorneys to win three cases in front of the Michigan Supreme Court in a single year, securing the release of a man wrongfully convicted of a homicide in one of them. Even more impressive is that she has handled multiple cases at the Court on a pro bono basis, assisting clients who could not have afforded litigation services otherwise.

Chartier has made a mark by taking on difficult cases. In 2017, she got an acquittal for a Kent County man who had been wrongly imprisoned for sexual assault for nine years, arguing that a police recording was improperly admitted into evidence during his first trial. After listening to new witnesses and seeing new exhibits, a jury freed the man after less than 20 minutes of deliberation. He is now listed on the National Registry of Exonerations.

She also won an acquittal for a man charged in federal court with drug dealing and money laundering; although every other codefendant in the case pled guilty and dozens of witnesses testified against her client, Chartier convinced jurors that the government had not met its burden of proof.

In 2017, Chartier was also part of a team that helped an Iraq War veteran and Purple Heart recipient earn a pardon for his therapy dogs accused of killing three goats and a cat. After being held for 10 months, the dogs were cleared of wrongdoing by a judge and released from custody.

Chartier is among the state's leaders in the burgeoning field of marijuana law. She has handled marijuana-related cases on behalf of clients statewide; helped create the SBM Marijuana Law Section and was its chair in 2017–2018; and, as an instructor at Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, created and taught the nation's first class devoted specifically to marijuana law.

"Mary is...genial and civil to all [while] having a way of putting her foot down and making a point that is second to none," wrote Bernard Jocuns, who nominated Chartier for this honor. "With diligence, intestinal fortitude, and a non-avarice approach to the practice of law, Mary embodies the virtues and spirit of the Michael Franck Award."



### Unsung Hero Award

**Clarence M. Dass's** efforts in 2017 on behalf of Iraqi immigrants living in Michigan and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement deserve acclaim solely on their merit. The fact that he worked around the clock in some instances while battling stage 4 cancer to keep metropolitan Detroit families from being torn apart by deportation is even more remarkable.

Then 31 years old, Dass—a first-generation Chaldean American—had just left the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office to start his own firm and begun dating a woman who would ultimately become his wife. It was also when doctors at the University of Michigan Hospital diagnosed him with colon cancer. He needed chemotherapy, radiation, and, if those worked, surgery.

Three weeks into his chemo regimen, he learned that some of his clients had been detained as part of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement roundup of 1,400 Iraqi nationals. ICE intended to send the detainees—most of whom were Chaldean Christians who fled Iraq to avoid religious persecution—back to their native land.

In the middle of grueling cancer treatments, Dass went back to work on behalf of his clients.

"If I stopped working, my clients wouldn't get the help they needed," he told the *Detroit Free Press* last year. "I knew that if I gave up, I would start to dwell on that and just get sicker.

"[I] had to make sure I was helping other people because that's the only way I could help myself."

Dass kept his cancer diagnosis secret, believing making it public would detract from his work. Dass said he basically ran his law firm from a hospital bed, working on cases within 24 hours of chemotherapy and doing live media interviews while hooked up to an off-camera IV. Some days, he would go to court in the morning, retreat to his office for a lunchtime nap, and head back to court in the afternoon.

In January 2018, after six months of chemotherapy, five weeks of radiation, and one surgery, Dass was declared cancer-free. He beat a disease which, according to the American Cancer Society, has a five-year relative survivor rate of 12 percent.

"Many would have focused on themselves in this time of need and that would be understandable," wrote SBM President Jennifer Grieco in a letter supporting Dass's nomination. "Clarence, however, was focused on his clients and his public service. This is the very definition of an unsung hero."



## Michigan State Bar Foundation Awards

The Michigan State Bar Foundation presented two awards during its annual Fellows Reception on September 11 at the Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing.

### Founders Award

The Michigan State Bar Foundation presented its Founders Award to retired judge **Alfred M. Butzbaugh**. This award recognizes lawyers who exemplify professional excellence and outstanding community contributions.

As a former president of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, Butzbaugh has provided significant leadership to ensure that everyone, regardless of income, receives access to justice. Butzbaugh served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees for almost 20 years, and his vision and leadership have been central to numerous innovations in services supported by the Foundation and in our state's justice system.

Butzbaugh's depth of knowledge and understanding of access to justice are widely respected, and his leadership for change is remarkably effective. Many Michigan leaders credit him as their mentor on access to justice initiatives. He has participated tirelessly in groups and activities to advance access to justice, including expanded pro bono opportunities, telephone hotlines, immigration law services, foreclosure prevention projects, coordinated statewide fundraising for legal aid, and assistance for self-represented litigants.



### Access to Justice Award

The Foundation presented its Access to Justice Award to **Bradley M. Gayton** of Ford Motor Company. This award honors persons who significantly advance access to justice for the poor in Michigan.

Under Gayton's leadership, Ford Motor Company's General Counsel office has emphasized its commitment to supporting access to justice. As group vice president, chief administrative officer, and general counsel at Ford, Gayton has significantly advanced access to justice for the poor in Michigan and nationwide.

He encourages all Ford attorneys to give at least \$300 to the Access to Justice Campaign and commit at least 30 hours to pro bono work annually, with the ultimate goal of 100 percent participation. Leading by example, Gayton provides pro bono representation through the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center to help crime victims. Ford also supports the Access to Justice Campaign to increase resources for civil legal aid in Michigan. Ford attorneys participate on civil legal aid boards, serve on the Access to Justice Campaign Steering and Fundraising committees, and advocate for increased federal funding for civil legal aid on ABA Day. Ford Motor Company's extraordinary involvement and leadership help ensure access to justice for the poor.



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"The Michigan State Bar Foundation is very pleased to recognize Al Butzbaugh and Bradley Gayton for their contributions," Foundation President Edward Pappas said. "We are inspired by their commitment to the profession and access to justice for all."

The Michigan State Bar Foundation provides leadership and grants to improve access for all to the justice system, including support for civil legal aid to the poor, law-related education, and conflict resolution. For more information, visit [www.msbf.org](http://www.msbf.org).