

State Bar 2005 Election Results

State Bar Commissioner Seats

Detroit attorneys Richard L. Cunningham, Lambro Niforos, and Margaret A. Costello won contested seats in the recent State Bar of Michigan commissioner elections. Francine Cullari of Flint, Laurin C. Roberts Thomas of Lansing, Edward H. Pappas of Bloomfield Hills, and Elias J. Escobedo of Waterford won in uncontested races. All seven commissioners will serve three-year terms expiring at the close of the Annual Meeting in 2008.

Cunningham, Niforos, and Costello will serve District H, which includes Wayne, Monroe and Lenawee Counties. Cullari will represent the District B Counties of Midland, Bay, Saginaw, Genesee, Lapeer, Sanilac, Huron, and Tuscola. Thomas will serve District E Counties of Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Livingston, Montcalm, and Shiawassee. Pappas and Escobedo will serve District I, which is Oakland County.

Richard L. Cunningham is a sole practitioner who currently focuses on criminal defense. Since his admission to the Bar in 1979, he has served at various times as Associate Counsel for the U.S. Veterans Administration, Staff Counsel for the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, and Recorder's Court Judge. He has been active in many professional organizations throughout his career. He has served as chairperson of both the State Bar and Detroit Metropolitan Bar's Criminal Law Sections, and as an elected member of the State Bar Representative Assembly. He is currently a member of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan and the Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association. In 1997, he was recognized by the DMBA as its "Chairperson of the Year."

Lambro Niforos has been a member of the State Bar's Board of Commissioners since 2002, where she has served on many committees. Twice elected to three-year terms on the Representative Assembly, she has also twice co-chaired the statewide biennial Bench/Bar

Conference Planning Committee, and served on the State Trial Courts Administration Committee. She presently serves on the Judicial Qualifications Committee and is a Fellow of the State Bar Foundation. Niforos has worked in the Office of the Wayne County Corporation Counsel since 1984, litigating and counseling in the areas of employment discrimination, personal injury, state and federal civil rights, elections, environmental law, mental health, and tax.

Margaret ("Peggy") Costello is a member of Dykema Gossett's litigation practice group in Detroit. She has been active in numerous pro bono initiatives and serves as chair of her firm's pro bono committee and as a member of the State Bar's Pro Bono Involvement Committee. She was awarded the Bar's 2002 Cumiskey Award for pro bono service. A past president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (1999–2000) and the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association (2003–2004), Costello also serves as a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and the Board of Directors of the Detroit Bar Foundation. Elected to the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly in 1996, she served until 2002, and chaired the Drafting, and the Rules and Calendar Committees.

Francine Cullari has been practicing law since 1982. She is a sole practitioner in Grand Blanc, and focuses on business law, real estate, planning and zoning, estate planning, and probate. Cullari has devoted much time to pro bono activities and is very active in her community. She is a past president of the Genesee County Bar Association and a fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation. She was the chairperson of the Representative Assembly's Drafting Committee and has served on many other State Bar committees, including being vice-chair of the Publications and Website Advisory Committee, co-chair of the Awards committee, and member of the Public Outreach and Legal Education Committees. Cullari has won many awards and has been a columnist and editor for the

Flint Journal, the *Michigan Bar Journal* and Genesee County's *Bar Beat* magazine.

Laurin C. Roberts Thomas began her law career as a sole practitioner. She later took a position at the Law Offices of Edward G. Youmans, a personal injury firm. In 1994, she accepted a position at UAW-GM Legal Services Plan, where she remains employed as a staff attorney practicing in the areas of consumer law, insurance, probate/estate planning, elder law, immigration, and collections. Thomas is active in the State Bar, where she currently serves on the Representative Assembly and is a founding member of the Consumer Law Section, where she has served as chairperson, secretary, and currently serves as treasurer. She is also a member of the Social Security Section. She is a member of the Ingham County Bar Association and currently serves as president of the Lansing Black Lawyers Association.

Edward H. Pappas has served on the Board of Commissioners since 1999. He practices with the Dickinson Wright law firm in Bloomfield Hills, and is a former president of the Oakland County Bar Association. He has chaired many State Bar committees, including Attorney Grievance from 1989 until 1992, and the Long Range Planning Committee Goal Group on Independence of the Bench and Bar in 1997. He has also actively served on various committees in the Business Law Section and is a member of the ADR and Litigation Sections of the State Bar. Pappas is a fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation and the American Bar Association Foundation, and is a charter fellow of the Oakland Bar Foundation. He currently serves as a master in the Oakland County Bar Association Inn of Court.

Elias J. Escobedo, Jr. has been a practicing attorney for over 15 years, concentrating on personal injury, family, criminal, and labor law. He is president of the Oakland County Bar Association, and a past president of the Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan. Recognized by the State Bar of Michigan as a "Citizen Lawyer," Escobedo is the recipient

of various awards: the Sandy Rosenthal Memorial Award for professionalism, honesty, and integrity in the legal profession; the Key to the City of Pontiac for Service in the Hispanic Community; and the Professionalism Award from the Oakland County Bar Association. Escobedo has had a distinguished military career; he received two Purple Hearts during his service in the Vietnam War, as well as the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Service Medal.

Judicial Tenure Commission, Young Lawyers Section, and Representative Assembly

The State Bar-appointed Board of Tellers has verified the 2005 results for the Judicial Tenure Commission, Representative Assembly, and Young Lawyers Section Executive Council. The results are as follows:

Nancy J. Diehl of Detroit was elected to the Judicial Tenure Commission for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2006 and expiring December 31, 2008.

Seats were filled in 25 Representative Assembly circuits. The following were elected:

3rd Circuit—Wayne County

Susan Licata Haroutunian, Detroit
Donald C. Morgan, Plymouth
Vincent A. Romano, Grosse Pointe Park
Rodrick K. Green, Detroit
Maria A. Petito, Detroit
Daryl M. Carson, Detroit
David A. Perkins, Detroit
Elizabeth Moehle Johnson, Plymouth
Barbara L. McQuade, Detroit
Deborah K. Blair, Detroit
Jaimie M. Powell, Detroit

4th Circuit—Jackson County

Bruce A. Barton, Jackson

6th Circuit—Oakland County

John F. Mills, Birmingham
Alan M. Kanter, Bloomfield Hills
Frederick A. Neumark, Clarkston
Steven A. Drakos, Lake Orion
James T. Weiner, Bingham Farms
Cecil J. Cross, Jr., Hazel Park
Elana Hope Gloetzner, Farmington Hills

7th Circuit—Genesee County

H. William Reising, Flint

8th Circuit—Ionia and Montcalm Counties

Thomas W. Chadwick, Ionia

9th Circuit—Kalamazoo County

Alan B. Koenig, Portage

10th Circuit—Saginaw County

Terri L. Stangl, Saginaw
John P. Lozano, Saginaw

11th Circuit—Alger, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft Counties

Chad W. Peltier, Newberry

16th Circuit—Macomb County

Michael R. Osaer, Shelby Township
Dana M. Warnez, Center Line

17th Circuit—Kent County

Jeffery S. Crampton, Grand Rapids

18th Circuit—Bay County

Winnifred Padden Boylan, Bay City

19th Circuit—Benzie and Manistee Counties

David J. Bedells, Beulah

20th Circuit—Ottawa County

Ronald L. Foster, Jenison

22nd Circuit—Washtenaw County

Shelia M. Johnson, Ann Arbor
Michael J. Blau, Ann Arbor
Mark T. Boonstra, Ann Arbor
John W. Reiser, III, Ann Arbor

25th Circuit—Marquette

Andrea Michelle Monnett, Marquette

26th Circuit—Alpena and Montmorency Counties

Dennis P. Grenkowitz, Alpena

27th Circuit—Newaygo and Oceana Counties

Eric R. Fox, Hart

30th Circuit—Ingham County

Goldie Adele, Lansing
John M. Gear, Lansing

38th Circuit—Monroe County

Christian J. Horkey, Monroe

46th Circuit—Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties

Susan L. Topp, Gaylord

47th Circuit—Delta County

Victoria A. Radke, Escanaba

49th Circuit—Mecosta and Osceola Counties

Mark J. Warba, Big Rapids

52nd Circuit—Huron County

David B. Herrington, Bad Axe

54th Circuit—Tuscola County

Hon. W. Wallace Kent, Jr., Caro

56th Circuit—Eaton County

Ann M. Prater, Charlotte

Elections were also held for the Young Lawyers Section Executive Council for two-year terms expiring at the close of the Annual Meeting in 2007.

The following were elected to uncontested races:

District 1—Wayne and Macomb Counties

Brandy Yolanda Johnson, Detroit

District 2—Oakland County

Dawn Michelle King, Southfield
Jessica Renee Simmons, Ferndale
Veronica L. Valentine, Bingham Farms

District 3—All Other Counties

Robert K. Fergan, Ann Arbor
Danielle Mason Anderson, Kalamazoo
Stephanie N. Smith, Zeeland
C. Marcel Stoetzel, III, Hastings