

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Michael Frank Award

All information must be shown on this application form and on any additional sheets in the same format. Submit this form online, by facsimile, or mail to:

This form may be downloaded from www.michbar.org. Click on Media Resources, then Events and Awards.

Attention: Ms. Anne Smith  
Representative Assembly Awards  
State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48933-2012  
(517) 346-6374  
Fax: (517) 372-2410  
asmith@mail.michbar.org

Criteria

This award will be presented to a lawyer who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the profession.

- The recipient must be a member in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan.
- The recipient's contribution may have been made during the past year or by virtue of cumulative effort or service.
- The recipient is selected by the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly Nominating and Awards Committee.

Applications must be received no later than Friday, March 13, 2009.

Name of nominee: DANIEL E BONNER  
Title: MANAGING ATTORNEY  
Firm or organization: LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MI  
Address: 450 MORRIS AVENUE 302  
MUSKEGON MI 49440  
Phone: 231-726-4887 Fax: 231-728-5217  
E-mail: DBONNER@LEGALAIDWESTMI.NET

Name of nominator: JOHN R. BULGAR  
Title: REFEREE  
Firm or organization: MASON CO FAMILY COURT  
Address: 304 E LUDINGTON AVE LUDINGTON MI 49431  
Phone: 231-690-9323 Fax: 231-845-9068  
E-mail: JBULGAR@MASONCOUNTY.NET

A. Please use the space provided to explain the merits of your nomination along with all supporting materials for your nominee where possible. Give specific examples.

DAN BONNER HAS MADE A CAREER OF PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY LEGAL SERVICE TO PEOPLE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER. HE HAS EXPANDED HIS REACH BY UNSELFISHLY WORKING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN HIS MULTICOUNTY SERVICE AREA. HE HAS WORKED TO IMPROVE OUR PROFESSION AS PRESIDENT OF THE MUSKEGON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.

DAN IS A HIGHLY SKILLED LAWYER WHO CHOOSES TO USE HIS SKILLS NOT FOR GREAT PERSONAL GAIN BUT FOR SERVICE TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.

IN A PROFESSION WHERE OUR GROWING LACK OF CIVILITY IS A CONCERN, DAN IS THE EPITOME OF COURTEOUS BUT EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION.

TO MEASURE DAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PROFESSION, ONE NEEDS ONLY TO TALK TO CLIENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, COURT STAFF AND ATTORNEYS IN DAN'S SERVICE AREA. ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY, ONE WILL LEARN THAT DAN'S PRESENCE MAKES ANY DAY BRIGHTER. DAN HAS IMPROVED OUR PROFESSION BY DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND BY BEING A MODEL OF CIVILITY AND PROFESSIONALISM.



March 11, 2009

Ms. Anne M. Smith  
Representative Assembly Awards  
State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend Street  
Lansing MI 48933-2012

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing this letter in support of Attorney Dan Bonner's nomination for the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly Michael Franck Award. I have known Dan Bonner for over 16 years and have handled many cases with him as opposing counsel. Dan has dedicated his law career to helping the indigent and needy in West Michigan. He goes above and beyond the call of duty, even picking up his clients at home and bringing them to court if they have no other means of transportation. Dan has always done this gladly and with a smile. In my opinion, Dan views the law as a way to really help people and improve their lives. Lots of people say that, but Dan's actions everyday show that he truly means it.

Dan is very knowledgeable in the area of domestic relations and is always prepared. He is the model of attorney civility and I have never heard him raise his voice to clients or attorneys. Likewise, I have never heard a client, attorney or judge say a bad word about Dan. Dan Bonner sets an example that all attorneys should strive to follow, and conduct themselves in the same positive, professional manner. I have often described Dan as the happiest man I know!

Sincerely,

Julie Springstead Waltz

Douglas A. Springstead | Julie Springstead Waltz | Robert D. Springstead | Gary K. Springstead

214 Washington Street Hart, MI 49420 P: 231-873-4022 F: 231-873-4024  22 East Main Street Fremont, MI 49412 P: 231-924-3222 F: 231-924-0337

[www.springsteadlaw.com](http://www.springsteadlaw.com)

March 11, 2009

Re: Michael Franck Award

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written for the purpose of endorsing and supporting the nomination of Dan Bonner for the Michael Franck Award. Dan, as a legal aid attorney, appeared before me on numerous divorce, custody, personal protection and guardian/conservator matters. He invariably exhibited a sense of civility and humor that created an atmosphere conducive to responsibly settling many of the difficult issues such cases entail.

Dan was forthright and realistic in his approach to the issues before the Court. He would not allow his clients to insult the Court's intelligence with misleading spin theories. When he did contest or litigate issues, he did it in a straightforward, civil manner. He was (and I assume still is) an excellent advocate for his clients' interests.

Dan is also known in the community for his volunteer efforts on behalf of agencies working with domestic violence and child abuse. He freely gives of his time to address civic and community groups on various legal and social issues.

In short, Dan Bonner is a caring lawyer who has chosen to work with Legal Aid, representing disadvantaged people. In so doing he has traded financial rewards for "psychic income" in helping people. He has and is making a difference in our legal community. He has my unqualified endorsement for the Michael Franck Award.

Sincerely,

Hon. Walter A. Urick  
Retired Oceana County Probate/Family Court Judge  
P.O. Box 609  
Hart, MI 49420